



January 28, 2026

The Honorable Patty Murray
United States Senator
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
United States Senator
511 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Murray and Cantwell:

Thank you for your leadership in standing for the rights and safety of the public at a time when violent federal immigration actions are tearing at the fabric of our nation and increasingly bringing danger to the people we serve. As local elected officials in Washington, we're writing with a clear and simple message: no additional funding for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) until they dramatically change their current dangerous and potentially illegal policies and procedures.

In 2025, ICE was given an unprecedented \$11.5 billion budget increase to support the President's deportation agenda. Since then, however, communities around the country are reporting enforcement activities against legal residents and U.S. citizens, and violent tactics that run afoul of Department of Homeland Security (DHS) policy and due process under the law. Enforcement activity is verifiably beyond the scope of what the Administration asserts is a focus on people who have committed violent crimes. There are numerous reports of mistreatment at ICE-run detention centers, as well as detainee deaths. We have seen ICE tear families apart, trample on our civil liberties, and, most recently, kill two U.S. citizens who were exercising their first amendment rights in Minneapolis. The Administration refuses to conduct independent investigations of ICE and its facility operations.

Congress has a responsibility to hold the Administration to account and demand answers to reasonable questions about ICE's use of taxpayer funds. The question of funding to keep parts of the government open must be answered by the end of January, and included in that decision is the fate of the FY 2026 Homeland Security Appropriations bill. Some are demanding even more funding for ICE and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Meanwhile, the Trump administration and the majority party in Congress are seeking to reduce critical funding for Medicaid, SNAP, behavioral health, homelessness prevention programs, public health, education, emergency management, and much more.

We know what is happening in Minneapolis could happen in any city across the country, including in our home state of Washington. Our neighbors are scared and want accountability now. As your constituents and fellow elected representatives, we implore you to refuse to support any additional funding for ICE. During this time of fear and uncertainty for so many, we believe it is vital to show all people in our communities that we support their freedom, their safety, and their rights.

Sincerely,



Ryan N. Mello
Pierce County Executive



Girmay Zahilay
King County Executive



Dave Somers
Snohomish County Executive