



City of Tacoma

City Council

February 3, 2026

The Honorable Patty Murray
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Representative Emily Randall
1531 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
511 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Representative Marilyn Strickland
1724 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Tacoma Community Call for DHS Accountability, Oversight, and Federal Law Enforcement Reform

Dear Senators Murray and Cantwell and Representatives Strickland and Randall,

On behalf of the City of Tacoma, we would like to begin by expressing our sincere gratitude for your steadfast leadership and continued advocacy for our community. Your support for key Tacoma projects and values has been instrumental in our city's progress, and we truly value your dedicated partnership in the United States Senate.

At a time when our nation is experiencing deep division, heightened fear, and growing concern about the direction of federal enforcement policies, local governments are looking to trusted leaders for principled guidance. It is in this context that we write regarding the recent Department of Homeland Security (DHS) funding and oversight responsibilities. We specifically want to thank you for your principled stand in refusing to support the recent DHS bill. At a time when many are calling for even more funding for an agency operating without sufficient oversight, your vote sent a clear and unequivocal message: We will not support the expansion

of federal immigration and enforcement actions that are currently tearing at the fabric of our society.

As the debate continues in Washington, DC, the City of Tacoma stands with you in advocating for meaningful and enforceable federal law enforcement accountability reforms. Restoring public trust, protecting civil liberties, and preventing further loss of life demands clear standards, transparency, and oversight.

At a minimum, we believe such legislation must ensure:

1. Independent and transparent investigations are required in all law enforcement involved deaths involving federal agents.
2. State and local authorities are guaranteed full and timely access to evidence and cooperation in all investigations.
3. Clear public reporting requirements are established when federal operations are conducted in local communities.
4. Robust oversight over DHS enforcement practices, including use of force policies, detention practices, and coordination with local jurisdictions.
5. Transparency and information to local jurisdictions of where residents are sent when detained by DHS.

These reforms are urgently needed. Last month, Alex Pretti, a 37-year-old intensive care nurse from Minneapolis, was fatally shot by a federal agent during a DHS enforcement action in Minneapolis in broad daylight. Multiple bystander videos and witness accounts have raised serious questions about the initial federal narrative. Minnesota state authorities were reportedly denied immediate access to investigate, prompting a federal judge to issue an order preventing DHS from destroying or altering evidence related to the incident.

This was the second fatal shooting of a Minneapolis resident by federal immigration agents in a matter of weeks. Together, these incidents have intensified public concern nationwide and reinforced long-standing fears about the lack of transparency and accountability in federal enforcement operations.

These concerns are not abstract for Tacoma. Our city is home to the Northwest ICE Processing Center (NWIPC), a facility that has long raised serious civil rights, safety, and oversight concerns. Our residents deserve to know that if federal agents operate in our city, they will be subject to clear rules, public accountability, and meaningful oversight.

In that context, we also support your efforts to sign onto articles of impeachment and call for the resignation of DHS Director Noem. Congressional oversight is not only about budgets; it is about responsibility. When leadership failures, misuse of authority, or systemic accountability

gaps result in loss of life and erosion of public trust, Congress has both the authority and the obligation to act.

Thank you for your continued service and for standing with communities like Tacoma that believe public safety and civil liberties are strengthened by transparency, accountability, and the rule of law. We ask you to continue using your voices, votes, and oversight powers to ensure that federal law enforcement operates within constitutional bounds and with respect for every community it serves.

Thank you for your commitment to safeguarding the rights and safety in the nation.

Sincerely,

[Signatures to be added following adoption]