



March 2, 2026

The Honorable Chuck Grassley  
Chairman  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
135 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dick Durbin  
Ranking Member  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
711 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin:

We write to you today on behalf of the largest sheriff's associations united in partnership to affirm our support for enhanced collaboration between the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and local sheriff's offices across the nation. Congress' refusal to properly fund DHS has damaged our priorities, reduced cooperation between our agencies, especially in task force operations, and diminished national security intelligence sharing. This inaction has essentially paralyzed local operations by delaying funding and grant rollouts and by furloughing critical personnel. At a time when the national security posture is heightened due to international developments, we are already seeing the effects on local jurisdictions, particularly in critical incidents tied to military operations.

Sheriffs and deputies throughout the United States serve on the front lines of public safety and our jurisdictions and face increasingly complex threats, including transnational criminal organizations, narcotics trafficking, human smuggling and trafficking networks, organized crime, and border-related security challenges. Addressing these threats requires coordinated, sustained partnership among federal, state, local, and tribal agencies – but it requires our federal level partners to be fully and adequately funded.

As sheriffs, we do not enforce immigration law, and some agencies face challenges based on state and local laws. Many sheriffs face challenges with what they can and cannot comply with in terms of requests from our federal partners. That said, we remain committed to protecting our jurisdictions and partnering, when appropriate, to ensure that violent criminals do not bring harm to our citizens.

We stand united in our shared mission to safeguard the sovereignty, and security of the United States. Continued collaboration, clear communication, and mutual support between federal and local law enforcement remain essential to meeting the evolving challenges facing our nation. We implore Congress to fully fund the Department of Homeland Security and reinstate the services our local jurisdictions rely on each day to keep our communities safe.

Sincerely,

Sheriff Chris West, President  
National Sheriffs' Association

Sheriff Bob Gualtieri, President  
Major County Sheriffs of America

Sheriff Mark Dannels, President  
Western State Sheriffs' Association  
Southwestern Border Sheriffs' Coalition

(Ret.) Sheriff Clint McDonald, Executive Director  
Texas Border Sheriff's Coalition

CC: The Honorable Kristi Noem, U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary

*The American Sheriff Alliance consists of sheriffs, leadership, and chief law enforcement officers from the National Sheriffs' Association, Major County Sheriffs of America, the Western State Sheriffs' Association, the Southwestern Border Sheriffs' Coalition, and the Texas Border Sheriff's Coalition. This alliance was formed to advocate for policy change and reform in order to keep our nation's citizens safe as well as support the men and women who protect and serve the United States of America.*