

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 25, 2025

The Honorable Kristi Noem
Secretary of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Noem:

As the Member of Congress for North Carolina's 12th Congressional District, I write to you with grave concerns regarding the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) recently launched "Operation Charlotte's Web" (operation) in Charlotte, North Carolina, and am seeking details of this operation. Pursuant to my responsibility as the congressional representative for this area, it is my duty to conduct rigorous oversight of federal activities.

Since November 15, 2025, agents from Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) have carried out what can only be described as a campaign of terror. Although this operation has been cited as targeting "criminal illegal aliens¹," media reports indicate that only a small portion of those arrested have been classified as criminals². While DHS has yet to provide Congress or state and local officials with up-to-date information on these arrests, media sources have shared that more than 370 people have been arrested to date³. The lack of transparency surrounding these detainments is deeply troubling, especially given reports of unjust arrests involving individuals with lawful presence in the United States⁴.

Additionally, my office has been notified of reports of federal agents using or threatening to use excessive force against detainees and bystanders, as well as engaging in severe racial profiling. In a widely circulating video, border patrol agents were shown smashing the car window of a U.S. citizen born in Honduras, throwing him to the glass-covered ground, and detaining him after he had already identified himself as a U.S. citizen⁵. Reports also indicate that agents have conducted arrests at integral community spaces, including places of worship⁶, sparking tremendous fear throughout our communities.

These disturbing tactics mirror those used during the implementation of President Trump's mass deportation activities in other cities. These actions are unacceptable and have no place in North Carolina, nor anywhere else in the country. The constitutional rights of every individual—regardless of immigration status—must be upheld.

Beyond these unjust practices, this extreme operation has emotionally, physically, and financially devastated our families, students, and businesses. Because of the intended paralyzing fear caused by this operation, several small businesses—whose customer bases and workforces include immigrant community members—temporarily closed due to the sharp drop in customers and fear that their businesses will be subject to CBP raids if their doors remained open. The economic consequences for both Charlotte and North Carolina will be severe, as small businesses serve as one of the primary pillars of our economy. Further, this operation is also having an impact on our children. On Monday, November 17, more than 30,000 students, roughly 20% of enrolled

¹ <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2025/11/15/dhs-launches-operation-charlottes-web-target-criminal-illegal-aliens-terrorizing>

² <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/charlotte-border-patrol-immigration-criminals-arrests/>

³ <https://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/local/article312996536.html>

⁴ <https://www.wcnc.com/article/news/investigations/operation-charlottes-non-violent-landscaper-dhs-permission-to-work/275-23e90aa3-95dc-48df-ba97-13e923131dcb>

⁵ <https://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/local/article312950879.html>

⁶ <https://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/politics-government/article312932422.html>

students, in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, were reported absent⁷. Important academic activities, including after-school programming, are being disrupted as our students, teachers, and school staff are being traumatized by this operation.

I am further concerned about the excessive cost of this unnecessary operation—a cost borne by American taxpayers—specifically the absence of transparent information detailing how this operation was funded. The American people deserve to know where their tax dollars were spent and why they were allocated to support a discriminatory and harmful operation rather than toward initiatives that are proven to improve public safety.

This campaign of terror will have long-term and devastating effects on the Charlotte community, and North Carolina broadly. Any operation of this scale requires full transparency regarding the status of those detained, the cost of the operation, the policies governing agents' actions, and the legal justification underpinning this raid.

Therefore, I demand your immediate and thorough response to the following questions by December 5, 2025.

1. How many immigration arrests have you conducted in Charlotte from November 15, 2025, to date? Please provide a comprehensive list of people who have been arrested with the following information for each individual:
 - a. Criminal history
 - b. Date of arrest or detention
 - c. Current detention status (i.e., released, deported, in custody)
 - d. Location of where each individual has been held or is currently being held
 - e. Citizenship, immigration, or visa status
 - f. Date of release or deportation
 - g. Reason for each arrest
 - h. Law enforcement agency, or agencies, involved in an arrest, subsequent investigation, and/or removal proceeding
2. Recent reporting shows that US citizens have been arrested during enforcement actions. Regarding this, please provide the following information:
 - a. What screening have agents conducted to verify individual's status or U.S. citizenship prior to an arrest?
 - b. How many of those arrested are U.S. citizens? Please provide the length of detention for each U.S. citizen arrested.
 - c. How many of those arrested are noncitizens who held lawful status at the time of their arrest?
 - d. How many of those arrested held Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals at the time of their arrest?
 - e. How many of those arrested had no criminal convictions unrelated to immigration status?
 - f. How many of those arrested had no violent criminal convictions?
 - g. How many of those arrested are noncitizens who have been in the United States for more than two years? How many of these individuals does your agency consider subject to expedited removal proceedings under section 235 of the Immigration and Nationality Act? Please break down this group by the number of individuals who last entered the United States through parole, have previously held Temporary Protected Status, or entered without inspection.

⁷ <https://www.wunc.org/2025-11-18/more-than-30-000-absences-reported-at-cms-on-monday-after-data-revision>

3. How long is “Operation Charlotte’s Web” expected to last? Please provide confirmation regarding the planned end date of your operations.
4. Please provide a comprehensive report about the costs of “Operation Charlotte’s Web”, including the following information:
 - a. The cost of housing for all deployed federal officers
 - b. The cost of transporting federal officers to North Carolina
 - c. The cost of transportation vehicles used to track down individuals and conduct arrests
 - d. The cost of meals and per diem provided to all deployed federal officers
 - e. Please provide a report with additional operational costs
5. In cases where agents have damaged property and an individual is ultimately not arrested and/or is released, what policy does the Department have in providing restitution?
 - a. Please provide a written copy of the Department’s policy regarding this.
6. What Department policies are federal agents in Charlotte following with respect to use of force in enforcement operations?
 - a. Please provide a written copy of this policy and all relevant training documents.
7. What Department policies are federal officers/officials in Charlotte following with respect to the use of uniforms, badges, labels, and associated gear during enforcement actions?
 - a. Please provide a written copy of the Department’s policy regarding this.
8. What Department policies are federal officers/officials in Charlotte following regarding children of parents arrested by CBP agents?
 - a. Please provide a written copy of the Department’s policy regarding this.
9. How many enforcement actions (including patrolling and/or arrests) have you conducted at Charlotte businesses from November 15, 2025, to date?
 - a. What criteria have you used to identify the worksites for enforcement actions?
 - b. Did you have a warrant for each enforcement action or for an individual at each worksite?
10. How many arrests have you conducted at a house of worship (such as a Church, Synagogue, Mosque, or Temple) or within 500 feet of a house of worship from November 15, 2025, to date?
 - a. Please provide all relevant information including the date of enforcement action, name of the house of worship, number of individuals arrested at each house of worship, immigration status and ages of individuals arrested.
11. How many arrests have you conducted at a school or within 500 feet of a school from November 15, 2025, to date?
 - a. Please provide all relevant information including the date of enforcement action, name of the school, number of individuals arrested at each school, immigration status and ages of individuals arrested.
12. How many arrests have you conducted at a health care facility or within 500 feet of a health care facility from November 15, 2025, to date?
 - a. Please provide all relevant information including the date of enforcement action, name of the school, number of individuals arrested at each school, immigration status and ages of individuals arrested.
13. In which facilities have you held/are holding individuals in North Carolina?
14. What are the Department’s policies regarding notifying state and local officials concerning the planning, implementation, and timeframe for immigration enforcement operations such as “Operation Charlotte’s Web”?
 - a. Please provide a written copy of the Department’s policy regarding this.

15. Has the Department received complaints about any misconduct by federal agents in relation to this operation? If so, please provide a written copy of every complaint.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your response by December 5, 2025.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alma S. Adams", is positioned above a horizontal line.

Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress