

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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October 16, 2025

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Kristi Noem
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20528

Mr. Todd M. Lyons
Acting Director
Immigration and Customs Enforcement
500 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20536

Dear President Trump, Secretary Noem, and Acting Director Lyons:

We write to demand the Administration cease its violent and lawless attacks on the Chicagoland region. In recent weeks, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) have spread fear, chaos, and violence through extreme enforcement tactics and intolerable conditions at the Broadview Processing Center. In a shameful abuse of his role as Commander-in-Chief, President Trump has federalized the National Guard—over the objections of Illinois Governor JB Pritzker—and ordered troops to enable these unlawful and unconstitutional assaults on Chicagoland residents. These actions undermine public safety and the rule of law, and they endanger everyone who lives in and around Chicago.

For months, ICE officers and other DHS personnel have employed harsh, military-style tactics in enforcement operations in and around Chicago.¹ These tactics have only escalated since the Administration's announcement of Operation Midway Blitz.² In just the past month, DHS personnel have shot two people (one fatally) and publicly advanced self-serving narratives

¹ See Michael Gerstein, *When Trump's Immigration Crackdown Came to Chicago*, POLITICO (Feb. 1, 2025), <https://www.politico.com/news/magazine/2025/02/01/immigration-raids-chicago-00201839>; NBC 5 CHICAGO & ASSOC. PRESS, *Helicopters, tear gas, blown doors: A look at recent scenes in Chicago* (Oct. 6, 2025), <https://www.nbcchicago.com/news/local/helicopters-tear-gas-blown-doors-a-look-at-recent-scenes-in-chicago/3834233/>.

² See Michael Loria and Eduardo Cuevas, *800 arrests amid Chicago immigration 'blitz' of helicopters and midnight raids*, USA TODAY (Oct. 3, 2025), <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2025/10/03/chicago-area-immigration-raids-dhs/86497161007/>.

that were immediately contradicted by body camera and surveillance footage,³ handcuffed an Alderperson at a hospital checking on the welfare of a constituent being detained by ICE,⁴ indiscriminately deployed tear gas in front of a public school and against civilians and local law enforcement,⁵ placed a handcuffed man on the ground in a chokehold,⁶ shot a pastor in the head with a pepper ball,⁷ thrown flashbang grenades at civilians,⁸ and raided an entire apartment complex and reportedly zip-tied U.S. citizens, children, and military veterans for hours.⁹

These events reflect a pervasive use of abusive tactics by DHS and ICE personnel against Chicagoland residents. They have ordered people to show up to ICE facilities and courthouses for routine immigration check-ins and hearings and detained them, effectively punishing them for complying with their case requirements.¹⁰ They have detained U.S. citizens and others with legal status.¹¹ They have snatched day laborers, children, parents, and grandparents off the streets.¹² They have conducted numerous warrantless arrests lacking sufficient probable cause

³ See David Struett & Kade Heather, *Attorney for woman shot by Border Patrol claims agent said, 'Do something b---' before shooting*, WBEZ CHICAGO (Oct. 7, 2025), <https://www.wbez.org/public-safety/2025/10/07/marimar-martinez-anthony-ian-santos-ruiz-border-patrol-shooting-brighton-park>; Tom Schuba & Nader Issa, *ICE officer said his injuries were 'nothing major' after deadly shooting near Chicago, video shows*, WBEZ CHICAGO (Sept. 23, 2025), <https://www.wbez.org/immigration/2025/09/23/ice-officer-injuries-nothing-major-deadly-franklin-park-shooting-mexican-immigrant-chicago-video>.

⁴ See Nic Flosi, *Video shows Chicago alderperson handcuffed after questioning ICE agents at hospital*, FOX 32 CHICAGO (Oct. 3, 2025), <https://www.fox32chicago.com/news/chicago-alderwoman-handcuffed-questioning-ice-agents-hospital>.

⁵ See Charlie De Mar, *Federal agent throws tear gas canister from SUV on busy Chicago street*, CBS NEWS (Oct. 3, 2025), <https://www.cbsnews.com/chicago/news/federal-immigration-agent-throws-tear-gas-canister-logan-square-street/>; Ashleigh Fields, *Chicago police: Dozens of officers 'affected' by tear gas deployed by federal agents*, THE HILL (Oct. 7, 2025), <https://thehill.com/homenews/state-watch/5542639-chicago-police-tear-gassed/>.

⁶ See Michael Liptrot, *Border Patrol Agent Put Man In 'Chokehold' After West Side Car Crash, Leaders Say*, BLOCK CLUB CHICAGO (Oct. 3, 2025), <https://blockclubchicago.org/2025/10/03/border-patrol-agent-put-man-in-chokehold-after-west-side-car-crash-leaders-say/>.

⁷ See Nic Flosi, *Video shows federal agent shoot Chicago pastor in head with pepper ball during Broadview ICE protest*, FOX 32 CHICAGO (Oct. 8, 2025), <https://www.fox32chicago.com/news/video-federal-agent-shoot-chicago-pastor-head-pepper-ball-broadview-ice-protest>.

⁸ See Rebecca Schneid, *'Military-Style' ICE Raid On Chicago Apartment Building Shows Escalation in Trump's Crackdown*, TIME (Oct. 4, 2025), <https://time.com/7323334/ice-raid-chicago-pritzker-trump/>; Charles Thrush, *ICE Escalates Violence Against Protesters In Broadview; Journalist Arrested*, Block Club Chicago (Sept. 28, 2025), <https://blockclubchicago.org/2025/09/28/ice-escalates-violence-against-protesters-in-broadview-journalist-arrested/>.

⁹ See Rebekah Riess & Bill Kirkos, *37 people arrested and American kids separated from parents after ICE raid at Chicago apartments*, CNN (Oct. 3, 2025), <https://www.cnn.com/2025/10/03/us/chicago-apartment-ice-raid>.

¹⁰ Karen Jordan, *Several taken into ICE custody in South Loop after being asked to attend routine check-in: Advocates*, ABC 7 CHICAGO (June 4, 2025), <https://abc7chicago.com/post/several-arrested-apparent-ice-agents-south-loop-chicago-large-police-protest-activity-michigan-avenue-live/16658480/>.

¹¹ See Mack Liederman, Colin Boyle & Kelly Bauer, *Feds Detained 4 Children Who Are US Citizens During Controversial ICE Raid*, BLOCK CLUB CHICAGO (Oct. 3, 2025), <https://blockclubchicago.org/2025/10/03/feds-detained-4-children-who-are-us-citizens-during-controversial-ice-raid/>.

¹² See Matthew Cantor, *'Abducted by Ice': the haunting missing-person posters plastered across LA*, THE GUARDIAN (June 18, 2025), <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jun/18/los-angeles-missing-posters-ice>.

and violating a 2022 consent decree.¹³ These tactics, which do nothing to promote public safety, are traumatizing entire communities and endangering the lives of families and children, including U.S. citizens.

ICE has funneled many of the people it detains through the Broadview Processing Center, which it has converted into a *de facto* detention facility.¹⁴ Reports indicate the detainees are held for prolonged periods of time with limited access to food, bedding, shower, hygiene products, and communication with counsel and family members.¹⁵ Seemingly unable to defend the horrific conditions at Broadview, DHS and ICE have abandoned any pretense of transparency, attacking journalists and refusing access to four Members of Congress in clear violation of federal law.¹⁶ They have also doubled down on brutality, as officers have violently repressed protesters outside the facility, indiscriminately deploying military equipment, tear gas, rubber bullets, and pepper balls in a manner that has injured civilians, fueled further outrage in the community, and prompted a federal judge to issue a temporary restraining order.¹⁷

The militarization of the Chicago area to advance the Administration's mass deportation agenda is an especially shocking and authoritarian tactic. The federal government has effectively invaded an American city, as gunmen atop armored vehicles train their sights on civilians, agents rappel from Black Hawk helicopters onto an apartment complex rooftop, and officers routinely shoot at and deploy chemical agents against civilians.¹⁸

¹³ See Mark Rivera, et al., *Warrantless arrests by ICE in Chicago area ruled unlawful by federal judge*, ABC 7 CHICAGO (Oct. 8, 2025), <https://abc7chicago.com/post/chicago-immigration-enforcement-warrantless-arrests-ice-agents-area-ruled-unlawful-federal-judge/17967144/>.

¹⁴ See Lauren FitzPatrick & Adriana Cardona-Maguigad, *ICE's Broadview facility has become a de facto detention center, minus the rules and oversight*, WBEZ CHICAGO (Oct. 1, 2025), <https://www.wbez.org/immigration/2025/10/01/broadview-immigration-processing-center-detention-ice-dhs>.

¹⁵ See Charlie Wojciechowski, *What's it like inside the Broadview ICE facility? Arrested protester shares view*, NBC 5 CHICAGO (Oct. 3, 2025), <https://www.nbcchicago.com/news/local/inside-broadview-ice-facility-arrested-protester-shares-view/3832911/>; Laura Rodriguez Presa, *'Dehumanizing': Inside the Broadview ICE facility where immigrants sleep on cold concrete*, CHICAGO TRIBUNE (Aug. 3, 2025), <https://www.chicagotribune.com/2025/08/03/dehumanizing-inside-the-broadview-ice-facility-where-immigrants-sleep-on-cold-concrete/>.

¹⁶ Under Section 527 of Public Law 118-47, Members of Congress must be allowed to "enter ..., for the purpose of conducting oversight, any facility operated by or for the Department of Homeland Security used to detain or otherwise house aliens," with no notice required. See also Julie Bosman, *No One Answers When Lawmakers From Illinois Knock on ICE's Door*, N.Y. TIMES (June 18, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/06/18/us/ice-detention-illinois-congress.html>; *Broadview Police launch investigation after CBS reporter's car allegedly was fired at with chemical munition*, FOX 32 CHICAGO (Sept. 28, 2025), <https://www.fox32chicago.com/news/broadview-police-launch-investigation-after-cbs-reporters-car-allegedly-was-fired-chemical-munition>.

¹⁷ See Laura Sharman & Carroll Alvarado, *Judge orders restrictions on federal tactics against ICE protesters after Chicago-area pastor shot with pepper balls*, CNN (Oct. 10, 2025), <https://www.cnn.com/2025/10/10/us/illinois-judge-ruling-ice-protests-pastor-chicago-hnk>; Matt Masterson, *Broadview Mayor Calls on ICE to Stop 'Making War' After Using Tear Gas, Rubber Ammo Against Protesters*, WTTW (Sept. 26, 2025), <https://news.wttw.com/2025/09/26/broadview-mayor-calls-ice-stop-making-war-after-using-tear-gas-rubber-ammo-against>.

¹⁸ See Robert McCoy, *Federal Agents Aim Weapon in Armored Vehicle at Anti-ICE Protesters*, NEW REPUBLIC (Oct. 3, 2025), <https://newrepublic.com/post/201340/ice-protesters-arrested-illinois-kristi-noem-photo-op>; Sophia Tareen,

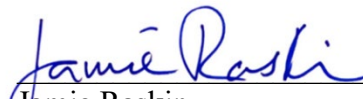
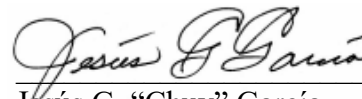
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President Trump continues to incite and escalate the situation by attempting to federalize the National Guard against the Chicagoland residents, against the wishes of the Governor.¹⁹ The National Guard is ordinarily under the control of state governors and not authorized to participate in domestic law enforcement activities, yet the President insists on defying the law and using the armed forces as a political prop to reinforce his assault on an American city.²⁰ As with Los Angeles and Portland, there is no legal basis to deploy the National Guard to the Chicago area, and we urge President Trump to cease his illegal and un-American abuse of the military.

The Administration claims the mantle of law and order, yet its actions in the Chicagoland area demonstrate it is a catalyst for lawlessness and dysfunction. The city undoubtedly has its challenges with public safety, like so many communities both urban and rural throughout our country, but murders and other violent crimes have recorded historic declines in recent years.²¹ Violently abusing residents, kidnapping parents and children and disappearing them into detention facilities without access to basic necessities, and illegally deploying the military against a great American city does nothing to make anyone safer—in fact, it jeopardizes the safety and well-being of every community member.

We demand the Administration halt these attacks. The American people want a common-sense approach to public safety and immigration, not violent tactics that traumatize and destabilize communities. They want leadership, not theater. We urge you to step back from the brink and use your positions to enhance public safety, instead of undermining it.

Very truly yours,


Jamie Raskin
Ranking Member
Jesús G. “Chuy” García
Member of Congress

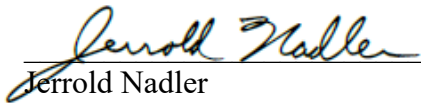
Using helicopters and chemical agents, immigration agents become increasingly aggressive in Chicago, ASSOC. PRESS (Oct. 6, 2025), <https://apnews.com/article/chicago-immigration-federal-arrests-helicopter-trump-ice-8dbf688f78f3b6d1b8fdb989557b28c4>.

¹⁹ See Juliana Kim, *Where has Trump suggested sending troops? In cities run by Democratic mayors*, NPR (Oct. 11, 2025), <https://www.npr.org/2025/10/10/nx-s1-5567177/national-guard-map-chicago-california-oregon>.

²⁰ See Office of the Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul, *Attorney General Raoul files lawsuit against Trump Administration to stop unlawful deployment of National Guard* (Oct. 6, 2025), <https://illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/news/story/attorney-general-raoul-files-lawsuit-against-trump-administration-to-stop-unlawful-deployment-of-national-guard>.

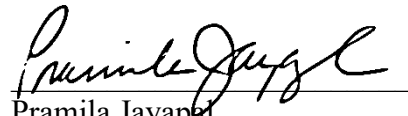
²¹ See Sara Tenenbaum, *Is Chicago crime out of control, as Trump claims? The data says no*, CBS NEWS (Sept. 3, 2025), <https://www.cbsnews.com/chicago/news/chicago-crime-data-trump-national-guard/>; Chip Mitchell, *Chicago sees its fewest summer murders since 1965, even as Trump cites high crime*, WBEZ CHICAGO (Sept. 3, 2025), <https://www.wbez.org/news/2025/09/03/chicago-sees-its-fewest-summer-murders-since-1965>.

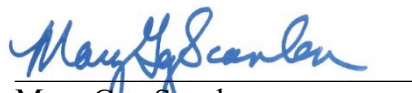
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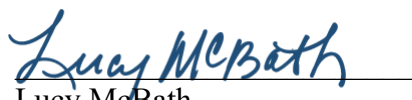


Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

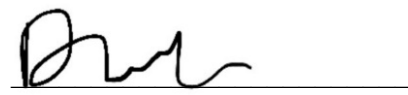
Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress

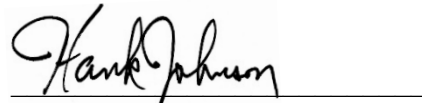
Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress

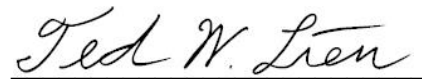
Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress

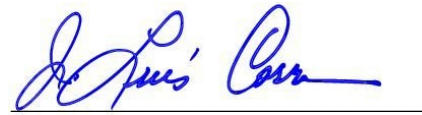
Lucy McBath
Member of Congress

Becca Balint
Member of Congress

Dan Goldman
Member of Congress

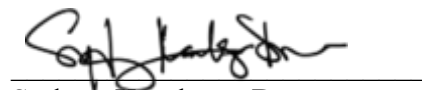
Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress

Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress

J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress

Joseph Neguse
Member of Congress

Deborah Ross
Member of Congress

Sydney Kamlager-Dove
Member of Congress

Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Jim Jordan, Chairman