

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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July 30, 2026

The Honorable Markwayne Mullin
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20528

Mr. David Venturella
Acting Director
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
500 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Secretary Mullin and Acting Director Venturella:

We have watched in horror as Department of Homeland Security (DHS) officials shot over two dozen people and killed six of them, including three U.S. citizens, during immigration enforcement operations since President Donald Trump took office in January 2025.¹ In shooting after shooting, we are told that there is no body-worn camera footage of the incident and asked to accept DHS's account of the incident. Time and again, that account turns out to be a blatant falsehood. It is time for DHS to use the \$210 billion that congressional Republicans have given the agency to ensure that every DHS officer is equipped with a fully functioning body-worn camera when conducting immigration enforcement.

DHS has repeatedly assured the American people that body-worn cameras are being deployed. Yet, to this day, this obvious practice has not been adopted. Shortly after immigration agents killed two U.S. citizens, Renée Good and Alex Pretti, in Minneapolis in January 2026, DHS vowed to quickly deploy functioning body-worn cameras for officers across the country.² But nearly six months later, those plans have still not fully materialized.

And the carnage has continued. Earlier this month, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers fatally shot Lorenzo Salgado Araujo during an operation in Texas.³ Reports indicate the officers involved were not wearing body-worn cameras, leaving significant questions about what happened.⁴ Just days later, ICE officers fatally shot Johan Sebastian

¹ Allison McCann, *At Least 23 People Have Been Shot at by Federal Immigration Agents Since Last Year*, N.Y. TIMES (updated July 16, 2026), <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/07/08/us/immigration-agent-shootings-vehicles.html>.

² Alec Dent, *Federal Officers in Minneapolis to Start Wearing Body Cams, DHS Says*, WASH. POST (Feb. 2, 2026), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2026/02/02/dhs-ice-body-cameras/>.

³ Dalia Faheid, et al., *Mexican Man Fatally Shot by ICE Was Not the Target of Houston Immigration Operation, Source Says*, CNN (July 9, 2026), <https://www.cnn.com/2026/07/09/us/lorenzo-salgado-araujo-houston-ice-shooting>.

⁴ Rebecca Santana, *DHS Was Granted \$20M for Body Cameras. ICE Agents in Fatal Houston Shooting Had None*, ASSOC. PRESS (July 10, 2026), <https://apnews.com/article/cameras-body-worn-houston-shooting-ice-immigration-trump-aa316992c75fcd919726afc4db6f4098>.

Guerrero during an operation in Maine.⁵ While the officers were wearing body-worn cameras, they were not functional.⁶

For both shootings, we have been forced to rely on DHS's official description of events because there is no body-worn camera footage available to provide a corroborating or contradictory account of what happened. Unfortunately, DHS's credibility has been repeatedly damaged in these matters after eyewitnesses, reporters, and judges have determined that the government did not tell us the truth.

Recognizing the untenability of this situation, DHS announced that all agents and officers will be equipped with fully functional body-worn cameras in the next 60 days.⁷ Despite this announcement, House Judiciary Republicans rejected an amendment on July 21, 2026, to require all agents wear body-worn cameras.

We need these cameras now. DHS and its component agencies have consistently made false and unsubstantiated allegations about people its agents shot, including Renée Good, Alex Pretti, Ruben Ray Martinez, and Marimar Martinez.⁸ DHS initially claimed these U.S. citizens, all of whom they either killed or maimed, were attacking law enforcement officers.

In each case, evidence later emerged that definitively contradicted the government's claims, showing that DHS made false or misleading statements. In other incidents, it was found ICE agents lied and were the aggressors, resulting in several trumped-up prosecutions against DHS's victims being dismissed with prejudice.⁹ As a result, DHS has completely lost the trust of

⁵ *Read Monday's Live Updates on the ICE Shooting in Biddeford*, PORTLAND PRESS HERALD (July 13, 2026), <https://www.pressherald.com/2026/07/13/read-mondays-live-updates-on-the-ice-shooting-in-biddeford/>; *DHS Breaks Hours of Silence on Deadly ICE Shooting in Maine, Saying Officer Was 'Fearing for Public Safety'*, CNN (July 15, 2026), <https://www.cnn.com/2026/07/13/us/live-news/maine-ice-shooting-houston-minnesota>.

⁶ Karl Loftus, *ICE Officers at Maine Shooting Scene Were Wearing Body Cameras. They Were Not Turned On.*, INTERCEPT (July 16, 2026), <https://theintercept.com/2026/07/16/ice-maine-shooting-body-cameras/>.

⁷ Sergio Martínez-Beltrán, *DHS Pledged Body Cams for All Immigration Agents. Months Later, That Hasn't Happened*, NPR (July 16, 2026), <https://www.npr.org/2026/07/16/nx-s1-5894825/body-cams-ice-shootings>.

⁸ See, e.g., Matt Ford, *The Second Amendment Failed Alex Pretti*, NEW REPUBLIC (Feb. 2, 2026), <https://newrepublic.com/article/205981/second-amendment-failed-alex-pretti>; Roque Planas, *Video of an ICE Shooting Shattered the Agency's Story. Will It Usher in Accountability?*, GUARDIAN (Apr. 11, 2026), <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2026/apr/11/ice-shooting-dhs-accountability-minneapolis>; Sophie Hurwitz, *ICE Keeps Using the Same Justification for Killing Drivers*, MOTHER JONES (July 9, 2026), <https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2026/07/ice-houston-lorenzo-salgado-araujo-renee-good-killed/>; Chris Looft, et al., *Video Suggests DHS Exaggerated Claims About the Shooting of Marimar Martinez: Visual Analysis*, ABC NEWS (Feb. 12, 2026), <https://abcnews.com/US/video-suggests-dhs-exaggerated-claims-shooting-marimar-martinez/story?id=130077502>; Jude Joffe-Block, et al., *DHS Keeps Making False Claims About People. It's Part of a Broader Pattern*, NPR (Jan. 31, 2026), <https://www.npr.org/2026/01/31/nx-s1-5690124/ice-alex-pretti-immigration-unproven-claims-dhs-enforcement-arrests>.

⁹ See, e.g., Zoe Sottile, *ICE Agent Charged in Shooting During Minneapolis Immigration Crackdown Is Arrested in Texas*, CNN (May 29, 2026), <https://www.cnn.com/2026/05/29/us/ice-agent-charged-minneapolis-arrested>; Oliver Milman, *Lawyers for ICE Gave False Information to Justify Detaining Thousands, Filings Reveal*, GUARDIAN (Mar. 26, 2026), <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2026/mar/26/ice-lawyers-justify-detaining-on-false-information>.

the American people it was created to protect and serve. We need DHS using body-worn cameras to ensure officer accountability, bureaucratic transparency, and public safety.

Many state and local law enforcement agencies across the country use body-worn cameras as a standard practice.¹⁰ Under the troubled leadership at the highest levels of the Executive Branch, federal immigration enforcement officers should not be held to a lower standard.

This is a basic constitutional requirement. Even Republican Senator John Cornyn agreed “it would be wise” for DHS to distribute body-worn cameras to the workforce as fast as possible, calling the failure to do so a “mistake.”¹¹ Republican Senator Rand Paul echoed the sentiment and lamented that “something has to change.”¹²

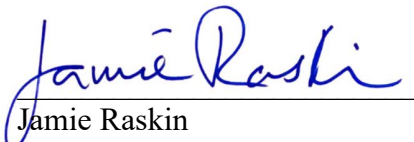
DHS has the resources it needs to make this happen now. DHS took in more than \$210 *billion* for immigration enforcement in the last year and a half alone. And Congress even appropriated \$20 million to DHS specifically for the purchase of body-worn cameras.

Body-worn cameras help everyone involved. They provide critical evidence when violence occurs, protect officers against false allegations, and allow the public and Congress sufficient transparency to make sure we can assure that enforcement actions are conducted lawfully and professionally.

DHS must immediately begin training and equipping every agent on the street who interacts with members of the public with fully functional body-worn cameras. DHS must also ensure agents who do not turn on their camera are held accountable. This is essential for public safety and to rebuild trust in an agency that has thoroughly damaged its own credibility after maiming and killing U.S. citizens and noncitizens alike.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.

Very truly yours,


Jamie Raskin
Ranking Member


Pramila Jayapal
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Immigration
Integrity, Security, and Enforcement

¹⁰ Shelley S. Hyland, *Body-Worn Cameras in Law Enforcement Agencies, 2016*, BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS BULLETIN (Nov. 2018), <https://bjs.ojp.gov/library/publications/body-worn-cameras-law-enforcement-agencies-2016>.

¹¹ Eric Bazail-Eimil & Myah Ward, *GOP Concerns Grow After 2 ICE Shootings in a Week*, POLITICO (July 15, 2026), <https://www.politico.com/news/2026/07/15/gop-ice-shootings-dhs-01000152>.

¹² *Id.*

The Honorable Markwayne Mullin
Mr. David Venturella
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cc: The Honorable Jim Jordan, Chairman

The Honorable Tom McClintock, Chairman
Subcommittee on Immigration Integrity, Security, and Enforcement

Dr. Joseph V. Cuffari, Inspector General
U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of Inspector General