

Thank you, sir. Good morning, Chairman Amodei and Acting Ranking Member Underwood and distinguished members of this committee. I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify today.

As I've said many times, I'm honored to lead the most versatile, agile agency under the Department of Homeland Security.

I am proud to stand along and represent more than 20,000 ICE personnel whose determination and resolve drive them to protect national security and promote public safety, even in communities which fundamentally disagree with U.S. immigration law and attempt to undermine our investigations and enforcement turns at every action.

Our officers and agents are villainized for upholding and enforcing law, but the bottom line is they put their lives on the line to serve this nation and protect our families, friends and neighbors. In light of this service and sacrifice, one of my main priorities is to keep ICE running smoothly. I can do that by working with you to ensure we have the resources we need to keep our workforce safe, keep promises made by President Trump and Secretary Noem, and meet our obligations to the American people.

That is why these people are depending on me and you to secure those resources. In just over three months, the Trump administration has significantly increased our operational tempo. We've arrested more than 88,000 aliens so far during 2025, which is about 39% increase from the same time period in fiscal year 24. Of those arrests, 65% took place after January 20th — the day President Trump took office and took action on his pledge to make America safe again.

We have also arrested 95% more suspected gang members, 655 more known or suspected terrorists and 46% more aliens with pending criminal charges or convictions over the same time period. After years of being told to stand down instead of investigating, arresting and removing the most dangerous criminal aliens from our community, ICE's brave officers and agents are now allowed to do what they signed up for: enforce immigration law in the interior.

But it's just not about our enforcement personnel. During fiscal year 24, ICE's Office of Principal Legal Advisors represented the Department of Homeland Security in more than 1.8 million removal hearings and obtained more than 280,000 removal orders. With our increased operational tempo, since President Trump took office, we have more criminal aliens in custody and more cases going before the Department of Justice.

Immigration judges our attorneys are working around the clock to preserve the rule of law and protect our fellow Americans from the most dangerous threats to our republic. I would also ask for resources for our mission support staff, who ensure we bring in talented, capable and agile officers and special agents.

These dedicated professionals maintain our information technology structure, ensure our workforce has the support they need, and serve as stewards to all ICE resources. Our officers and agents arrest some of the most heinous criminals that are responsible for crimes against our community. They enforce immigration law in the interior, keeping dangerous criminal aliens out of our neighborhood and away from people we care about, and remove illegal aliens who refuse to follow the legal immigration pathway to make their homes in the United States.

They serve as protective shields between Americans and the people who pose the greatest threat to our values, our freedoms and our way of life. We need adequate funding to fully execute the responsibility Congress has given us and to uphold our obligations to the American people. That is why I'm sitting here before you today asking for your agreement with the resources requested in the fiscal year 2026 Presidential Budget.

Again, I thank you for allowing me to speak with you today and I look forward to answering your questions and giving you the information you need.