
ACTION GUIDE: STOP FUNDING ICE & CBP

BACKGROUND

Friends in the struggle, when we organize, we win! After hundreds of rallies, marches and lobbying by immigrants and allies, our vision for a world without persecution and dignity for immigrants is prevailing!. On Friday, February 13, funding for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) expired.

Though reporting suggests that DHS is “shut down”, the truth is that many of the agencies that make up DHS, including ICE and CBP, are able to continue operating thanks to the billions of dollars it was given in last summer’s reconciliation bill, and leadership is actively engaging in negotiations with the White House to continue funding DHS. That’s why it’s more important than ever that we keep showing up! Lawmakers have thus far held firm by voting down business as usual funding for ICE and CBP because we were organized, loud, and consistent! Stop funding ICE and Border Patrol! Demand accountability now!

As the “shutdown” drags on and negotiations continue, there will be talks of folding to re-open the government, or trading some reforms for funding and failing to really rein in ICE and CBP. Lawmakers must hear that we won’t accept half measures. For more on this funding fight, see this [resource hub](#).

On the week of February 23rd, Members of Congress return to Washington, D.C. from their states and districts. **In this critical moment, it is more important than ever to keep the pressure on and ensure our elected officials hear from us. They must understand how vital it is to hold the line and move forward only with legislation that meets our demands and meets the moment we are in**

- Enact major cuts to funding for ICE and Border Patrol and stringent restrictions on future funding contingent on adherence to meaningful policy changes;
- Rescind the tens of billions of dollars given to these agencies by the reconciliation bill in July 2025, and redirect the funds to urgently needed support services for all American communities, such as affordable housing and health care;
- Meaningful reform and accountability to stop the violence and abuses that are harming families and communities

WEEK OF ACTION

Starting Monday, February 23, Members of Congress will be back in Washington D.C. to continue negotiations.. This is a critical opportunity to organize, to be loud, and to be consistent. Keep the pressure high and the visibility constant. **Make it clear: Stop funding ICE and CBP violence. Demand accountability! Hold the line!**

We are calling for a full week of coordinated action in every district:

1. **Rallies Outside Congressional Offices**

- a. When Members of Congress return home, they should be met with visible, and vocal constituent presence and demands. Here are some creative tactics and ideas:
 - i. Memorable protest signs & chants: Some ideas for signs and chants that you can use are: Stop the Mass Deportation & Detention Machine; ICE Out; No Mass Deportations, Not Another Dollar for ICE and CBP
 - ii. Read [letters](#) from children in ICE detention facilities out loud. Amplify their voices. Share their stories. Then call on the public and policymakers to ensure that Congress stops funding inhumane detention practices and facilities that harm our communities.
 - iii. Story Wall: Outside of congressional offices set up a display titled “Why We’re Asking You to Hold the Line.” Invite participants to write personal messages, include stories from impacted people in your community, and share widely on social media and local media outlets.

2. **Flood the Phones: Call Your Member of Congress**

- a. Call 347-514-6400 now to be connected to your senators and follow the guidance below (you can even read it like a script) to urge them to use their legislative power to stop any funding for ICE and CBP and demand real accountability:
 - i. Identify yourself as a constituent and tell them what city or town you’re calling from. If you don’t feel safe sharing your last name, don’t.
 - ii. Say that you’re deeply concerned about ICE and Border Patrol’s dangerous, militarized enforcement — especially after the recent killings by federal agents in Minneapolis and a two-decade record of 32 people dying in detention last year.
 - iii. Share that you know that Congress is negotiating how to end the shutdown, and stress that the only way to meet this moment is to cut funds and claw back the billions given to this agency through the reconciliation bill. Make it clear that we don’t want more blank checks for ICE, masked agents in our communities, terrorizing our family, friends, and neighbors, and locking them up without due process. We need to rein in the Trump administration’s reckless abuses of the rights of immigrants and communities under the guise of immigration enforcement.

3. **Organize a Phone Bank**

- a. Multiply your impact by organizing your network.
- b. Host at your home, in a community space, or even over Zoom.
- c. Share the script and contact information. People can find who their Members of Congress are [HERE](#).

4. **Organize a Lobby Visit**

- a. Organize meetings, call-in days, and coordinated constituent visits to urge elected officials to stop funding ICE and CBP. Learn more [HERE](#) and [HERE](#).

5. **Sign & Share Digital Petition and Actions**

- a. We also urge you to sign and share these digital petitions to urge your Senators stop funding ICE and Border Patrol
 - i. [Amnesty International USA: Not Another Dollar for ICE and Border Patrol](#)
 - ii. [Detention Watch Network: Urge Congress to Cut ICE & CBP Funding - NO business as usual!](#)
 - iii. [National Immigration Law Center: ICE & CBP Out of Our Communities!](#)

6. **Post on Social Media**

- a. Help amplify the call for not one more dollar to ICE and Border Patrol. Share the actions on your social media and urge others to join in demanding his release. Every post helps to increase pressure and raise awareness.
 - i. Amnesty International USA's Post on Instagram:
 1. <https://www.instagram.com/amnestyusa/p/DUkwCrMD7qL/?hl=en>
 2. <https://www.instagram.com/amnestyusa/p/DUGb7YslA9p/?hl=en>
 - ii. Amnesty International USA's Post on X:
 1. <https://x.com/amnestyusa/status/2021171056979964187?s=20>
 - iii. National Immigration Law Center's Posts on Instagram:
 1. https://www.instagram.com/p/DU_HUoakVGd/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=MzRIODBiNWFIZA%3D%3D
 2. https://www.instagram.com/p/DU3xAvPAXeq/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=MzRIODBiNWFIZA%3D%3D

7. **Day of Action in Washington D.C.**

- a. Join Amnesty International USA, Popular Democracy, Bend the Arc: Jewish Action, Detention Watch Network, Democracy Power Project, Coalition of Human Needs, NILC, SEIU, and CASA in D.C.! In this critical moment, it is more important than ever to keep the pressure on and ensure our elected officials hear from us.
- b. When: February 26, 2026
- c. Contact lguerrero@populardemocracy.org for more details
- d. Details: [HERE](#)

CONTACT US

Please report all actions taken to campaigns@aiusa.org. If you'd like to register an event or action, please to do [here](#):