

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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judiciary.house.gov

June 23, 2026

Mr. Mike Reese
Director
Oregon Department of Corrections
3723 Fairview Industrial Drive SE 200
Salem, OR 97302

Dear Mr. Reese:

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. Oregon's immigration-related policies prioritize criminal and illegal aliens over American citizens and threaten public safety. We write to request information about the Oregon Department of Corrections' (ODOC) sanctuary policies, including ODOC'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 Oregon law prohibits state and local law enforcement from disclosing criminal aliens' information to federal immigration officials,³ limits immigration arrests at certain locations,⁴ forbids law enforcement from sharing criminal aliens' release dates with federal officials,⁵ and prohibits compliance with ICE detainers.⁶ The state of Oregon even promotes its Sanctuary Promise Violations Hotline, which allows foreign nationals to report

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 Or. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 180.805.

⁴ Or. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§ 180.810, 181A.828.

⁵ Or. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 181A.826.

⁶ Or. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 181A.823; see Or. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 181A.820.

suspected violations of Oregon’s pro-illegal alien policies.⁷

Oregon’s sanctuary policies ensure dangerous criminals are released from law enforcement custody and free to reoffend. According to 2022 data, “nearly 600 of the roughly 12,000 individuals in [ODOC] custody at the time had an active [ICE] detainer.”⁸ 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.⁹ Despite an ICE detainer, ODOC had released the convicted felon back onto Oregon streets instead of to federal immigration officials.¹⁰

Despite your mission “to protect communities, promote accountability, and transform lives,”¹¹ Oregon’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 ODOC’s interaction with ICE for the period January 1, 2022, to the present;
2. All documents and communications referring or relating to ODOC’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 ODOC 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; and
4. All documents and communications between or among ODOC, the Multnomah County District Attorney’s Office, the Multnomah County Sheriff’s Office, and the Portland Police Bureau referring or relating to immigration enforcement for the period January 1, 2022, to the present.

⁷ 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).

⁸ Wright Gazaway, *Salem divided over whether Oregon should facilitate ICE transfers in state prisons*, KATU 2 ABC (Mar. 16, 2026, 1:28 PM), <https://katu.com/news/investigations/salem-divided-over-whether-oregon-should-facilitate-ice-transfers-in-state-prisons>.

⁹ 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>.

¹⁰ See *id.*

¹¹ See Mission Statement, About Oregon DOC, Or. Dep’t of Corrections, <https://www.oregon.gov/doc/about/Pages/home.aspx> (last accessed June 15, 2026).

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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.¹² 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

¹² Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, R. X (2025).