Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 13, 2026

The Honorable Markwayne Mullin
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20528-0525

Mr. David Venturella
Acting Director
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
500 12th St. SW
Washington, DC 20536-5010

Re: ICE Uniforms and Equipment

Secretary Mullin and Acting Director Venturella:

As Members of Pennsylvania's congressional delegation, we are writing to request additional information about the uniforms and equipment issued to ICE officers across the country, including the Philadelphia Field Office, which conducts enforcement in and around our districts and neighboring communities.

Under this administration, there has been a noted increase in the militarization of federal law enforcement officials, rising concerns about the identities of ICE officers being obscured during enforcement activity, and numerous incidents of excessive force by the officers employed by your department. As Members of Congress who wield appropriations power, we need to understand how taxpayer dollars are being spent by your agency and to ensure that equipment being purchased by ICE is not becoming a threat to public safety and the American people.

On July 22, 2026, Rep. Scanlon's office sent a standard inquiry to ICE Congressional Relations and the Philadelphia Field Office requesting "any available details about the uniforms and equipment issued to ICE officers detailed to the Philadelphia Regional Office," including whether there are standard items issued to every officer.

On August 31, 2026, the office received a generic response about how ICE-issued field equipment is labeled and how non-uniformed officers identify themselves:

> *ICE-issued field equipment displays "ICE" to indicate the specific law enforcement agency being represented. However, in accordance with ICE policy, Deportation Officer positions are non-uniformed. Therefore, ICE officers are authorized to conduct immigration enforcement in plain clothes.*
>
> *ICE officers display badges and wear vests, jackets, or other clothing with markings such as "POLICE," "ICE," or both. ICE-issued field equipment typically displays "ICE Enforcement Removal Operations," "ICE Homeland Security Investigations," and/or "POLICE ICE" to indicate the specific law enforcement agency being represented.*

ICE officers may initially identify themselves as "police" during encounters and will identify themselves when required. "Police" is a universally recognized term for law enforcement. This is important because our personnel often interact with individuals who speak languages other than English. It is also used by other federal law enforcement agencies.

Due to the lack of relevant details provided, the office submitted several follow-up questions to ICE Congressional Relations the same day. These questions included:

1. Would you be able to share a link to—or a copy of—the ICE policy detailing that Deportation Officer positions are non-uniformed?
2. Is it possible to receive more information about the types of equipment issued to field offices generally, and Philadelphia specifically? For example, do all field offices receive helmets, shields, and other items typically described as "riot gear"? If/when the highly reported electric shock gloves are distributed, would those go to all field offices, or only certain locations?
3. How does ICE determine what non-standard-issue equipment to send to field offices?

On October 29, 2026—almost two months later—the office received another response that failed to address the substance of these additional questions. Accordingly, we are making a formal request that you provide our offices with the following information, no later than Friday, November 27, 2026.

1. A link to—or copy of—the ICE policy detailing that Deportation Officer positions are non-uniformed.
2. What identifying items are **<u>required</u>** to be worn or carried by non-uniformed Deportation Officers?
    a. For example, must all Deportation Officers wear or carry badges, regardless of the other labeled items (vest, jacket, etc.) they are wearing?
    b. If badges are carried but not externally visible, are they required to display their badge upon request by a member of the public?
    c. If there is not a standard requirement for identifying items as part of Deportation Officers' "uniforms," why is that the case?
3. What standard-issue equipment is supplied to all field offices?
4. Which locations have received Kevlar helmets, shields, and other items typically described as "riot gear" by the general public?
    a. What specific items of riot gear have been received at each location? Please include, at minimum, a description, manufacturer, and product number for each item.
    b. Under what circumstances is riot gear issued to Deportation Officers?
5. Which locations have received body cameras, to be worn by on-duty Deportation Officers?
    a. How many Deportation Officers have received training on the use of body cameras?
    b. What percentage of agents wear and use body cameras on a daily basis?

    c. Please provide the number of body cameras issued to each location and the number of Deportation Officers at each location.
    d. Please provide current ICE policy related to body cameras.
6. Which locations have received tasers or other "less-than-lethal" devices to be used in daily operations by Deportation Officers?
    a. Do all locations receive smoke bombs, rubber bullets, and other items that have been deployed against protestors outside of ICE detention facilities such as Delaney Hall (NJ) and Broadview Processing Center (IL)?[1]
7. If/when electric shock gloves are distributed, will those be provided to all field offices, or only certain locations? If these items are only sent to certain locations, how will those determinations be made?
8. How does ICE make determinations about what non-standard-issue equipment to send out to field offices?
9. What non-standard-issue equipment has been supplied to the Philadelphia Field Office since January 20, 2025?
10. Total uniform and equipment costs associated with the Philadelphia Field Office since January 20, 2025.
    a. Include invoices and/or order forms for any non-standard-issue equipment that has been supplied to this location.
    b. Have any funds or appropriations been used for uniforms or equipment that were not originally allocated to ICE? If so, how were the funds or appropriations originally allocated?

Please contact our offices if you have any questions or require clarification of these requests.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress

Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress

[1] Ed Shanahan, *See the Clashes at Delaney Hall Between ICE and Protestors*, N.Y. TIMES (June 3, 2026), https://www.nytimes.com/2026/06/03/nyregion/delaney-hall-protests-photos.html; Christine Fernando, *Federal agents fire chemicals as protesters try to block car at immigration site outside Chicago*, AP (Sept. 26, 2025), https://apnews.com/article/chicago-ice-protest-broadview-63261a1b5afcb2dbb0bbf5f712e50215.

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