

Grievance Letter Calling for Immediate Freezing of DHS Funding Pending Oversight & Civil Rights Review

[Date]

To:

Members of the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee

Members of the U.S. House Appropriations Committee

U.S. Department of Homeland Security – Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

U.S. Department of Justice – Civil Rights Division

The White House – Domestic Policy Council

Re: Formal Demand to Freeze DHS Funding Pending Full Investigation Into Civil & Human Rights Violations and Abuse of Federal Police Powers

To Whom It May Concern:

I am submitting this grievance as a concerned citizen alarmed by the accelerating pattern of civil rights violations, constitutional overreach, and extrajudicial policing tactics employed by multiple components of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). These actions—documented across numerous states and repeatedly raised by immigrant-rights groups, civil liberties organizations, journalists, and impacted communities—demonstrate a systemic collapse of accountability and oversight within DHS and its operational arms.

Recent events have revealed the government's willingness to rapidly freeze funding, suspend authorities, or initiate investigations in response to controversies involving public figures or political allies when politically expedient. If such swift federal action can be mobilized in the interest of one politically connected individual or one selectively chosen incident, there is no excuse for Congress and the Executive Branch to continue ignoring the extensive and well-documented abuses affecting thousands of families, workers, residents, and asylum seekers nationwide.

I. Pattern of Misconduct and Abuse of Authority within DHS Components

Across multiple DHS agencies—including but not limited to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Customs and Border Protection (CBP), and Homeland Security Investigations (HSI)—reports continue to reveal:

- Unlawful detentions and warrantless raids
- Racially discriminatory profiling practices
- Excessive force and preventable deaths in custody

- Retaliatory operations against activists, journalists, and immigrant communities
- Secretive surveillance programs of questionable legality
- Denial of medical care, family separation, and violations of due process
- Opaque chains of command that shield agents from discipline

These behaviors reflect a pattern commonly associated with paramilitary-style policing, far outside the intended scope of DHS's statutory authority.

II. Breach of Constitutional and Human Rights Standards

The United States is obligated—under the Constitution and under international human rights treaties—to ensure:

- Equal protection under the law
- Freedom from unreasonable search and seizure
- Due process
- Protection from cruel, inhumane, or degrading treatment
- The right to seek asylum

Yet DHS's current operational conduct demonstrates regular and severe departures from these obligations. Independent inspectors general, federal court rulings, and the DHS Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties have documented these violations repeatedly.

III. Congressional Responsibility and Appropriations Power

Congress has the explicit constitutional authority—and responsibility—to:

- Condition, restrict, or freeze funding
- Mandate corrective actions and compliance benchmarks
- Require transparent reporting and public disclosure
- Suspend authorities pending oversight outcomes

If Congress can act instantly and decisively to protect political interests or respond to select media controversies, it must do so with equal or greater urgency when widespread, well-documented civil and human rights violations are occurring under federal authority.

IV. Requested Action

I am formally petitioning Congress, the Office of Management and Budget, and relevant executive agencies to:

1. Immediately freeze discretionary DHS funding—including operational budgets for ICE, HSI, and CBP—pending completion of a full civil rights and constitutional compliance review.
2. Impose strict oversight conditions requiring transparency, data reporting, and measurable reforms.
3. Appoint independent investigators with subpoena authority to evaluate abuses, patterns of misconduct, and violations of statutory limits.
4. Suspend field operations shown to be engaging in unconstitutional policing practices until compliance can be verified.
5. Publicly release all findings in the interest of democratic accountability and community safety.

V. Conclusion

Federal agencies operating with sweeping police powers must be held to the highest legal and ethical standard—not the lowest. DHS has demonstrated a persistent inability or unwillingness to police itself. Until these violations are addressed comprehensively, no additional taxpayer dollars should be allocated to agencies engaging in unconstitutional or abusive conduct.

A democratic government cannot tolerate secretive, militarized, unaccountable policing forces operating within its borders. Freezing DHS funding pending independent investigation is the minimum threshold for restoring constitutional order and public trust.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I expect formal acknowledgment of this grievance and information regarding forthcoming oversight actions.

Respectfully submitted,

[Your Name]

[City, State]

[Email / Phone, if you choose to include]