



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
— OFFICE OF GOVERNOR BOB FERGUSON —

January 26, 2026

The Honorable Kristi Noem  
Secretary of Homeland Security  
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave. SE  
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Noem:

We write for two reasons. First, we are deeply disturbed and angered by the recent events in Minneapolis and urge you to withdraw ICE agents from the state of Minnesota immediately for the safety of all. Now is the time to deescalate.

We have seen countless videos of federal agents using aggressive tactics. We have seen agents threatening protesters who are peacefully observing or recording their activities. These actions are frightening and dangerous. They are also irreconcilable with our country's profound national commitment to free expression. As the Supreme Court explained nearly 30 years ago: "The freedom of individuals verbally to oppose or challenge police action without thereby risking arrest is one of the principal characteristics by which we distinguish a free nation from a police state."<sup>1</sup>

Second, according to a DHS memo released by whistleblowers, your administration now openly authorizes ICE agents to forcibly enter people's homes without a judicial warrant. This is a blatant violation of the Fourth Amendment.

The constitutional right against unreasonable search and seizure is a foundational freedom guaranteed to everyone in this country. Government agents may not enter a person's home without consent unless they have a warrant, signed by a neutral judge, based on a finding of probable cause. As the Supreme Court has recognized, the Fourth Amendment does not "leave the people's homes secure only in the discretion of police officers"<sup>2</sup>—rather, warrants issued by neutral judges are the safeguard against violations of constitutional rights.

In other words, ICE cannot authorize itself to break into someone's home. The Constitution forbids it.

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<sup>1</sup> *City of Houston v. Hill*, 482 U.S. 451, 462-63 (1987).

<sup>2</sup> *Johnson v. United States*, 333 U.S. 10, 14 (1948).

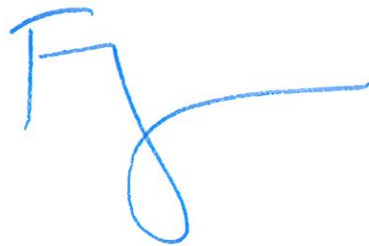
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If ICE agents attempt any such unconstitutional measures in the state of Washington, we will do everything in our power to oppose it. Our state will consider all legal options to hold the U.S. Government and individual ICE agents accountable for violating Washingtonians' constitutional rights.

Sincerely,



Bob Ferguson  
Governor



Nicholas Brown  
Attorney General