



Janet T. Mills
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
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04333-0001

July 15, 2026

The Honorable Susan Collins
United States Senate
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

The Honorable Angus King
United States Senate
133 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chellie Pingree
United States House of Representatives
2354 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jared Golden
United States House of Representatives
1107 Longworth House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Senators Collins and King and Representatives Pingree and Golden:

As you know, on Monday morning, a federal Enforcement Removal Operations Officer with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) shot and killed 26-year-old Johan Sebastian Guerrero in Biddeford. Mr. Guerrero, a husband and father who reportedly was authorized to work in the United States and possessed a Social Security number, was apparently not the person targeted by the immigration enforcement operation.

Like people across Maine, I am heartbroken and I am furious — not simply at the violent death of a young father on his way to work on a quiet street in Biddeford, but at the callous and unregulated show of force by federal agents in neighborhoods across this country, prompted by questionable numerical quotas and political gamesmanship unrelated to public safety.

When tragedy strikes, we want to know the facts – and I have full confidence that the Office of the Maine Attorney General, led by Attorney General Aaron Frey, is conducting a thorough investigation to establish and understand the facts.

Maine people, nonetheless, are grappling with the much broader and basic question of why? Why did this ever happen to begin with? Why were two people, one in Maine and one in Texas, who were not even the targets of immigration operations, killed in less than a week? Why are Renee Good and Alex Pretti not alive today?

Despite promising to deport only “the worst of the worst,” those who pose a threat to public safety, the current administration is targeting all immigrants with a carelessness and cruelty that ignores due process and that ignites terror in communities nationwide. To make matters worse, ICE, supported by billions of dollars in additional funding, announced this January that the agency has recruited another 12,000 officers and agents — more than doubling its workforce through “an accelerated hiring tempo” that has placed officers in the field without rigorous, and necessary, training.



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Instead of making us safer, all too often federal agents are creating situations that put people in all neighborhoods in every state in danger, including cities like Biddeford — a community where a hundred fifty years ago immigrants from Ireland and Canada came to work and raise their families, and where new Mainers now work and look to find peace and opportunity in our state.

In response to the lawless and callous actions by these federal agents, which included the killing of multiple people, Congress earlier this year considered reforms that would have reined in ICE. But instead of doing what was right or necessary, Congress failed and rejected many of these critical oversight measures.

Now, with Congress' rejection of strong accountability measures and with a Supreme Court ruling that allows the deportation of noncriminals escaping violence and disaster in war-torn countries, ICE is further emboldened to continue its behavior.

Half measures like temporary pauses on traffic stops are insufficient to meet this moment. More must be done.

Before more families are robbed of a loved one, this violence has to end.

Before one more community is robbed of its peace and security, this has to end.

Before more gunshots shatter another windshield, steal another person's life and fracture the freedom of all who seek peace, this has to end.

Before the fragile American dream memorialized on hopeful parchment two and a half centuries ago is altogether abandoned, this has to end.

I call on Congress not simply to share our grief, to express concerns or offer condolences, but to act now to require ICE to respect the rule of law and honor our collective security. Earlier this year, I suggested the following reforms: 1) prohibit agents from wearing masks; 2) require agents to identify themselves by voice and appearance; 3) wear body cameras; 4) reform training; 5) pursue civil and criminal liability for abuses of power; 6) require valid court warrants, among other measures.

The people of Maine — like the people of America — do not want to be afraid in their own communities. They do not want to see their loved ones or neighbors struck down by federal agents. They want professional law enforcement, like Maine has — officers who are extensively trained and held to high standards of performance and accountability; people who make arrests when necessary but who work to build trust with all the communities they serve.

ICE needs to be fundamentally reformed, and if not, then it is time to abolish it.

Sincerely,



Janet T. Mills
Governor



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