

STEVE COHEN
9TH DISTRICT, TENNESSEE
2268 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

TELEPHONE: (202) 225-3265
FAX: (202) 225-5663

ODELL HORTON FEDERAL BUILDING
167 NORTH MAIN STREET
SUITE 369
MEMPHIS, TN 38103

TELEPHONE: (901) 544-4131
FAX: (901) 544-4329

WWW.COHEN.HOUSE.GOV

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4209

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND
COOPERATION IN EUROPE (U.S.
HELSINKI COMMISSION)

November 18, 2025

The Honorable Kristi Noem
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20528

The Honorable Pam Bondi
Attorney General
Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Secretary Noem and Attorney General Bondi,

I urge you to eliminate the U.S. Department of Homeland Security from the Memphis Safe Taskforce and remove Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents from Memphis.

The stated purpose of the task force is “to end street and violent crime.” However, I have heard numerous reports of ICE agents terrorizing innocent, hardworking community residents, who support our society and economy, and do not fit the bill of being criminals. They certainly are not “the worst of the worst” like murders, rapists and sex offenders. Data provided directly from the taskforce demonstrates that most of the arrests are for non-violent related offenses. In fact, most are traffic citations.

Memphis does not and has never had an immigration problem. The inclusion of ICE agents in Memphis is antithetical to the original purpose of the taskforce, which is supposed to be addressing violent crime. The presence of these agents is doing nothing but increasing fear and harassment. It is alarming the way these detentions are taking place with unidentified masked individuals dragging people out of cars or accosting immigrant parents after they have dropped their children off to school.

As the federal representative of Memphis, I implore you to withdraw ICE agents from “the city of good Abode.” It is unnecessary and a waste of federal resources. Immigrants are not part of our crime problem.

As always, I remain,

Most sincerely,



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress