



**One Hundred Nineteenth Congress
Committee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515**

January 14, 2026

The Honorable Andrew R. Garbarino
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Garbarino:

I write regarding the hearing entitled “Oversight of the Department of Homeland Security: CISA, TSA, S&T” noticed for January 21, 2026.

While I am always in favor of congressional oversight of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS or Department)—even if it appears from the hearing title to be vague and directionless—I cannot help but think this hearing does not meet the current moment.

In the aftermath of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)’s killing of Renee Good in Minneapolis, my constituents—and I presume yours as well—are demanding meaningful oversight and accountability. Indeed, a CNN poll conducted by SSRS found that more than half of Americans polled say ICE enforcement actions are making cities less safe,¹ and 56 percent of Americans polled by the Economist and YouGov think that both the Federal and Minnesota State governments should investigate the shooting.² This is our time to act.

Accordingly, I request that you call the Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Todd M. Lyons, to appear before the Committee at next week’s hearing. Failure to bring the ICE Acting Director before the Committee at this time would be, to use a favorite phrase of your immediate predecessor, a dereliction of duty.

¹ Ariel Edwards Levy, *Half of Americans think ICE is making American cities less safe, CNN poll finds*, CNN (Jan. 14, 2026), <https://www.cnn.com/2026/01/14/politics/ice-minnesota-cnn-poll>.

² Taylor Orth & Carl Bialik, *More Americans view the ICE shooting in Minnesota as unjustified than say it is justified*, YOUGov (Jan. 13, 2026), <https://today.yougov.com/politics/articles/53878-more-americans-view-ice-shooting-minnesota-unjustified-than-justified-january-9-12-2026-economist-yougov-poll>.

Among other things, Mr. Lyons needs to answer for the reported 16 ICE shootings since the Trump administration began its draconian immigration crackdown last year,³ ICE's brutal enforcement tactics,⁴ and its inhumane detention conditions.⁵

You have noticed a hearing acknowledging the importance of congressional oversight of the Department, which is particularly important given that Trump administration witnesses have appeared before the Committee the fewest number of times for any recent administration's first year. But I am asking you to make it count: Call Todd Lyons before this Committee next week.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress
Ranking Member, Committee on Homeland Security

³ Roque Planas, *Renee Nicole Good shooting casts scrutiny on ICE's use of deadly force*, THE GUARDIAN (Jan. 10, 2026), <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2026/jan/10/will-ice-agent-face-consequences-renee-nicole-good>.

⁴ Meg Anderson, *Tackles, projectiles and gunfire: Many fear ICE tactics are growing more violent*, NPR (Oct. 13, 2025), <https://www.npr.org/2025/10/13/nx-s1-5566785/ice-dhs-immigration-tactics-more-violent>.

⁵ Press Release, American Immigration Council, *Report: Immigration Detention Is Bigger, Harsher, and Less Accountable Than Ever* (Jan. 14, 2026), <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/press-release/report-trump-immigration-detention-2026/>.