

January 28, 2026  
via email

Dear Members of Congress,

We the undersigned call upon you to indefinitely reject all future funding for ICE and DHS, joining calls from Minnesotans and people across the country. Democratic lawmakers should not be considering compromises like body cameras<sup>1</sup> that will only further harm and endanger people by increasing ICE's surveillance capacity. We urge you to listen to the undersigned human rights, racial justice, digital rights, and immigration justice organizations who have demonstrated time and again that body cameras and increased surveillance in the hands of a violent agency such as ICE make us less safe.

Our nation is reeling from the horrific murders of Alex Patti, Keith Porter and Renee Good, and from the dozens of people who died in ICE custody in 2025 –one of the deadliest years on record for the agency<sup>2</sup>. In particular, the lives of black and brown communities, pregnant immigrants, disabled immigrants, queer and trans immigrants, and women and children immigrants are on the line. Senior White House administration officials have characterized the concerned neighbors, protestors, and legal observers akin to domestic terrorists<sup>3</sup>, simply because they seek to protect the most vulnerable in their community from being racially profiled, harassed and brutally detained by lawless and violent ICE agents. This environment of witness and activist intimidation will only worsen with increased surveillance capabilities at the disposal of ICE, be it body cameras or other data-capturing technologies that the agency will undoubtedly control. It is critical to understand:

- There is virtually no evidence that body cameras statistically reduce violence<sup>4</sup>. A critical ProPublica investigation<sup>5</sup> concluded that any *potential* benefits of such cameras are completely undermined by the fact police departments routinely refuse to release footage, including in instances where cops shoot people. Case in point Alex Patti's murder was recorded on multiple ICE agent body cameras, and Renee Good's murderer<sup>6</sup> was filming as he shot her. Meanwhile federal agents have blocked Minnesota state officials<sup>7</sup> from reviewing evidence and conducting their own investigation. **Body cameras have not and will not tame the aggression** and unfathomable brutality unfolding in Minneapolis. Thus, what Democrats are demanding equates to a chest mounted phone case so that ICE agents can brutalize while filming hands-free.

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1 <https://jacobin.com/2026/01/democrats-ice-reform-body-cameras>

2 <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/ng-interactive/2026/jan/04/ice-2025-deaths-timeline>

3 <https://x.com/StephenM/status/2015127971485413805> ; also <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/noem-says-minneapolis-suspect-committed-domestic-terrorism-accuses-walz-frey-inciting-violence>

4 <https://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2017/10/20/558832090/body-cam-study-shows-no-effect-on-police-use-of-force-or-citizen-complaints>

5 [https://www.propublica.org/article/how-police-undermined-promise-body-cameras?c\\_src=33685809.57194](https://www.propublica.org/article/how-police-undermined-promise-body-cameras?c_src=33685809.57194)

6 <https://www.cbc.ca/news/world/ice-agent-shooting-video-minnesota-renee-good-9.7040480>

7 <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/nation/minnesota-officials-say-they-cant-access-evidence-after-fatal-ice-shooting-and-fbi-wont-work-jointly-on-investigation>

- ICE currently has access to an incredible amount of surveillance tech, such as Paragon<sup>8</sup> and Mobile Fortify<sup>9</sup>. These technologies have been used to identify witnesses and protestors for further intimidation and harassment. In short **more camera footage creates more opportunities to identify anyone and everyone ICE might want to target**, by leveraging facial recognition or combining with other datasets like ones purchased from brokers or seized from public agencies.
- ICE frequently taps into local law enforcement resources like FLOCK's automated license plate reader database<sup>10</sup> giving them access to peoples' locations. The company FLOCK recently announced a partnership with Amazon Ring<sup>11</sup> to make every doorstep, highway, and city street an extension of its surveillance panopticon for real-time tracking of individuals. This sort of warrantless panopticon must be legislated out of existence not codified on the bodies of the state's agents of terror.

It is not only renewed or additional funding for ICE that will breed violence. Weak reforms and the expansion of harmful surveillance measures such as body cameras compound ICE's violence potential. Such backwards and ill-informed measures ignore decades of warnings from human rights experts and put activists, targeted racial groups, and legal observers at greater risk of nefarious political attacks in the future.

The truth is that any vote for ICE funding will be spun as a sign of Congressional approval for ICE's violence and murder. The only conscionable action lawmakers can take is to indefinitely halt all further funding for ICE and for CBP and put broad and comprehensive data privacy protections among their top priorities as a party. The people do not need ICE body cameras, they need you to fight for our basic human rights.

Sincerely,

Access Now

Advocates for Youth

Caribbean Equality Project(CEP)

Deflock Olympia

Erotic Service Provider Legal Education and Research Project (ESPLERP)

Faith Choice Ohio

Fight For the Future

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8 <https://www.accessnow.org/paragon-contract-spyware/>

9 [https://www.markey.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/letter\\_to\\_ice\\_on\\_mobile\\_facial\\_recognition\\_tech1.pdf](https://www.markey.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/letter_to_ice_on_mobile_facial_recognition_tech1.pdf)

10 <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/ice-ai-cameras-surveillance-flock-safety-b2903365.html>

11 <https://techcrunch.com/2025/10/16/amazons-ring-to-partner-with-flock-a-network-of-ai-cameras-used-by-ice-feds-and-police/>

Freedom Oklahoma

Gender Justice LA

Indivisible Bellingham

Indivisible Vashon

Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition

Muslim Advocates

Muslims for Just Futures

NTEN

Oakland Privacy

Olympia Indivisible

Portland Outright

Restore The Fourth

RootsAction

Secure Justice

Southend Indivisible

SQSH

Surveillance Technology Oversight Project

The Whatcom Peace & Justice Center

UltraViolet Action

WA People's Privacy

X-Lab

Yale Privacy Lab

For more information, please contact:

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