

COMMITTEES:

RANKING MEMBER:

SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

RANKING MEMBER:

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PRIMARY HEALTH AND
RETIREMENT SECURITY

COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

CHAIR:

U.S. SENATE CLIMATE CHANGE TASK FORCE

United States Senate

975 JFK FEDERAL BUILDING
15 NEW SUDSBURY STREET
BOSTON, MA 02203
617-565-8519

1550 MAIN STREET, 4TH FLOOR
SPRINGFIELD, MA 01103
413-785-4610

January 30, 2026

David Wesling
Boston Acting Field Office Director
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Enforcement and Removal Operations
Boston Field Office
1000 District Avenue
Burlington, MA 01803

Dear Acting Director Wesling:

I am writing to follow up on the letter I sent you on December 17, 2025, after visiting the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) field office in Burlington, Massachusetts. In my letter, I raised concerns about the inhumane conditions at the Burlington field office and ICE's dragnet approach to arrests. I have not received a response from your office. In the weeks since my visit, ICE officers have drastically escalated their use of force and have been operating with increased impunity. On January 7, 2026, a masked ICE officer shot and killed a 37-year-old mother of three, Renee Nicole Good, in Minneapolis, Minnesota during a surge in immigration enforcement in the city. Mere days later, on January 24, a Customs and Border Protection officer and Border Patrol agent killed another 37-year-old resident of Minneapolis, Alex Jeffrey Pretti. Against this national backdrop, numerous reports of a large delivery of unmarked vehicles to the Burlington facility have raised fears of an aggressive immigration crackdown in Massachusetts of the scale and brutality seen in Minnesota. I write again to request critical information about ICE's activities in the Commonwealth.

In January 2026, the Trump administration launched a massive immigration operation in Minneapolis, Minnesota that has been marked by militarized raids, excessive force, unlawful arrests, and suppression of speech. The Administration's crackdown in the Twin Cities has been unprecedented in scope and severity, earning the strong rebuke of state and local leaders and law enforcement officials.¹ The impunity with which masked federal agents shot and killed Good and Pretti has left Americans aghast at the violence this Administration is employing.²

¹ Mitch Smith & Nicholas Bogel-Burroughs, *Minnesota Police Leaders Criticize Federal Tactics in ICE Surge*, N.Y. Times (Jan. 20, 2026), <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/01/20/us/ice-minnesota-police-axel-henry.html>.

² Hannah Ziegler et al., *What We Know About the Fatal ICE Shooting in Minneapolis*, N.Y. Times (Jan. 12, 2026), <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/01/07/us/ice-shooting-minneapolis-renee-good.html>; Dan Barry, *A Shocked Nation Watches Minneapolis Killings: 'Something Needs to Change'*, N.Y. Times (Jan. 27, 2026), <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/01/27/us/alex-pretti-shooting-minneapolis-reaction.html>.

January 30, 2026

Page 2

The worsening national context has rattled Massachusetts residents, who have also watched ICE officers employ dangerous and aggressive tactics to execute arrests in their own backyards. In my previous letter, I asked about specific instances of excessive force by ICE officers in Massachusetts, ICE's sweeping operations, and policies regarding arrests and detentions. Given the growing calls for ICE's transparency, I request answers to my prior questions with heightened urgency.

Moreover, numerous reports that the Burlington field office has received a large shipment of unmarked vehicles—of the type used in immigration arrests—has sparked fears from residents about a surge of ICE activity in the Commonwealth. Those fears are well-founded given ICE's current approach in the Commonwealth. For instance, federal authorities recently admitted that the summary removal of a Babson College student to Honduras was done in violation of a court order—and although the student's removal occurred outside of Massachusetts, she was quickly processed through Burlington.³ Reporting also indicates that only two percent of those arrested by ICE in Massachusetts in September 2025 had violent criminal convictions, casting doubt on the Administration's claims that it is targeting the "worst of the worst."⁴ An influx of unmarked cars to the Burlington facility deserves explanation, including the expected use of these new vehicles and any planned escalation of enforcement activities. I remain vigilant about any ICE activity in Massachusetts that resembles operations in the Twin Cities; such an approach would only sow fear, erode trust, and provoke tensions in our communities.

Any surge in immigration enforcement also raises ongoing concerns about overcrowding at the Burlington ICE facility. I previously sought answers to questions about reports of inadequate conditions at the facility, including allegations about detainees' lack of access to medical attention, showers, and counsel prior to transfer. I also specifically asked your office to change its policies to allow for in-person meetings between detainees and their counsel, family, and clergy. From what I saw during my visit, the Burlington ICE field office is not designed to safely house individuals for more than a few hours. I am thus concerned that a drastic increase in ICE arrests will exacerbate detention conditions and place individuals in harm's way.

ICE's conduct in Massachusetts continues to demand accountability. I expect written answers to the following questions by Friday, February 13, 2026.

1. How many individuals has the ICE field office in Burlington process since January 2025?
 - (a) What is the highest number of people detained at the field office since the start of 2025?
 - (b) How many individuals has ICE held at the facility overnight since January 2025? How many have been held longer than 72 hours?

³ Sean Cotter, *Federal judge says deporting Babson College freshman was a 'tragic case of bureaucracy gone wrong'*, Boston Globe (Jan. 14, 2026), <https://www.bostonglobe.com/2026/01/13/metro/any-lopez-belloza-deported-court-hearing/?p1=Article+Inline+Text+Link>.

⁴ Albert Sun, *Most Immigrants Arrested in City Crackdowns Have No Criminal Record*, N.Y. Times (Dec. 4, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2025/12/04/us/ice-arrests-criminal-records-data.html>.

- (c) What is the highest number of individuals held overnight in one room?
- (d) Do detainees always get a mattress if held overnight?
- (e) How many individuals processed by the field office this calendar year have violent criminal convictions?

2. Is every individual held at the Burlington facility properly recorded in the Online Detainee Locator System?
3. Has the ICE field office in Burlington detained individuals in vulnerable groups overnight, including minors, seniors, pregnant or nursing women, or disabled individuals?
 - (a) If so, how many individuals in each of these vulnerable groups has the ICE field office detained overnight?
 - (b) Does the facility provide special accommodations for vulnerable groups?
4. What is the process by which detainees can request medical care?
 - (a) Given that the ICE field office does not have on-site medical personnel, where do detainees receive medical care?
 - (b) How are detainees provided appropriate medication?
5. I understand from my visit that there is one shower in the facility. Does ICE allow detainees to use this shower if held overnight?
6. What is the field office's practice regarding access to drinking water?
 - (a) Are requests for water outside mealtimes permitted?
 - (b) Does the field office currently accept donations of food, water, or hygiene products? If not, will it change its policy to accept such donations?
7. What is the field office's position regarding the right to counsel for individuals processed and/or detained at the facility?
 - (a) Does the field office grant attorneys the right to meet with clients on-site? If so, what is the duration of permitted meetings? If not, will it change its policy to do so?
 - (b) Does the field office work with language interpreters? What languages are available?
8. Does the field office currently allow family members and members of the clergy to meet with detainees? If not, will it change its policy to do so?
9. What steps is the field office taking to ensure that ICE agents are not engaging in excessive use of force when conducting enforcement operations?

January 30, 2026

Page 4

- (a) Has your office provided agents with training regarding the proper use of force?
- (b) What actions are taken against agents who fail to follow proper protocol regarding the use of force?

10. Since January 2025, how many immigration enforcement actions have taken place near protected, or sensitive, locations in the Commonwealth, including at schools, places of worship, courtrooms, hospitals, etc.?

- (a) Please identify the number of enforcement actions for each type of location?
- (b) Can you provide any guarantees that your agents will not conduct enforcement operations at or near these sensitive locations?
- (c) Has your field office received specific guidance from ICE to arrest or detain individuals who show up for routine check-ins at the field office even if they are in full compliance with the terms of their release?

11. Since January 2025, how many minors (i.e., individuals under the age of eighteen) has ICE arrested in Massachusetts?

12. What guidance have you or your office provided ICE agents regarding how to identify themselves during enforcement operations? Will you commit to instructing your agents not to use masks or other face covering during enforcement actions?

13. Has the Burlington facility recently received a new delivery of unmarked cars? If so, how many vehicles were delivered to the facility? What is the intended use of these vehicles?

14. Does the ICE field office expect an increase in the number of personnel in the following months? Has the field office received any directives of a surge in enforcement activity?

As I noted in my prior letter, Congress has a statutory responsibility to oversee federal agencies, and ICE has a statutory obligation to comply with that oversight. The scenes of ICE's activities in Minnesota demand renewed vigilance and transparency about the agency's operations in the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator