

JOHN W. MANNION
22ND DISTRICT, NEW YORK

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION & WORKFORCE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON EARLY CHILDHOOD, ELEMENTARY,
AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EMPLOYMENT, LABOR,
AND PENSIONS

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMODITY MARKETS, DIGITAL ASSETS,
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONSERVATION, RESEARCH,
AND BIOTECHNOLOGY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3222

1516 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3222
(202) 225-3701

SYRACUSE DISTRICT OFFICE
440 SOUTH WARREN STREET
SUITE 706
SYRACUSE, NY 13202
(315) 233-4333

UTICA DISTRICT OFFICE
207 GENESEE STREET
SUITE 405
UTICA, NY 13501
(315) 732-0713

June 26, 2026

The Honorable Markwayne Mullin
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Mullin,

I write with deep concern regarding a recent incident¹ involving U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in Syracuse, New York. I urge your Department to promptly review this incident and put a stop to any ICE activities that target protected speech under the First Amendment.

On Tuesday, June 23 – during New York’s primary elections – two ICE agents delivered a warning letter to a poll worker in downtown Syracuse threatening her with federal and state prosecution over her personal social media use. The letter was delivered on behalf of the ICE Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) – an office that is supposed to be investigating employee misconduct at ICE. The document itself contained errors, lacked specificity, and was not signed by an agent.

This widely reported incident has raised considerable civil liberties concerns.² ICE should not be broadly targeting online speech or actively monitoring social media accounts without cause and without proper judicial protections.

While true threats to federal agents are never permissible and should be investigated, I have not seen anything to suggest that is what occurred in this case. Instead, it appears that this operation was designed to intimidate citizens for criticizing the agency’s enforcement activities, including the tragic killings of Renee Good and Alex Pretti.

An engaged citizenry must always be free to criticize public officials, demand transparency, and hold leaders accountable for abuses of power. As your Department works to review this incident and take steps to prevent future activities that could violate the First Amendment rights of individuals, I request answers to the following questions regarding the recent incident that took place in Central New York:

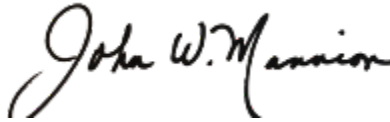
¹ <https://www.syracuse.com/news/2026/06/federal-agents-track-down-syracuse-woman-demand-she-remove-instagram-post-about-ice.html>

² <https://www.syracuse.com/news/2026/06/civil-rights-experts-ice-warning-to-syracuse-woman-was-scare-tactic-against-citizen-critic.html>

- 1) Who gave the order to deliver this letter, and why were the agents sent on primary Election Day?
- 2) How many Americans have been asked by ICE to sign a similar document to the one presented in this case?
- 3) What standards or agency guidance is ICE relying on in deciding whether to deliver such letters?
- 4) According to ICE's website,³ the OPR is tasked with upholding the agency's professional standards, investigating allegations of *employee* misconduct, and protecting the public trust - not policing Americans' first amendment rights. How is the incident that took place in Syracuse, NY consistent with OPR's mission to uphold the agency's professional standards?
- 5) Please precisely describe the resources and personnel that OPR is allocating towards monitoring social media accounts.
- 6) For what purpose are recipient signatures requested on these notices? How does the OPR intend to interpret these signatures as well as refusals to sign?

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I ask for your response by Friday, July 10.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John W. Mannion". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John W. Mannion
Member of Congress

CC: Jennifer Fenton, Associate Director, ICE OPR

³ <https://www.ice.gov/opr>