

# NURSES DEMAND CONGRESS TAKE ACTION TO ABOLISH ICE

2026



Armed, masked federal agents on our streets and in our communities, not immigrant workers, are the biggest threat to all our safety. Turning our neighborhoods into war zones endangers public health, which is why nurses demand that Congress take action to abolish Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

**ICE is a threat to public health.** In cities across the country, these secret police have attacked, kidnapped, terrorized, and killed Black, Indigenous, Latine, AAPI, brown, and white people, citizens and noncitizens alike. These agents intimidate everyday people from going about their lives, whether that's taking their kids to school, going to work, or coming to our hospitals. The Trump administration removed protections against immigration enforcement in hospitals and encouraged agents to target our patients when they are most vulnerable. This is resulting in people delaying or not seeking medical care because ICE makes it unsafe to leave home, adding to the public health crisis. Nurses reject ICE in our hospitals.

**ICE violates nurses' values.** Nurses believe in a world built on care, not harm. We go into this work to take care of people, and we will not stand by while violence and harm comes to our patients. No human is illegal. Immigrants are not criminals, they are our patients, friends, and neighbors. Nurses are patient advocates first, which means we are here to heal all patients and fight for everyone's health and safety. We will fight to abolish the agency terrorizing our patients and to return hospitals to safe spaces for healing.

## **ICE is not essential to our nation's security and drains our taxpayer dollars.**

- » ICE was only created in 2003 by legislation in response to the 9/11 attacks, and we believe this violent, racist, and lawless agency has no place in our federal government as an institution.<sup>1</sup>
- » At the start of this year, the Department of Homeland Security released a statement celebrating the hiring of an additional 12,000 ICE agents in less than one year, bringing the total to more than 22,000 agents.<sup>2</sup> This expansion of untrained, unaccountable, and lawless ICE agents on our streets was made possible by the \$75 billion allocated to Immigration and Customs Enforcement and \$65 billion to Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) over the next four years as part of last year's harmful Republican reconciliation bill.
- » This massive increase in ICE funding, combined with directives from this administration to terrorize our communities, has directly contributed to the senseless and lawless killings of our neighbors and friends, including, most recently, Dr. Linda Davis, Renee Good, Keith Porter, Silverio Villegas González, Ruben Ray Martinez, and our fellow VA nurse, Alex Pretti.

- » There are countless reports of the inhumane treatment both U.S. citizens and immigrants are facing at the hands of federal agents and imposters<sup>3</sup> carrying out their violence due to the Administration's policies. People have been abducted off the street by masked "officers" and shipped to out-of-state detention facilities in horrifying conditions, including being denied medication and urgent medical care,<sup>4</sup> and more. In fact, Immigration and Customs Enforcement allowed 32 people to die in ICE custody in 2025 alone.<sup>5</sup>
- » Nurses demand Congress claw back the \$140 billion from H.R. 1 for ICE and CBP, and zero out ICE's budget. The money must be used to fund health care instead.



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**OUR PATIENTS. OUR UNION. OUR VOICE.**



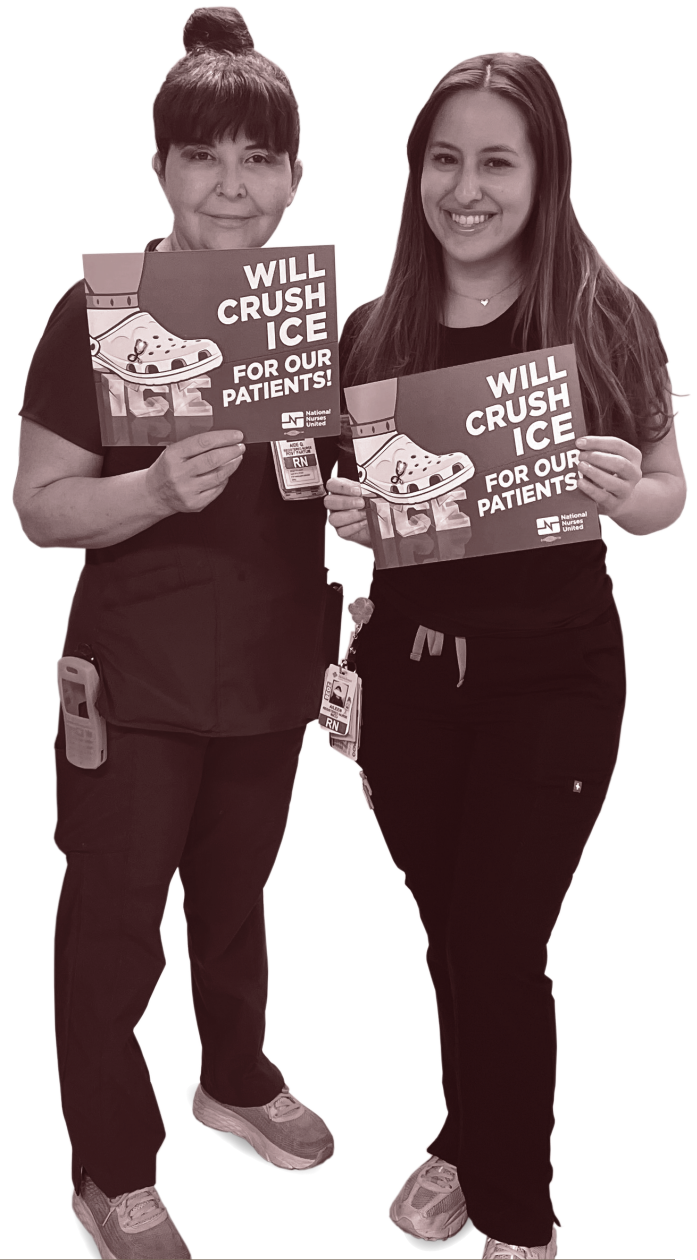
**“Reforms” to ICE are not enough. Abolish ICE Now.** Calls by some members of Congress to simply reiterate existing legal protections, like requiring judicial warrants for arrests, completely fail to recognize the reality we are living. ICE and this administration have made clear that they have no intention of abiding by the law. **Anything short of stripping funding from this tyrannical agency is an abdication of duty by the legislative branch.**

**Nurses demand that any deal reached on the Department of Homeland Security funding must zero out funding for ICE, take away the \$75 billion allocated to ICE and \$65 billion for CBP in last year’s Republican budget reconciliation bill, and take immediate action to abolish ICE. We are past the point of reforms. Since its inception over 20 years ago, ICE has proven that its mission has never been about keeping our communities safe. Abolish ICE now.**

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## Sources »

- 1 Porotsky, Sophia. “Rotten to the Core: Racism, Xenophobia, and the Border and Immigration Agencies,” *Georgetown Immigration Law Journal*, Vol. 36:349. <https://www.law.georgetown.edu/immigration-law-journal/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2022/01/GT-GILJ210008.pdf>
- 2 U.S. Department of Homeland Security, “ICE Announces Historic 120% Manpower Increase, Thanks to Recruitment Campaign that Brought in 12,000 Officers and Agents.” 3 Jan 2026. <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2026/01/03/ice-announces-historic-120-manpower-increase-thanks-recruitment-campaign-brought>
- 3 CNN, “ICE impersonator incidents rise during Trump’s second term.” 2 Oct 2025. <https://www.cnn.com/2025/10/02/us/ice-impersonator-incidents-rise-invs-vis>
- 4 The American Civil Liberties Union, “Inside an ICE Detention Center: Detained People Describe Severe Medical Neglect, Harrowing Conditions.” 17 Dec 2025. <https://www.aclu.org/news/immigrants-rights/inside-an-ice-detention-center-detained-people-describe-severe-medical-neglect-harrowing-conditions>
- 5 *The Guardian*, “2025 was ICE’s deadliest year in two decades. Here are the 32 people who died in custody.” 4 Jan 2026. <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/ng-interactive/2026/jan/04/ice-2025-deaths-timeline>



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