Update on File 10 #1

What are sanctuary cities ?

● **The short definition from Global Refuge**

Over the years, in response to greater attempts to enlist state and local law enforcement in the work of immigration enforcement, certain communities across the country have proclaimed or been given the label of "sanctuary cities" or jurisdictions status. Sanctuary jurisdictions exist throughout the United States in the form of cities, states and counties but their operations and descriptions are unique and individual.

There is no official definition of what constitutes a "sanctuary city" or state/jurisdiction. In general, it refers to a policy that limits or defines the extent to which a local/state government will share information with federal immigration law officers.

● **An explainer from France 24**

Explainer - **What are sanctuary cities, and how are they being targeted by Trump?**

Donald Trump has promised to fix the immigration system in the US by carrying out mass expulsions. Yet certain cities across the country – known as "sanctuary cities" – have policies that limit cooperation with federal immigration officials. FRANCE 24 spoke to Muzaffar Chishti, director of the Migration Policy Institute at New York University's School of Law, on how some local governments respond to the crackdown.

04/02/2025 By: Sonya CIESNIK

President Donald Trump released a barrage of executive orders related to immigration on his first day in office, following up on his campaign promise to crack down on immigration and proceed with mass deportations.

The president focused part of his ire on sanctuary cities, which limit their cooperation with federal agents from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to varying degrees. Hundreds of US cities consider themselves sanctuaries, as do about a dozen states. Such policies began in the 1980s, when churches offered refuge to Central American refugees fleeing war regardless of their US legal status.

The Department of Justice issued a memo on January 22 outlining the new administration's plans to challenge city sanctuary laws.

"Federal law prohibits state and local actors from resisting, obstructing, and otherwise failing to comply with lawful immigration-related commands or requests," said the document.

Trump told Fox News the same day that he would try to block federal funding to sanctuary cities. "We're trying to end them, and a lot of the people in those communities don't want them," he said, without offering evidence.

About a dozen states and hundreds of cities across the United States have declared themselves as "sanctuaries" for undocumented immigrants (others have balked at using this term, preferring to call themselves "welcoming" cities).

The United States currently has around 14 million undocumented immigrants, many of whom have families in or other longstanding ties to the United States.

FRANCE 24 spoke to Muzaffar Chishti, director of the Migration Policy Institute office at New York University School of Law.

What does it mean to be a "sanctuary city" and how does it make ICE operations more difficult?

There is no legal, popular, Oxford-dictionary definition of a sanctuary city. The term quickly gained popular usage in a political context, and it depends on what your politics are: some cities like to associate as a place with sanctuary laws. If people want to attack a place as being non-cooperative, they will dub it a "sanctuary city".

The term has its origins in the '80s with the arrival of Central American refugees to the United States.

There is no city or state jurisdiction, that I know of, which says: "We will not at all cooperate with ICE." No city or jurisdiction hides immigrants, or prevents ICE from approaching them. The term has come to mean the *degree of cooperation* between ICE and local jurisdiction.

Every city sets its own limits on when to cooperate with ICE. There could be scores of crimes, for example, and the city of New York would hand the immigrants over to ICE. Another city could have scores of crimes, but they would not hand the immigrants over to ICE.

Each jurisdiction makes its own priorities for handing over undocumented immigrations, but the line generally gets drawn on violent crime.

The possession of marijuana, making a wrong turn at a traffic light, even identity theft: all of these don't rise to the level of needing to cooperate with deportation efforts for certain jurisdictions.

What kind of retaliation can the Trump administration take?

The Trump administration's view is, any jurisdiction that doesn't cooperate with federal law is violating federal pre-emptive authority. Any lack of full cooperation is a ground to penalise the state and local authorities.

That is a doctrine to be accepted. At the same time, we have a parallel doctrine: You cannot commandeer a state to do your job. This is rooted in the 10th amendment [which states that any powers not specifically delegated to the federal government by the Constitution are reserved for the states]. That's why we are stuck.

The only way to make a cop do ICE's work is through a consensual agreement called the 287(g) program. This is a contract in which ICE delegates specific immigration-officer duties to state and local law enforcement partners.

Yet to say local cops don't do their job is not true. This Trump administration believes that anyone who doesn't cooperate fully is violating federal law. It says Department of Justice officers will investigate state and local officials who resist the federal immigration crackdown.

The only way the federal government could make the state do their job is to stop funding directed to them. The Trump administration could withhold funding from states and localities which it perceives as uncooperative on immigration policies.

The president will likely run up against the federalism principle, which states that federal funds cannot be withheld for reasons of retaliation.

What happens is that some states are more than willing to comply with the federal government, while others aren't. The result is a patchwork situation across the country. Two neighbouring counties, with two different policies for immigration – that's not good for national unity. Also, your level of anxiety as an immigrant largely depends on which county you live in.

How has public opinion on sanctuary cities evolved since Trump's first term?

Public opinion on immigration took a big hit during former president Joe Biden's term. Biden's years as president were marked by high numbers of immigrants arriving illegally to the United States. The Republicans took advantage, calling it the "Biden border crisis", or "BBC".

The numbers of arrivals were very high, with the conflation of wars, climate change and political instability abroad. There were migrants from places including Venezuela, Peru, Ecuador, Morocco and Sudan. And this happened to coincide with Biden's administration.

The succession of Biden, who wasn't perceived as a president who was tough on migration, by Trump, also played a role. Smuggling rings rushed to get people into the US in the interlude between the two administrations. More people came, and immigration levels came to a high-water mark in December 2023.

Two years ago, Republicans like the governor of Florida, Ron DeSantis, started busing people into sanctuary cities, which happened to be in 'blue' (Democratic) states. These cities started to feel the pressure. It's not easy to accommodate people in expensive cities like New York.

The shift went beyond the struggle to house people. There was a reaction to the spectre of national disorder and this was visible at the Democratic National Convention, when the speakers advocated for tougher border measures and policies on asylum seekers.

Reactions to events in Minneapolis

PODCAST - Thomas L. Friedman: America Is at a Boiling Point

Watching the response to ICE in his hometown has the columnist Thomas L. Friedman navigating "a mixture of pride and anguish."
The New York Times, podcast series The Opinions, Jan. 27, 2026 You can listen to and read the interview HERE
(The audio document has been uploaded to Cahier de Prépa)
By Thomas L. Friedman and Stephen Stromberg
The Times Opinion columnist Thomas L. Friedman grew up in Minnesota and spent much of his career traveling to the Middle East. In the aftermath of the shooting death of Alex Pretti, and as the Trump administration continues its crackdown in the Twin Cities, Friedman speaks with the editor Stephen Stromberg about the parallels he sees between his hometown and Gaza today.

PODCAST - **Minneapolis Reveals Where Trump's Deportation Agenda Is Going**

The Ezra Klein Show, *The New York Times*, Jan. 23, 2026 HERE

Caitlin Dickerson is a journalist at The Atlantic. She's been covering immigration closely since Trump's first term. She won a Pulitzer Prize in 2023 for reporting on Trump's family separation policy. I asked her on the show to walk me through what this new infrastructure looks like, how it fits together, how it is being administered, what it is being used to do now and what that might mean for the future

Trump is losing normies on immigration

Americans might want more border enforcement, but they don't want ICE agents killing civilians.
NATE SILVER, "The Silver Bulletin", *Substack* - JAN 25, 2026

Yesterday, a U.S. border patrol agent shot and killed a 37-year-old Minnesota man, Alex Pretti, for the crime of … actually, it's not clear why he was killed. Pretti was an ICU nurse who was filming a confrontation between an immigration agent and two civilians. He had a gun on him, but he was licensed to carry it. It doesn't appear that he was holding his weapon at any point, and it was removed from his person moments before he was shot — shot at least 10 times despite already having been pinned down on the ground.
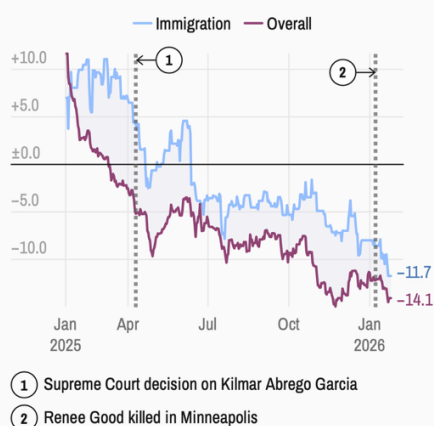
And, of course, this is the second such incident captured on video in Minneapolis within 17 days. Another citizen, Renee Good, was shot and killed in her vehicle by an ICE agent on Jan. 7.

I wrote about public opinion on ICE on immigration in a New York Times chat following that incident, noting that initial polling showed that few voters thought Good's killing was justified and that public opinion was turning against ICE. Indeed, in our tracking, Trump's net approval rating on immigration has declined by about 4 points since the day before Good's death until today.

Meanwhile, his overall approval rating has declined by 2 points and is near its second-term lows.

Trump approval has declined on immigration, along with other issues

Net approval rating, Silver Bulletin tracking

— Immigration — Overall

① Supreme Court decision on Kilmar Abrego Garcia
② Renee Good killed in Minneapolis

Note also that there's no longer much of a gap between Trump's immigration numbers and his overall approval rating. On average, over the course of his term, Trump's net approval on immigration has been about 6 points better than his overall rating; it had been his least-bad issue. Now, that gap has mostly evaporated.

Of course, there's been a lot of other news during this period. The U.S. performed a raid on Venezuela, capturing President Nicolas Maduro. Trump repeatedly threatened to take Greenland by one means or another, further fraying relations with our NATO allies, before backing off last week. And the U.S. Attorney's office opened a criminal investigation into Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell, whom Trump has repeatedly criticized, on dubious premises.

However, ICE had lingered in the news in the way these other stories hadn't, at least according to Google Trends data. Venezuela produced a bigger initial spike in search interest, but attention to the story dissipated quickly. Searches for ICE have remained much higher than before their pre-Good levels, however. (And now, after Pretti's killing, they're back to roughly the previous peak.)

It's sometimes hard to predict which stories will stick in the news and which ones won't. Good's case is clearly one that broke through, however. In the Quinnipiac poll, 82 percent of respondents said they'd seen video of the incident. 1

Why? Well, as I said in the NYT chat, "There's sort of a white-and-gold versus blue-and-black dress element, where people are looking at the same video and coming to completely different conclusions. There's obviously also a lot of precedent for concern about police officers, or in this case, ICE officers, killing civilians. This incident took place less than a mile away from where George Floyd was killed."

Another contributing factor may have been the White House's response. Kristi Noem called a Good a "domestic terrorist" and Trump said that she "violently, willfully and viciously ran over the ICE officer."

There's an idea in politics called the Overton window: that you sometimes you want to make an extreme, even untenable point to broaden the boundaries of "acceptable" discourse and make regular partisan spin seem tame by comparison. I never really seen much evidence that this actually works, however. Sometimes you just torch your credibility, especially when voters can cross-reference your claims with evidence they can see for themselves.

Trump, belatedly, seems to have realized this. On Tuesday, almost two weeks after the incident, President Trump called Good's

shooting "a horrible thing." "You know they're going to make mistakes," Trump said. "Sometimes ICE is going to be too rough

with somebody."

However, after Pretti's killing, the White House reverted to its old strategy, with chief policy advisor Stephen Miller doubling down by referring to an "assassin [who] tried to murder federal agents".

Frankly, at least to my eyes, there's even less to debate with Pretti than with Good. 2 You have to be a complete sycophant to see anything in the video that would support Miller's description of him as an "assassin".

Most people are going to trust the ICU nurse before the ICE agent.

If you're coming across this post and you're not a regular reader of Silver Bulletin, I want to be clear that I obviously don't always take the position that liberals are on the right

side of public opinion about everything. For example, I thought that immigration was a major cause of Trump's win last year. I had mixed feelings about how politically smart it was for Democrats to press the case about Kilmar Abrego Garcia's deportation. I think Democratic influencers often cherry-pick polls to tell them the public is with them when it isn't. And I'm also often critical of how the mainstream media covers stories like this one.

But on this story, I don't think Miller's gaslighting is going to work. Unlike with Abrego Garcia (but like with Good), there's video here. And while many Americans want more border enforcement, Minneapolis is about 1500 miles away from the nearest southern border crossing. Many Americans aren't sympathetic to armed, poorly-trained ICE officers roaming city streets to begin with.

While 41 percent of voters approve of Trump overall, only 24 percent strongly approve of his performance, and those numbers have been declining. Trump lost Joe Rogan on the Renee Good case and even some conservative influencers like Tim Pool aren't buying the White House's spin on Pretti. Not that Rogan and Pool are "normies", but this is the sort of thing you start to see when public opinion breaks 70/30 or 75/25 or 80/20 against you on an issue.

Nor is the story isn't going away any time soon, especially with the Senate set to vote on a DHS funding bill that even

moderate Democrats are now objecting to. In fact, another government shutdown is very possible.

I'm not (yet) going to try to game out any particular strategy. And sure, yes, of course, it's possible that Democrats will misplay or overplay their hand. These are Democrats, after all. But any shutdown at least has the potential to be a lot more focused and targeted than the previous one was. While Trump might have started out with the benefit of the doubt from the public on immigration, the White House has done just about everything possible following these two killings of civilians in Minneapolis to squander it.

1 That's probably a little inflated; polls can have a slight response bias toward people who watch the news, and sometimes people claim to have more knowledge of news developments than they actually do. But if the "real" number is 70 percent or something instead, I'm not sure that makes a big difference.

2 Her incident unfolded more quickly, Good did ignore an order to exit her car, and it's taken some fairly painstaking video analysis to reveal what sort of contact her vehicle did or didn't make with the ICE officer.

Trump faces fresh MAGA blowback for efforts to 'de-escalate' in Minnesota

The president's response to widespread public dismay over the shooting death of another Minnesotan has put him in a bind with his own base.

The Washington Post, January 29, 2026 – Full article: https://wapo.st/4roTeUI

   President Donald Trump's efforts this week to "de-escalate" controversial deportation tactics in Minnesota in the face of widespread public dismay has caused a new wave of blowback from his base of hard-line anti-immigration advocates.

The president is caught between competing interests: a loyal base of voters who elected him on a campaign promise of "mass deportations," and a broader electorate that is increasingly uncomfortable with an aggressive approach that has led to the shooting deaths of two American protesters by federal agents this month.

The conflicting viewpoints are evident within the administration, too, with advisers divided along similar lines and offering opposing feedback on whether and how drastically to shift Trump's immigration strategy, according to people aware of the conversations.

   Trump is also navigating a collision of his own instincts: his desire for flashy roundups of foreign-born criminals, and his recognition that the broader public, including business leaders he identifies with who rely on immigrant labor, have soured on the expansion of those roundups to noncriminals in workplaces.

The conflict has put the normally resolute Trump in an unusual spot, needing to tread carefully on an issue that he has previously plowed ahead on with threats and swagger. The result has been mixed signals from the White House — and fresh evidence of the difficult task Trump faces in a midterm election year of appeasing both his MAGA base and a broader swath of voters.

   Earlier this month, Trump threatened to invoke the Insurrection Act to allow him to send the military to Minneapolis — and suggested that "THE DAY OF RECKONING & RETRIBUTION IS COMING." He also sharply criticized two Minnesota Democrats, Gov. Tim Walz and Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey, calling them "useless" earlier this month.

This week, however, the president characterized conversations with Walz and Frey as positive and productive. He told Fox News that he wanted to "de-escalate a little bit" and that his talk with Walz "couldn't have been a nicer conversation."

Yet Trump has not articulated a clear shift in immigration strategy, leaving the public unsure of where he actually stands or what comes next.
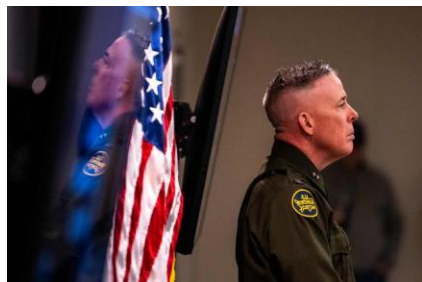
He sidelined Homeland Security Secretary Kristi L. Noem from the Minnesota operation — a tacit but rare show of disapproval toward a Cabinet member. He has not taken parallel action against senior aide Stephen Miller, who is widely viewed as the architect of Trump's immigration policies — and who advised Noem on how to respond publicly to the shooting death of ICU nurse Alex Pretti in Minneapolis on Saturday, according to a person who spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe internal conversations.

Gregory Bovino, le visage de la militarisation de la politique migratoire de Donald Trump, écarté de la ville de Minneapolis

Le responsable de la Customs and Border Protection, la police des frontières, qui revendique des méthodes agressives voire illégales, est au centre des critiques depuis que ses agents ont tué l'infirmier Alex Pretti lors d'une manifestation.

Par [Corine Lesnes](), *Le Monde*, 27 janvier 2026

Gregory Bovino, à Minneapolis (Minnesota), le 22 janvier 2026. STEPHEN MATUREN/AFP

Avec ses méthodes expéditives et son long manteau vert olive à boutons de laiton, tout droit sorti, selon les critiques, d'une collection de la Wehrmacht, Gregory Bovino était devenu le visage de la militarisation de la lutte contre l'immigration clandestine aux Etats-Unis. A Minneapolis (Minnesota), le policier, responsable de la Customs and Border Protection (CBP), la police des frontières, l'une des agences fédérales chargées des opérations, s'était illustré par une répression particulièrement agressive contre les migrants présumés sans papiers mais aussi contre les manifestants protestant contre les méthodes de l'administration Trump.

Samedi 24 janvier, à Minneapolis, Gregory Bovino n'avait pas attendu trois heures pour livrer ses conclusions sur la mort de l'infirmier Alex Pretti, tué de plusieurs balles tirées par les forces de la CBP. *« Cela ressemble à une situation où un individu voulait faire un maximum de dégâts et massacrer les forces de l'ordre »*, avait-il assuré *s*ans se soucier des vidéos montrant, quel que soit l'angle des prises de vues, un homme abattu, alors qu'il est à terre, roué de coups par cinq ou six policiers en tenue de combat.

Lundi 26 janvier, Gregory Bovino et ses équipes ont été victimes de la réévaluation par Donald Trump de la popularité de sa politique d'expulsions massives. Le maire démocrate de Minneapolis, Jacob Frey, a fait savoir, après un entretien téléphonique avec le président américain, que des agents déployés par ce dernier pour lutter contre l'immigration allaient quitter la ville dès mardi. La porte-parole de la Maison Blanche, Karoline Leavitt, a assuré que Gregory Bovino, *« un grand professionnel »*, allait *« continuer à diriger très activement la Customs and Border Patrol à travers tout le pays »*.

Aux médias qui ont affirmé qu'il était en fait mis à la retraite, la porte-parole du département de la sécurité intérieure, Tricia McLaughlin, a rétorqué qu'il n'avait *« pas été démis de ses fonctions »* et qu'il restait *« un élément-clé de l'équipe du président »*. Kristi Noem, la secrétaire à la sécurité intérieure, qui avait qualifié Alex Pretti de *« terroriste de l'intérieur »* et dont les démocrates réclament la démission, garde aussi toute la confiance du président, a assuré la Maison Blanche.

Opérations coup-de-poing

Gregory Bovino avait fait une ascension spectaculaire dans l'administration. Avant même l'investiture de Donald Trump, il était déjà à l'œuvre. Début janvier 2025, on le croisait à Bakersfield (Californie), pas très loin de chez lui, mais suffisamment pour susciter des poursuites de la part des associations de défense des droits civils : en temps normal, la police des frontières ne peut pas exercer sa mission à plus de 100 miles (160 kilomètres) des frontières. Bovino, qui était alors responsable du secteur d'El Centro, à 250 kilomètres au sud-est de Los Angeles, pour la CBP, menait une opération largement vue comme une répétition générale de la politique d'expulsions massives annoncée par Donald Trump pendant sa campagne, l'opération « Return to Sender » (« retour à l'envoyeur »).

Présentée comme une offensive contre les cartels ciblant des criminels, l'opération de Bakersfield s'était soldée par 78 interpellations de sans-papiers, sans antécédents judiciaires pour les trois quarts d'entre eux, et un procès pour « profilage racial » intenté par l'Union américaine pour les libertés civiles, une association de défense des droits civiques, au nom du syndicat des ouvriers agricoles United Farm Workers. Un résultat peu concluant, mais Gregory Bovino y avait gagné ses galons dans ce qui allait devenir la militarisation de la lutte contre l'immigration clandestine aux Etats-Unis.

Après l'installation de Donald Trump à la Maison Blanche, les raids se sont succédé et Gregory Bovino est monté en grade. Opération coup-de-poing à Aurora (Colorado), en février 2025, et à Los Angeles, en juin. Opération « Midway Blitz » en septembre à Chicago, « Metro Surge » depuis décembre 2025 à Minneapolis. Gregory Bovino a été nommé commandant itinérant des opérations par Kristi Noem, à qui il référait directement sans passer par la hiérarchie de la police des frontières. Sous sa direction, la

Border Patrol Tactical Unit, une unité d'élite plus habituée aux missions à hauts risques qu'à la contestation populaire en milieu urbain, est venue renforcer l'ICE, la police fédérale de l'immigration.

Méthode expéditive

A 56 ans, après une carrière qui ne lui avait pas accordé de distinctions particulières, Gregory Bovino est devenu l'orchestrateur d'opérations qu'il a résumé d'une expression : *« turn and burn »*. Une méthode expéditive, consistant à procéder au plus vite à l'arrestation des suspects, avant que les manifestants n'aient le temps de s'interposer, a-t-il expliqué à l'agence Associated Press. Au besoin par des techniques illégales en l'absence de mandat judiciaire, comme briser les vitres des automobiles pour saisir les passagers ou ouvrir de force les portes de domiciles.

Bovino s'est montré sur le terrain, au milieu des troupes, le seul à visage découvert, toujours prompt à livrer ses commentaires aux caméras. A Minneapolis, où les effectifs de la CBP s'élevaient à 1 000 agents, contre 2 000 pour l'ICE, la traque aux clandestins s'est muée en chasse aux manifestants, qualifiés de *« terroristes de l'intérieur »* pour s'être armés de téléphones portables et de sifflets. Le 21 janvier, au Mueller Park de Minneapolis, il a activé et lancé lui-même une grenade fumigène verte en direction des manifestants. Les réseaux sociaux se sont beaucoup moqués quand le vent a rabattu la fumée de son côté.

Issu d'une famille d'origine italienne, arrivée en 1924, juste avant la quasi-fermeture des Etats-Unis à l'immigration du sud de l'Europe, Gregory Bovino a grandi dans les Appalaches. En août 2023, sous le mandat de Joe Biden, il avait été relevé de son commandement à la tête du secteur d'El Centro, l'un des 20 du pays. Il s'était vu reprocher d'avoir posté en ligne sa photo avec un fusil d'assaut et des messages antimigrants. Des éléments qui avaient favorisé son retour en grâce après l'arrivée de l'administration Trump.

The womanosphere urges dubious followers to back ICE: 'Don't let compassion cloud you'

Conservative figures such as Riley Gaines and Allie Beth Stuckey are urging their followers to ward off empathy for victims of ICE's crackdown

Alaina Demopoulos, *The Guardian*, Wed 28 Jan 2026

Riley Gaines, the former collegiate swimmer turned anti-transgender activist, makes motherhood and femininity a core part of her brand. Her husband, Louis Barker, is a naturalized US citizen who moved to this country from the UK. The couple welcomed their first child, a daughter named Margot, in September; Gaines said there was "nothing" she would not do to protect her baby. But do not think that Gaines is at all sympathetic to families targeted by ICE.

This weekend, Gaines spoke on her podcast about Liam Ramos, the five-year-old boy taken by ICE agents from his driveway in Minneapolis. Images of Liam, clad in snowpants and wearing a blue hat with bunny ears, being held by a federal agent prompted widespread disgust in the US. How could a preschooler be considered one of the "dangerous" criminals Trump's administration rails against?

Gaines, however, remained unmoved. "I will say thank you to our ICE agents," she said on the podcast. "Thank you for not abandoning that five-year-old boy like his father did. I'm glad and I'm grateful." (While the DHS claimed the boy had been abandoned by his father, eyewitnesses and Liam's school district said the father had been detained by ICE, which then attempted to use the child "as bait" to get other family members out of the home.)

Gaines pleaded to her flock not to feel bad for victims of ICE cruelty like Liam, or Renee Good or Alex Pretti. "Do not let compassion, or what you believe to be compassion, cloud you or suspend you from thinking critically," she said.

Gaines is one of the leading figures of the "womanosphere" movement: mostly white Christian conservatives who promote an anti-feminist, gender-essentialist agenda to their followers, and who have been parroting the Trump administration's messaging that ICE has done a good, moral job in its brutal crackdown on immigrant communities. Any evidence proving otherwise is wrong, warped or fabricated, they insist. But there are signs the womanosphere may be rattled by the widespread reaction to news coming out of Minneapolis.

Allie Beth Stuckey, a conservative podcaster and author, is another such figure beating the drum for ICE. "Women, including many, many Christian women, are being completely duped by the anti-ICE propaganda … I am working HARD in my DMs and posts and on my show trying to combat this nonsense and appeal to these women," she posted last week. On Monday she blamed "emotionally evocative messaging and images" – Liam and his Spiderman backpack, maybe, or Pretti being shot while protecting a female protester.

In 2024 Stuckey published Toxic Empathy: How Progressives Exploit Christian Compassion, writing that she first encountered the phenomenon after the murder of George Floyd by the police officer Derek Chauvin. In the ensuing global protests, Stuckey took issue with the Instagram trend of posting black squares in solidarity with Floyd and other victims of institutionalized racist violence. When she instead shared a video of an elderly Black woman describing property destruction in her neighborhood as the result of protesters, some followers responded saying Floyd's loss of life was the bigger tragedy. Stuckey's thesis: "I was facing weaponized, toxic empathy."

Five years later, Stuckey still preaches that empathy can make Christians weak, because it allows the reflexive horror over

systemic violence and cruelty to cloud their objectivity. Show empathy to the wrong person – immigrants, people of color, the disenfranchised, or anyone who defends their rights – and you are a pawn of progressives who wish to weaponize the concept of caring for one another to feed you a lie.

But the continued violence in Minneapolis complicates this mission. Though Stuckey filters out dissenting opinions in her Instagram comments, some skepticism got through. (…)

April Ajoy is a former evangelical Christian, podcaster and author of the memoir Star-Spangled Jesus: Leaving Christian Nationalism and Finding a True Faith. A preacher's daughter who went to televangelist Pat Robertson's Regent University and later worked as a producer for the Christian Broadcasting Network's The 700 Club, Ajoy knows how hard it is to go against the right's notions of what makes a good Christian woman. "If you are not fully in line with every single position [that womanosphere figures promote], then you can get ostracized from your community," Ajoy said. "That's what happened to me."

Mariah Wellman, an assistant professor at Michigan State University who studies Maga influencers, says that Stuckey especially has "positioned herself as an authority figure to women, to the point where she gives them permission to not look elsewhere for facts or perspective, because she's able to sift through what's going on and speak from that Christian evangelical female perspective". She and other successful talking heads in this space make their followers believe they could be friends or confidants. "It takes a lot to push back on someone you feel like you know and believe in," Wellman said. "It's not a small thing if you've followed Stuckey for a long time and then start to dissent."

Still, among some Christians Ajoy knows, recent ICE activity in Minneapolis signaled a turning point. "I've seen people on my personal Facebook page or on Threads who say: 'I voted for Trump, I supported ICE, but I can't support what they're doing now, we need justice and investigations,'" she said. "When you're in this world, you live in a very black-and-white ideology, where there's a good side and a bad side. Some people now are starting to unravel that really dogmatic theory."

On Sunday, Haley Williams, a Christian mother who has more than 50,000 followers on Instagram and runs the Kindled podcast, posted what she seems to have considered humorous faux-infographics. Titled "Simple ways I lower my risk of being shot by ICE", the tips centered around 1950s-style domesticity – which could be read as a dig at Good, a queer woman who was falsely accused by the right of ditching her children to protest against ICE.

One such tip was "drinking coffee and cuddling my baby" because "research shows that it's very hard to cuddle a baby AND be thrown into a senseless rage at the same time"; another was "hanging out with my husband" because "research shows being happily married multiples your contentment with not disrupting law enforcement at least 874%".
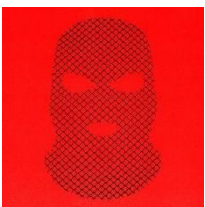
The message: stay in your lane, ladies. But should you veer, the womanosphere will do its best to convince you that your emotions are not to be trusted.

Immigration Enforcement Is Unavoidably Upsetting. But This Is Something Else.

The New York Times, Jan. 27, 2026 **By Ross Douthat,** Opinion Columnist

Credit…Sam Whitney/The New York Times

In the past few days, as the shooting of Alex Pretti has induced a change of tone and of personnel in the Trump administration's immigration crackdown, some of the White House's supporters have written laments for what they see as a fatal loss of nerve. Their theme is that any concession to protesters will just encourage the same opposition tactics in every state and city, which will eventually make all internal immigration enforcement impossible, nullifying both federal law and Trump's 2024 victory.

As for those Republicans who look at the street chaos, the growing political backlash and the two dead American citizens (so far) and think that there has to be a different way, the conservative podcaster Matt Walsh parodied their stance as follows:

This ICE situation is really complex. My take is more nuanced. I want our immigration laws to be enforced, but I just want them to do it without using any force, and without anyone ever getting hurt, and without anything sad or upsetting happening ever, and if the people we're trying to deport don't want to be deported, or if liberal activists don't want us to deport them, then obviously in that case we shouldn't do it, but I'm totally a conservative on the issue, unless people get really mad at me then never mind please don't yell I'm sorry.

I'm squarely in the camp that Walsh is satirizing, since my position at the moment is that the Trump administration was entirely correct to prioritize deportations after the collapse of immigration enforcement under his predecessors, but that misplaced priorities and excessive

brutality have created a debacle and that simply doubling down will make things worse. So let me make a brief case for that view — that enforcement is necessary, this approach to enforcement is bad, and a different course is possible.

Start with the points that Walsh gets right. It's true that you can't have sustained immigration enforcement without also having upsetting cases and sympathetic deportees. If you deport illegal immigrants with families, you will have to choose between family separation and deporting children. If you conduct arrests in homes and neighborhoods, you will be accused of traumatizing kids and communities; if you conduct them in workplaces, you will be going after the hardest-working migrants. If you focus only on immigrants who have run-ins with the law, you'll end up deporting people with minor infractions. And so on.

It's also true that any deportation program will meet resistance from people — activists, lawyers, protesters — who basically don't want you to deport anybody, and that certain liberal jurisdictions are in a state of permanent noncooperation with federal immigration law. Even when it comes to violent criminals, the sanctuary-city position is effectively that they should be jailed but not deported — or to quote Mayor Jacob Frey of Minneapolis this week, doubling down on his city's refusal to cooperate with federal deportation efforts, "Violent criminals should be held accountable based on the crimes they commit, not based on where they are from." That means that even if your policy exclusively targets criminals, you still have to send agents into liberal jurisdictions where local officialdom is hostile to your efforts.

There are conflicts here that can't be wished away. But the fact that some backlash and resistance are inescapable doesn't mean that all enforcement strategies that generate backlash are sound or wise. To the contrary, precisely because immigration enforcement is difficult, there are basic things you need to do to pre-empt backlash, to reassure the general public and to make your critics look extreme. And the Trump administration's immigration enforcers have often done the opposite of what both political wisdom and decency require.

First, they have deliberately played up the tough-guy aspect of enforcement, asking agents to generate footage of arrests and detentions, layering on hip-hop soundtracks for social-media clout, as though the public's support for immigration restriction were actually a demand for Jerry Bruckheimer videos of shackled migrants. Nobody watching these videos would think that this is an agency working carefully and authoritatively and acting more in sorrow than in anger. Just as important, nobody watching these videos would think that protesters carrying cellphones were injecting a media-circus element into a purely professional operation. The operations themselves look like hype jobs, and by the administration's own

choice — a choice tailored not for the G.O.P. base as a whole but for a small and hyper-online constituency.

Second, the enforcers have repeatedly established themselves as unreliable narrators. The extreme case of Pretti, in which officials denounced the dead man as a terrorist bent on mass murder before any kind of investigation, is just the starkest instance of a larger pattern of unreliability about specific raids and targets and interactions with protesters. The administration's political problem isn't only that ICE agents sometimes make mistakes or that law enforcement operations sometimes yield tragic deaths. It's also that when something does go wrong, it gives the public no reason to believe that it's taking the problems seriously. The default is always to blame a cabal of enemies instead.

Again, such cabals do exist, in the sense of activist groups seeking dangerous confrontations and aiming for interference as well as protest. But now we reach the third great failure of the administration: the nature of the Minneapolis operation, which was conceived with transparent political motivations on a scale guaranteed to catalyze a much larger political reaction than anything that activists could generate alone.

Minneapolis is not an especially large city, and it doesn't have an especially large number of illegal immigrants. It was targeted because of recent revelations about fraud in the Somali community and the link to Tim Walz, the governor of the state — but since ICE doesn't investigate fraud, the predictable effect was to direct attention away from those stories and onto immigration enforcement.

Then along with that own goal, the actual enforcement campaign created a different feeling in the affected region than ICE's operations did in the larger landscapes of Los Angeles and Chicago — a sense of citywide occupation rather than targeted intervention. Some conservatives have argued that Minneapolis has attracted more media attention than earlier operations because the activists are perfecting their methods of resistance. There may be truth to that, but based on my conversations with people in both L.A. and Minneapolis, the biggest difference is that in Minnesota ordinary people started encountering masked agents all the time, resulting in a siege mentality that made the activist task of mobilization infinitely easier.

This list doesn't even touch other strategic failures, like why the administration has chosen to privilege ICE roundups over workplace sanctions. But just these critiques suffice to amend the Walsh caricature as follows:

I want our immigration laws to be enforced, but I want the government to do it without cutting advertisements that make it look like it's in love with its own punitive powers, without constantly dissembling and shouting about internal enemies and acting like its own errors don't exist, and without enforcement operations creating a police-

state atmosphere for a major metropolitan area that lasts for weeks.

To Walsh and other advocates of permanent confrontation, maybe even that reformulation sounds like hapless surrender. But to me, these people are constructing a dream palace where polling and mainstream opinion don't matter at all, where just showing strength is enough to carry waverers and anxious normies with you, where a magical final victory awaits that doesn't require compromise or coalition management.

The woke weren't bound by polls and public opinion, comes the reply. Yes, and look what it got them: a decisive electoral defeat and a generational opportunity for conservatism, which the Trump administration has been giving away, piece by piece and controversy by controversy, since the "vibe shift" days of late 2024.

But even Trump knows that it's a bad idea to crack your own core coalition, and to risk letting your polling sink below its normal lows. His apparent willingness to take a step back isn't weakness. It's a small dose of a wisdom that the right needs in far greater measure before it's actually equipped to rule.

Top Democratic groups urge party to shed soft-on-crime image, hire police

The Center for American Progress wants Democrats 'on their front foot' talking about crime, an issue where Republicans have long held the advantage.

The Washington Post, January 29, 2026

Graffiti calls for the Oakland police department in Oakland, California, to be defunded in 2020. (Melina Mara/The Washington Post)

By [Hannah Knowles]

A leading left-leaning think tank is urging more spending on police, the latest sign that many Democrats want to shake the "defund the police" label and strike a tougher tone on crime, even as they condemn President Donald Trump's aggressive use of federal law enforcement.

"Voters barely believe Democrats even care about fighting crime or respect police," according to a slide presentation prepared by a sister group for the Center for American Progress (CAP), a think tank that has long served as a political and policy workshop for leading Democrats.

The think tank on Thursday released a plan it hopes will help rewrite that image — calling for more local police officers, a focus on crime "hot spots" and "swift and certain consequences" alongside the social-service-focused solutions favored by some on the left.

Democrats see both opportunities and pitfalls on crime as Trump uses the issue to justify deploying the National Guard and surging immigration officers to liberal cities. Many on the left say the president is overplaying his hand, alienating voters with heavy-handed tactics that have sometimes turned deadly. At the same time, some are wary of fanning GOP claims they are soft on crime after paying a political price for activist calls to "defund the police" amid 2020 racial justice protests.

"It's important for Democrats to demonstrate that they understand that crime is an issue and that they have solutions around it," said CAP president Neera Tanden, who served as domestic policy council director under President Joe Biden, in an interview. She argued the party should be "on their front foot" talking about the subject and offering an alternative to the "terror tactics" on display this month in Minnesota.

Democrats have been divided over the best approach, however. An advocacy group's presentation at the Democratic National Committee's meeting last summer also called for the party to convey it is "serious about safety" — but it focused on the systemic problems that fuel crime and argued that voters favor "better, more accountable policing — not more officers or more funding," as one slide put it. Republicans were happy to amplify the pitch.

Democratic politicians have also faced backlash in recent years for past support of anti-crime measures that critics said were too harsh and hurt minority communities. A tough 1994 crime bill championed by President Bill Clinton became a stumbling block for onetime supporters including Biden and Hillary Clinton, who distanced themselves as they ran for president. CAP, which has ties to many Democratic administrations, was founded by a former chief of staff to Bill Clinton who chaired Hillary Clinton's 2016 campaign.

CAP's plan calls for more investment in the preventative efforts favored by police skeptics, from youth employment initiatives to community anti-violence programs. But it also cites research to argue that "more officers, when well-trained and properly utilized, reduce crime" and calls on Congress to direct more funding to local law enforcement.

Voters "assume Republicans will lead on accountability and Democrats will focus on prevention," according to a polling analysis from the sister group CAP Action.

"Democrats are most competitive when they clear the bar on accountability," the analysis adds.

Some Democrats have embraced anti-crime messaging in recent years and distanced themselves from the most liberal voices in the party. In liberal San Francisco, Mayor Daniel Lurie won in 2024 while promising to make the city safer and staff up the police. In swing-state Pennsylvania, Gov. Josh Shapiro (D) campaigned on a pledge to hire thousands more police officers. In left-leaning New Mexico, Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham ordered the state's National Guard to Albuquerque to combat crime last spring.

Democrats have also sought to chip away at Trump's tough-on-crime image, criticizing him for his pardons and cuts to federal funding that supported law enforcement.

Still, voters have long favored Republicans to handle crime and crime remained one of Trump's stronger issues last year in polling, even as his overall approval ratings dipped and his deployment of the military to U.S. cities stoked a backlash.

After Trump sent the National Guard to D.C. last August, an AP-NORC survey found that 53 percent of Americans approved of how he handled crime, higher than his approval ratings on the economy and immigration.

As Trump's immigration crackdown in Minnesota sparked new tensions over federal law enforcement in blue cities, some Democrats warned the party against calls to "defund" Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), fearing a repeat of the "defund the police" rallying cries that they said came back to haunt the party. "Democrats: Abolish ICE Abuses — Not ICE," the center-left think tank Third Way pleaded in a memo this month.

Others in the party see immigration enforcement as a distinct issue, particularly amid outrage over two fatal shootings by federal immigration officers in Minneapolis in recent weeks. Prominent liberals including New York Mayor Zohran Mamdani have called to abolish ICE, and Democratic members of Congress across the ideological spectrum said after the second fatal shooting that they would block funding for the Department of Homeland Security in an effort to force changes.

Tanden said ICE has "become a perversion of what ICE is supposed to be" and needs dramatic changes, perhaps "from the root." But she also said Democrats should be mindful not to come across to voters as hostile to any enforcement of immigration laws.

As for "defund the police": "That was not a strategy or a slogan that made sense to the vast majority of Americans," she said.

The left is badly misreading the politics of illegal immigration

There's a reason sanctuary cities are the epicenter of clashes. It's not the one Democrats think.

Marc Thiessen, *The Washington Post*, January 29, 2026

Marc A. Thiessen Marc Thiessen writes a column for The Post on foreign and domestic policy. He is a fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, and the former chief speechwriter for President George W. Bush. He is a Fox News contributor.

President Donald Trump has offered Minnesota a reasonable compromise: He will scale back ICE operations in the state if Minnesota officials agree to "turn over all incarcerated or active warrant criminal illegal aliens" and "assist federal authorities in detaining criminal illegal aliens wanted for crimes."

Nothing doing, says Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey (D). "Minneapolis does not and will not enforce federal immigration laws," he said on X after meeting with White House border czar Tom Homan. After Trump warned he was "PLAYING WITH FIRE," Frey doubled down, declaring that "the job of our police is to keep people safe, not enforce fed immigration laws."

In fact, his sanctuary policies have done the exact opposite — contributing to the deaths of two protesters, Renée Good and Alex Pretti, who would almost certainly be alive today were it not for Frey and Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz's (D) refusal to cooperate with Immigration and Customs

Enforcement agents in targeting illegal migrants with criminal records.

When Trump took office a year ago, Homan made clear that the administration's intention was not to carry out "a mass sweep of neighborhoods" but rather to "prioritize public safety threats" by detaining and deporting "the worst of the worst" — those charged with or convicted of serious crimes.

Trump was elected with a mandate to do that. In a New York Times-Ipsos poll just before his inauguration, an 87 percent supermajority said they supported removing all migrants "who are here illegally and have criminal records." Indeed, 63 percent said they wanted Trump to go further and deport all migrants "who are here illegally and arrived over the last four years" under President Joe Biden, while 55 percent wanted to deport "all immigrants who are here illegally" — period.

Over the past year, Homan has been true to his word: Nearly 70 percent ICE arrests nationwide have involved illegal migrants convicted or charged with crimes, according to the Department of Homeland Security. In states where local officials work with ICE, these arrests have taken place without chaos. For example, there have

been more than 88,000 ICE arrests in Texas — the most in the country — largely without incident. But in Minnesota, there have been 10 times fewer arrests but far more violent confrontations.

Why? Because when state and local officials won't help federal immigration officers target those with criminal records, they have no choice but to go into communities to get them. Since Trump took office, DHS reports that Minnesota has released nearly 470 illegal migrants charged with or convicted of crimes back onto the streets — including those charged with sex offenses against a child, lewd or lascivious acts with a minor, domestic violence, drug trafficking, vehicular homicide, burglary, first-degree aggravated robbery and larceny. In all, DHS says Minnesota officials are refusing to honor more than 1,360 ICE detainers.

That has required ICE to carry out large sweeps resulting in collateral arrests of illegal migrants *without* criminal records — the very people Frey and Walz are purporting to protect with their sanctuary policies — because, as Homan has made clear, while ICE is focused primarily on those with criminal records, they will arrest anyone they find who is here illegally.

Sanctuary policies have also endangered Minnesotans by contributing to deadly confrontations with protesters. As Homan has explained, "when you go in the community and find them, it puts ICE officers at greater risk, it puts a community at greater risk, it puts the alien at greater risk."

Instead of cooperating, Frey and Waltz have urged Minnesotans to take to the streets and protest ICE. Walz has poured gasoline on the fire by comparing ICE agents to the Nazis who hunted down Anne Frank and are committing "atrocities against Minnesotans," while Frey had demanded that ICE "get the f--- out of Minneapolis."

Moreover, because they have ordered state and local law enforcement not to support deportations, ICE has been forced to rely on U.S. Border Patrol to protect them as they carry out enforcement operations — and those officers are not trained in crowd control and de-escalation techniques. Frey and Waltz stood by as organized networks have engaged in the coordinated tracking and doxing ICE agents, surrounding and trashing hotels where they are staying, and provoking confrontations that have turned deadly.

Meanwhile, on Capitol Hill, Democrats are preparing to shut down part of the government (again!) to block Congress from passing the DHS appropriations bill. They are overplaying their hand. Last year, Trump secured funding for ICE through 2029 as part of his One Big Beautiful Bill — which means that blocking the DHS spending bill will *not* affect ICE, but *will* cut funding for the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Transportation Security Administration. Just a few months ago, Democrats shut down the government over Obamacare subsides and were forced to capitulate. Insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result.

Democrats are misreading the politics of illegal immigration. Yes, polls show that majorities of Americans think Trump's *implementation* of his deportation polices has been "too tough." But a majority supports the deportations themselves, especially for illegal migrants with criminal records. They just want them to be carried out humanely.

If Democrats resist Trump's offer to do so, they will pay a political price. And for the party responsible for the worst border crisis in American history to block funding for the department responsible for securing the border would be the height of political malpractice.

Congress can step in to stop the president from overreaching on immigration.

The Washington Post, January 25, 2026

A protester is pepper sprayed at close range on Saturday while being detained near where Alex Pretti was fatally shot by a federal agent in Minneapolis. (Ellen Schmidt/MinnPost via AP)

The unjust killing of Alex Pretti, a 37-year-old nurse in Minneapolis, marks a turning point in President Donald Trump's second term. His mass deportation campaign has been a moral and political failure, leaving American citizens feeling outraged and unsafe.

A Border Patrol officer killed Pretti on Saturday, and the Department of Homeland Security quickly claimed that Pretti was a "domestic terrorist" who wanted to "massacre" agents. Yet Pretti can be seen on tape holding his phone, not a gun, in his right hand, and his left hand is empty. While an independent investigation is necessary to iron out all the facts, it appears that the precipitating event was a federal officer pushing a woman down onto the sidewalk. Pretti, who was a medical professional at the VA, stepped between them and gets pepper sprayed. In the ensuing scuffle, a federal officer fired 10 rounds.

Minneapolis's police chief said Pretti was "a lawful gun owner with a permit to carry." Minnesota law allows the open carry of handguns for people with permits. He had no criminal record.

The outrageous refusal by the feds to allow local authorities to properly secure the crime scene or gather evidence further inflames tensions with state and city police. The lack of accountability for federal officers has undermined the administration's claims that this is about law and order. The local population clearly wants the roughly 3,000 immigration officers now deployed around the Twin Cities to leave.

Senate Democratic leaders have threatened to shut down the federal government by blocking passage of a DHS funding bill which must be approved by Friday. Republican senators horrified by the immigration enforcement tactics could create room for a compromise. But it's not that simple. ICE's operations will continue under the status quo if Democrats block the DHS spending bill, because $75 billion was already allocated in the tax bill last summer. If Democrats block the bill, unintended consequences will cascade across unrelated parts of government, from FEMA to the Coast Guard.

The version of the DHS funding bill that passed the House on Thursday adds money for conflict de-escalation training and independent oversight of detention facilities. It also provides $20 million for the purchase of body cameras for DHS agents. The mayhem in Minneapolis has made it untenable to argue that the tweaks in the House package go far enough.

The House version does not require DHS officers to wear the body cameras it allocates funding for. Officers should want that because video will help exonerate them when they're falsely accused of wrongdoing. Transparent guidelines for releasing this footage would go a long way to restoring trust between law enforcement and locals. Absent body cameras, many citizens will continue to feel compelled to constantly record federal officers performing their duties.

It's essential that federal immigration officers don't think they can act with impunity, because that will only encourage more fatal encounters. An independent probe of this shooting is an important step. On Saturday night, a

federal judge ordered DHS not to destroy evidence related to Pretti's killing in response to a lawsuit filed by Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison (D).

Democrats will prevail if they focus on a narrow set of reasonable demands. The president will gain the upper hand if the left clamors for abolishing ICE. They already tried that during Trump's first term, and it backfired. At the same time, that agency needs to be bound by laws, oversight and accountability. Most of all, U.S. citizens need to be secure in exercising their First and Second Amendment rights without worrying they'll get gunned down.

Most Americans want a secure border, and they think violent criminals should be deported. That's a large part of why Trump returned to the White House. The overreach of the past year, however, could consume his presidency and lead to more tragedy. If Trump won't change course on his own, can Republicans in Congress save him from himself?

The Editorial Board

The Trump Administration Is Lying to Our Faces. Congress Must Act.

The New York Times, Jan. 25, 2026

Credit...Illustration by Rebecca Chew/The New York Times

By The Editorial Board

The editorial board is a group of opinion journalists whose views are informed by expertise, research, debate and certain longstanding values. It is separate from the newsroom.

The federal government owes Americans a thorough investigation and a truthful accounting of the Saturday morning shooting of Alex Jeffrey Pretti on a Minneapolis street. When the government kills, it has an obligation to demonstrate that it has acted in the public interest. Instead, the Trump administration is once again engaged in a perversion of justice.

Mere hours after Mr. Pretti died, Kristi Noem, the secretary of homeland security, declared without offering evidence that Mr. Pretti had "committed an act of domestic terrorism." Gregory Bovino, a Border Patrol official, offered his own assessment: "This looks like a situation where an individual wanted to do maximum damage and massacre law enforcement."

These unfounded and inflammatory judgments pre-empt the outcome of an investigation, which the Department of Homeland Security has promised. They also appear wholly inconsistent with several videos recorded at the scene.

Those videos showed that Mr. Pretti had nothing but a phone in his hands when he was tackled by Border Patrol agents, and that he never drew the gun he was carrying (and reportedly had a license to carry). Indeed, the videos seem to show that one federal agent took the gun from Mr. Pretti moments before a different agent shot him from

behind. Separate analyses by The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, The Associated Press, CBS News and other organizations all concluded that the videos contradict the Trump administration's description of the killing.

The administration is urging Americans to reject the evidence of their eyes and ears. Ms. Noem and Mr. Bovino are lying in defiance of obvious truths. They are lying in the manner of authoritarian regimes that require people to accept lies as a demonstration of power.

Even worse is that all of this feels so terribly familiar. Earlier this month, a federal agent shot and killed another Minneapolis resident, Renee Good. In that case, too, the Trump administration has demonized the victim and has blocked a state investigation of the killing.

Truth is a line of demarcation between a democratic government and an authoritarian regime. Mr. Pretti and Ms. Good are dead. The American people deserve to know what happened.

The temperature in Minneapolis is dangerously high. There is an urgent need for the federal agents deployed to the city to step back and take a breath before more Americans are hurt or killed. Those protesting the Trump administration have an equal obligation to avoid violence.

The American people also need answers about whether federal agents acted inappropriately, and the behavior of the Trump administration means that it will be impossible to trust any federal investigation that it conducts. President Trump and his appointees have demonstrated themselves to be unconcerned with truth and willing to lie to serve their own interests. Congress therefore must step in. The Constitution vests it with the power to hold hearings, issue subpoenas and demand answers.

Congress ought to investigate both the circumstances of the recent killings in Minneapolis and the broader conduct of the federal agencies engaged in Mr. Trump's immigration crackdown, including their treatment of peaceful protesters. The video evidence shows that the incident that ended in Mr. Pretti's death began when a federal agent lunged at a protester and knocked her to the ground. There are many similar videos and documented instances of federal agents using unnecessary violence against people who are peacefully protesting or documenting events — both behaviors protected under the First Amendment.

Congress has the power to hold the administration accountable through its control of federal spending. A pending bill to fund the Department of Homeland Security offers a crucial opportunity to perform scrutiny and impose necessary guardrails, such as funding for body cameras.

The federal government also has sought to prevent investigations by the state of Minnesota. This must end. A federal judge in Minnesota issued a temporary restraining order on Saturday evening, at the behest of the state, barring federal agencies from destroying evidence related to Mr. Pretti's killing. The need for such an order is both evident and extraordinary.

"The credibility of ICE and D.H.S. are at stake," Senator Bill Cassidy, a Louisiana Republican increasingly at odds with Mr. Trump, posted on social media on Saturday. "There must be a full joint federal and state investigation. We can trust the American people with the truth."

The Trump administration has made no attempt to calm the waters in Minneapolis. It is a disgrace that the first public comment by Mr. Trump in the wake of Mr. Pretti's death was to post a picture on social media of what he described as "the gunman's gun." Stephen Miller, arguably Mr. Trump's most influential adviser, wrote on social media, without offering evidence, that Mr. Pretti was "an assassin."

It is premature to reach conclusions about what exactly happened on that Minneapolis street. The Trump administration should not have done so, and we will not do so. What is clear, however, is that the federal government needs to re-establish public faith in the agencies and officers who are carrying out Mr. Trump's crackdown on immigration. If the administration is allowed to act with impunity and avoid even the most basic accountability, the result will be more violence.