



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
STATE HOUSE • BOSTON, MA 02133
(617) 725-4000

MAURA T. HEALEY
GOVERNOR

KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

March 6, 2026

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

Todd Lyons, Acting Director
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
500 12th St SW
Washington, DC 20536

Dear Secretary Noem and Acting Director Lyons,

I am writing to demand complete and accurate information from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement about its actions in Massachusetts.

You have repeatedly claimed that ICE is targeting the “worst of the worst.” But even by ICE’s own account, the facts tell a very different story. Many of those taken into custody are long-standing members of our communities—parents, caregivers, and workers whose sudden detention leaves their families in crisis. This has had far-reaching consequences for their children, families, our communities, and the state of Massachusetts.

Following the May 2025 surge operation called “Operation Patriot,” ICE boasted of 1,461 arrests that month alone. Of those arrests, 671—or 46%—of those detained had no criminal background whatsoever. ICE has provided limited public information about only 14 of the individuals detained. That means even for the vast majority of individuals with some criminal history, ICE has provided no information about the nature of any purported charges—such as whether they were traffic infractions or non-violent misdemeanors—or whether charges were dismissed.

In September 2025, ICE conducted another surge operation called “Operation Patriot 2.0” resulting in 1,406 arrests. By ICE’s account and reporting by the New York Times it is clear that more than 60% of individuals arrested by ICE in Massachusetts during the September surge had

no criminal history whatsoever.¹ Only 2% had been convicted of a violent crime. ICE has provided limited public information about only 30 of the individuals detained.

This means more than half of the people that ICE arrested and detained during these two surge operations in Massachusetts have never been accused of or convicted of any crime. ICE has provided no information about the many others who have been arrested in the months between and since these operations.

Here are just a few examples of cases we have been made aware of, though we are unable to confirm the full facts because ICE has provided no information to state and local officials:

1. An 18-year-old high school honors student with no criminal record was arrested while driving with his high school teammates to volleyball practice.
2. A mother of a quadriplegic child was arrested going to work. She had no known criminal history and an asylum application pending before the Immigration Court. She was transferred out of the state and away from her child.
3. A father was arrested at his worksite. He, too, had a pending asylum application. He and his wife have two small children. He has been in the U.S. for 10 years and has no known criminal record.
4. A father with an autistic daughter, with no criminal record, who was working in construction to support his child and her complex medical needs arrested by ICE.
5. A father who had lived in the United States for over 20 years and who has two U.S. citizen children was detained by ICE. He was transferred to Texas, leaving his children behind in Massachusetts. He has no known criminal record.

There are many more. In too many cases, children return home from school to find that a parent has been detained, with no information about where they have been taken or whether they will be able to return. Schools, social service agencies, local and state officials are left scrambling to provide support to the children and families left behind. These abrupt separations put strain on local and state safety net systems—including food assistance programs and child services—and impose lasting trauma on young people who are themselves U.S. citizens or lawful residents.

As Governor, I demand the following information:

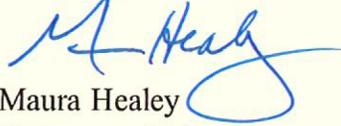
1. The identity of every person arrested by ICE in Massachusetts since January 2025;
2. The legal basis for every arrest by ICE in Massachusetts since January 2025;
3. The status of each of those cases, including the docket numbers, where the person is currently being detained, what court is hearing the case, and the date of the next scheduled hearing;
4. The number of ICE arrests conducted in Massachusetts since January 2025 involving parents or primary caregivers of minor children;

¹ Albert Sun, "Most Immigrants Arrested in City Crackdowns Have No Criminal Record," *The New York Times*, Dec. 4, 2025, available at <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2025/12/04/us/ice-arrests-criminal-records-data.html>.

5. Any and all ICE protocols to identify and protect minor children and dependent family members when a parent or caregiver is detained.

The people of Massachusetts are entitled to complete and accurate information. I ask that you provide this information in one week. I await your prompt response.

Sincerely,



Maura Healey
Governor of Massachusetts