

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 17, 2026

The Honorable Susan Collins
United States Senate
Washington, D.C.

The Honorable Katie Britt
United States Senate
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Collins and Senator Britt,

Thank you for your service to our country. In response to your request, this letter details the latest status of negotiations with Democratic congressional leadership. We look forward to continuing to partner with you to bring this senseless and dangerous shutdown to an end.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) shut down after February 13, a month ago. Prior to the DHS shutdown, Republican and Democratic leadership and appropriators, and the Trump Administration, negotiated a package of appropriations bills on a bipartisan basis. This package included a bipartisan agreement to provide full-year funding for DHS, and it was passed by the House on a bipartisan basis. Before passage in the Senate, congressional Democrats decided they would no longer vote for the bill they negotiated, and forced Congress to resort to a ten-day clean extension of DHS funding.

On February 4, five days after Congress passed the DHS funding extension, the Democrats released a list of demands. Three days later on February 7, they produced legislative text of their demands. Unfortunately, the majority of their demands, as written, would make it impossible to fully protect American citizens from dangerous criminal aliens and expose law enforcement and their families to increasing threats of violence. In other words, they would prioritize illegal aliens above American families. On February 9, the Administration sent a document explaining its counter proposal, and followed up with legislative text two days later on February 11. On February 12, White House Border Czar Tom Homan explicitly ended the surge operation in Minnesota. He also instituted a number of significant changes to immigration enforcement activities, like ending ICE roving patrols, updated protocols for handling unlawful agitators, deployment of body-worn cameras, and advanced notice to and advanced cooperation with local law enforcement in conducting operations. On February 16, three days into the shutdown, the Democrats responded to the Administration counter offer by proposing effectively their original offer again. Since, the Administration transmitted a counter offer, and then 18 days later, on March 16, the Democrats responded with a counter offer that fails again to show a good faith attempt to compromise.

Since the beginning of this lapse in appropriations, the Administration has sought to bring it to an expeditious conclusion through good-faith negotiation. On the Senate floor on Thursday, March 12, the Administration's position was repeatedly mischaracterized.

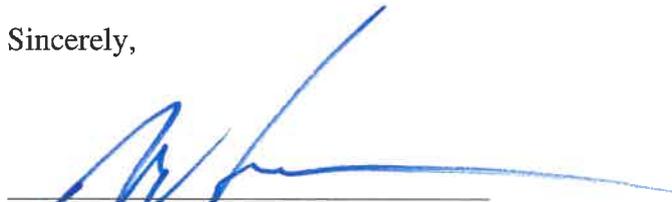
Throughout this process, the Administration has offered to codify improved operational guidelines to its immigration enforcement operations. These would be layered on top of the updates that were negotiated, agreed to, and passed through the House on a bipartisan basis. These improvements include the following:

- The Administration will expand the use of body-worn cameras by DHS law enforcement undertaking immigration enforcement operations, with an exception for undercover operations. The Administration will increase Congressional oversight by requiring retention of body-camera video footage and compliance transparency.
- The Administration will limit civil immigration enforcement activities at certain sensitive locations, subject to a narrow carve-out for immediate needs like national security, flight risks, and public safety. Sensitive locations include places like hospitals and schools, which is current practice.
- The Administration will adhere to current law that affords Congress oversight of DHS detention facilities. The Administration will also increase oversight, in particular by creating mandatory review and compliance reporting from the Inspector General of DHS. Moreover, this requirement would apply to funds flowing from other federal streams in addition to funding flowing from annual appropriations.
- The Administration will enforce the use of visible officer identification for DHS law enforcement carrying out immigration enforcement activities. Officer identification worn by officers will be clearly displayed. Moreover, the Administration will require such officers to clearly verbalize their agency and identification upon request when engaging in official duties, consistent with standard law enforcement practices. Undercover officers would not be subject to these requirements.
- The Administration will adhere to existing law and practice of not deporting any U.S. citizen and will codify current practice of not knowingly detaining a U.S. citizen, except when the person violates a state or federal law that makes the citizen subject to arrest.

The Administration has worked in good faith to again reach bipartisan agreement on full funding for the entire Department of Homeland Security and institute common-sense operational improvements to federal immigration enforcement operations that enhance the safety of American communities.

Democrats must stop holding the safety and security of the American people hostage and move forward with fully funding DHS.

Sincerely,



The Honorable Tom Homan
Assistant to the President,
Border Czar



The Honorable James Braid
Assistant to the President,
Director of the Office of Legislative Affairs