

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6216

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May 21, 2026

The Honorable Thomas J. Dart
Sheriff
Cook County Sheriff's Office
3026 S. California Ave.
Chicago, Illinois 60608

Dear Sheriff Dart:

The Committee on the Judiciary is conducting oversight of state and local jurisdictions that endanger American communities through their refusal to cooperate with federal immigration officials. The Cook County Sheriff's Office's (CCSO) immigration-related policies prioritize criminal and illegal aliens over American citizens and threaten public safety. We write to request information about Chicago's sanctuary policies, including CCSO's lack of cooperation with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to ensure that dangerous aliens are not released onto American streets.

To protect communities from criminal aliens in law enforcement custody, ICE uses detainers, which are simple requests that a law enforcement agency "notify [ICE] as early as possible before [the agency] release[s] a removable alien" and "[h]old the alien for up to 48 hours beyond the time [the agency] would ordinarily release them so [the Department of Homeland Security] has time to assume custody in accordance with federal immigration law."¹ Federal law prohibits jurisdictions from restricting ICE's requests for and receipt of individuals' citizenship information.² For years, Illinois's sanctuary laws have prevented CCSO from complying with ICE detainers.³ Illinois law also insulates officials from criminal liability for releasing dangerous criminal aliens despite ICE detainers.⁴

Illinois's pro-illegal alien policies ensure dangerous criminals are released from Chicago's custody and free to reoffend. In 2025, the Cook County Jail, which your office

¹ U.S. Immigr. and Customs Enf't, *Immigr. Detainers* (May 13, 2025), <https://www.ice.gov/immigration-detainers>.

² See 8 U.S.C. § 1373.

³ See 5 Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann. 805/15; Teresa Mathew, *Illinois Targets Trump's Immigration Agenda*, BLOOMBERG (Aug. 24, 2017, 3:54 PM), <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-08-24/illinois-s-trust-act-targets-ice-immigration-detainers>. The Trust Act also requires law enforcement agencies to submit annual reports to the Illinois Attorney General to document ICE detainer requests and ICE support and assistance requests. 5 Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann. 805/25.

⁴ See 5 Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann. 805/15(d).

administers,⁵ ignored an ICE detainer and released an illegal alien whose criminal history included convictions for theft and “child abduction/lure child/victim for a child less than 17 years of age.”⁶ In another case, the Cook County Jail refused to honor an ICE detainer for an illegal alien who was released and then was “subsequently arrested . . . for criminal sexual assault and abuse of a minor.”⁷ In less than 11 months in 2025, Illinois’s sanctuary policies led to the release of nearly 2,000 criminals.⁸

Chicago’s sanctuary policies endanger the communities you serve. Like other sanctuary jurisdictions we have examined, the shielding of criminal aliens from immigration enforcement in Chicago undermines public safety and thwarts the efficient enforcement of federal law. Accordingly, to assist the Committee with its continued oversight of federal immigration policy and to inform potential legislative reforms to address sanctuary policies, we ask that you provide the following information:

1. All documents and communications referring or relating to CCSO’s interaction with ICE for the period January 1, 2018, to the present;
2. All documents and communications referring or relating to CCSO’s policies, practices, and procedures related to non-U.S. citizens for the period January 1, 2018, to the present;
3. The number of ICE detainers that CCSO has received and has declined to honor for the period January 1, 2018, to the present;
4. All reports sent to the Illinois Attorney General to fulfill the reporting requirements under 5 Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann. 805/25 for the period January 1, 2018, to the present;
5. All documents and communications between or among CCSO, the Chicago Police Department, and the Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office referring or relating to immigration enforcement for the period January 1, 2018, to the present; and
6. All documents and communications between or among CCSO and the Chicago Mayor’s Office referring or relating to immigration and immigration enforcement for the period January 1, 2018, to the present.

⁵ Sheriff Mission, Cook Cnty., Ill., <https://www.cookcountyil.gov/agency/sheriff> (last accessed Apr. 30, 2026).

⁶ Press Release, Governor Pritzker’s Sanctuary Illinois Released More than 1,700 Criminal Illegal Aliens Including Murderers, Pedophiles, and Kidnappers, U.S. Dep’t of Homeland Sec. (Dec. 8, 2025), <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2025/12/08/governor-pritzkers-sanctuary-illinois-released-more-1700-criminal-illegal-aliens>.

⁷ Mark Rivera & Barb Markoff, *Decision imminent in lawsuit over immigration enforcement in Chicago, across Illinois*, ABC 7 NEWS (May 15, 2025), <https://abc7chicago.com/post/decision-imminent-landmark-us-department-justice-lawsuit-immigration-enforcement-chicago-illinois/16429667/>.

⁸ See Press Release, Governor Pritzker’s Sanctuary Illinois Released More than 1,700 Criminal Illegal Aliens Including Murderers, Pedophiles, and Kidnappers, *supra* note 6.

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Please provide the information requested as soon as possible but no later than 5:00 p.m. on June 4, 2026. The Committee is authorized to conduct oversight of federal immigration law pursuant to the Rules of the House of Representatives.⁹ If you have any questions, please contact Committee staff at (202) 225-6906. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Jim Jordan
Chairman



Tom McClintock
Chairman
Subcommittee on Immigration
Integrity, Security, and Enforcement

cc: The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member

The Honorable Pramila Jayapal, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Immigration
Integrity, Security, and Enforcement

⁹ Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, R. X (2025).