

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

2138 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6216

(202) 225-6906
judiciary.house.gov

June 23, 2026

The Honorable Nicole Morrissey O'Donnell
Sheriff
Multnomah County Sheriff's Office
501 SE Hawthorne Blvd, Suite 350
Portland, OR 97214

Dear Sheriff Morrissey O'Donnell:

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 Multnomah County Sheriff's Office's (MCSO) immigration-related policies prioritize criminal and illegal aliens over American citizens and threaten public safety. We write to request information about Portland's sanctuary policies, including MCSO'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, MCSO has not complied with ICE detainers or cooperated with ICE,³ something your office makes clear in six languages, including Spanish, Arabic,

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 Multnomah Cnty. Sheriff's Off. Agency Manual, 700.00, Enf't of Immigr. and Customs Enf't (ICE) Detainers, <https://public.powerdms.com/MultnomahCounty/tree/documents/1753559>; see 700.00 – Enf't of Immigr. and Customs Enf't (ICE) Detainers, Stakeholder Rev., 11/13/24-12/13/24, <https://www.meso.us/sites/default/files/2024-11/700.00%20Enforcement%20of%20Immigration%20and%20Customs%20Enforcement%20Detainers%20Stakeholder%20Review%20111324-121324.pdf> ("As a result, MCSO does not hold individuals in custody on the basis of Immigration and Customs Enforcement Detainers or use its facilities, property, monies, equipment, technology or personnel for the purpose of investigating, detecting, apprehending, arresting, detaining or holding individuals for immigration enforcement.").

Chinese, Russian, Ukrainian, and Vietnamese, on your website.⁴ In fact, Oregon law prohibits state and local law enforcement from disclosing criminal aliens' information to federal immigration officials,⁵ limits immigration arrests at certain locations,⁶ forbids law enforcement from sharing criminal aliens' release dates with federal officials,⁷ and prohibits compliance with ICE detainers.⁸ The state of Oregon even promotes its Sanctuary Promise Violations Hotline, which allows foreign nationals to report suspected violations of Oregon's pro-illegal alien policies.⁹

Oregon's pro-illegal alien policies ensure dangerous criminals are released from law enforcement custody and free to reoffend. Less than one year ago, ICE arrested an illegal alien from Mexico with convictions for attempted sex abuse and intimidation based on his assault of a woman in Portland.¹⁰ Despite an ICE detainer, the convicted felon was released back onto Oregon streets instead of to federal immigration officials.¹¹ Years earlier, MCSO ignored an ICE detainer and released an illegal alien who had been arrested for felony domestic violence.¹² Seven months after his release, the criminal alien murdered his wife.¹³

Despite your commitment "to creating safe and thriving communities for everyone,"¹⁴ Portland's sanctuary policies endanger the communities you serve. Like other sanctuary jurisdictions we have examined, the shielding of criminal aliens from immigration enforcement in Portland 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 MCSO's interaction with ICE for the period January 1, 2022, to the present;

⁴ Frequently asked questions about federal immigration and the Sheriff's Office, Multnomah Cnty. Sheriff's Off., <https://www.mcsso.us/public-information/frequently-asked-questions-about-federal-immigration-and-sheriffs-office> (last accessed June 15, 2026).

⁵ Or. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 180.805.

⁶ Or. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§ 180.810, 181A.828.

⁷ Or. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 181A.826.

⁸ Or. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 181A.823; *see* Or. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 181A.820.

⁹ *See* Sanctuary Promise Violations Hotline, Or. Dep't of Justice, <https://www.doj.state.or.us/oregon-department-of-justice/civil-rights/sanctuary-promise/reporting-sanctuary-promise-violations-to-the-hotline/#form> (last accessed May 6, 2026).

¹⁰ Press Release, ICE Arrests Criminal Illegal Alien and Convicted Sex Offender Who Sexually Assaulted Woman on Independence Day, U.S. Dep't of Homeland Sec. (July 4, 2025), <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2025/07/04/ice-arrests-criminal-illegal-alien-and-convicted-sex-offender-who-sexually>.

¹¹ *See id.*

¹² Will Racke, *EXCLUSIVE: ICE Says Oregon Authorities Released Illegal Alien Despite Detainer — 7 Months Later, He Allegedly Killed His Wife*, DAILY CALLER (Nov. 2, 2018, 6:54 AM), <https://dailycaller.com/2018/11/02/oregon-illegal-sanctuary-murdered-wife/>.

¹³ *Id.*

¹⁴ *See* Multnomah Cnty. Sheriff's Off., <https://www.mcsso.us/> (last accessed June 15, 2026).


2. All documents and communications referring or relating to MCSO's policies, practices, and procedures related to non-U.S. citizens for the period January 1, 2022, to the present;
3. The number of ICE detainees that MCSO has received and has declined to honor for the period January 1, 2022, to the present, including the criminal histories of the non-U.S. citizens for whom the detainees were placed;
4. All documents and communications between or among MCSO, the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office, the Oregon Department of Corrections, and the Portland Police Bureau referring or relating to immigration enforcement for the period January 1, 2022, to the present; and
5. All documents and communications between or among MCSO and the Portland Mayor's Office referring or relating to immigration and immigration enforcement for the period January 1, 2022, to the present.

Please provide the information requested as soon as possible but no later than 5:00 p.m. on July 7, 2026. The Committee is authorized to conduct oversight of federal immigration law pursuant to the Rules of the House of Representatives.¹⁵ 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

¹⁵ Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, R. X (2025).