

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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June 17, 2026

The Honorable Susie Wiles
Chief of Staff
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Ms. Wiles:

Oversight Democrats are investigating the systematic violations of the Constitution by the Trump Administration through its mass deportation campaign. The Administration's willingness to use violence against civilians, lack of oversight for violations of civil rights, and violations of court orders are widely documented. New reporting revealed that the Administration considered far more egregious violations of the constitution, and that senior White House staff, including Vice President J.D. Vance and Stephen Miller, advocated for the illegal suspension of fundamental civil liberties as the Administration considered suspending habeas corpus rights and invoking the Insurrection Act to suppress peaceful protests in Minneapolis.¹ In light of this disclosure, we demand that you immediately provide records and documents which outline a draft plan by senior members of the Administration to effectively subvert the Constitution on a massive scale.

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) agents have killed at least three American citizens: Renee Good, Alex Pretti, and Ruben Ray Martinez.² Hundreds of U.S. citizens, among them journalists and legal observers, have been unlawfully detained and attacked as part of the recent DHS operations.³ Federal judges have ruled—more than 10,000 times—that individual ICE detentions were illegal, roughly 90% of all cases in which a detainee challenged their

¹ *Frustrated by Courts, Trump Weighed Suspending a Constitutional Right*, New York Times (June 15, 2026) (online at <https://nytimes.com/2026/06/15/us/politics/trump-scharf-habeas-corpus-insurrection-act.html>).

² *DHS Keeps Making False Claims About People. It's Part of a Broader Pattern*, NPR (Jan. 31, 2026) (online at <https://npr.org/2026/01/31/nx-s1-5690124/ice-alex-pretti-immigration-unproven-claims-dhs-enforcement-arrests>); Democratic Staff, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, *Operation Metro Surge: How Federal Enforcement Led to the Killings of Renee Good and Alex Pretti*, (Feb. 3, 2026) (online at https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/imo/media/doc/mn_oversight_report.pdf).

³ *We Found That More Than 170 U.S. Citizens Have Been Held by Immigration Agents. They've Been Kicked, Dragged and Detained for Days*, ProPublica (Oct. 16, 2025) (online at <https://propublica.org/article/immigration-dhs-american-citizens-arrested-detained-against-will>).

detention under President Trump's aggressive mass deportation agenda.⁴ On June 15, 2026, the *New York Times* revealed that in early 2025, Deputy White House Chief of Staff Stephen Miller pushed the idea of suspending habeas corpus for undocumented immigrants to bypass judges on deportation cases. In a meeting following Alex Pretti's killing, Vice President Vance and Deputy Chief Miller advocated for invoking the Insurrection Act to deploy military forces against American citizens protesting the deportation sweeps.⁵

Stephen Miller's purported efforts to suspend habeas corpus threaten our constitution and Americans' civil rights. The right of habeas corpus has been enshrined since the beginning of the republic.⁶ Habeas corpus is a fundamental aspect of due process, allowing people in the United States to contest the basis of their detention. Without it, hundreds of immigrants, lawful residents, and US citizens detained since January 2025 would be deprived of a key legal tool to defend themselves against arbitrary, violent, and racially profiled ICE arrests. The writ of habeas corpus may only be suspended by an act of Congress during times of "Rebellion or Invasion," not by a President during times of peace.⁷ A President declaring a suspension of the writ without authorization from Congress would be undoubtedly illegal. The *New York Times* article reveals that, by trying to limit habeas corpus, forces within the Trump Administration attempted to prevent people from challenging illegal detentions or receiving hearings, allowing ICE to conduct arbitrary arrests and deportations with impunity.

Vice President Vance and Deputy White House Chief of Staff Miller urged to invoke the Insurrection Act amid widespread peaceful protests against federal violence and the killings of two residents in Minneapolis, which would have turned the men and women of our military against the American people they are sworn to protect. The Insurrection Act is designed to counter armed uprisings or serious civil disorder, neither of which was present in Minnesota at the time of the reported conversations.⁸ At no point did the Minnesota state legislature or governor request assistance from the Trump Administration to suppress an insurrection, as would be required under federal law.⁹ The Trump Administration's lawlessness had already killed and injured dozens of American citizens at that point; deploying the National Guard to Minnesota risked elevating the death toll, fueling political violence, and sowing fear among Americans exercising their right to protest.¹⁰ Rather than the isolated efforts of two rogue officials, President

⁴ *10,000 rulings: The Courts' Overwhelming Rebuke of Trump's ICE Policies*, Politico (May 13, 2026) (online at www.politico.com/news/2026/05/13/10k-rulings-ice-mandatory-detention-trump-analysis-00914195).

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ *What Is Habeas Corpus, the Basic Right That Trump Officials Have Discussed Suspending?*, New York Times (June 15, 2026) (online at <https://nytimes.com/2026/06/15/us/politics/trump-scharf-habeas-corpus-insurrection-act.html>).

⁷ See U.S. Const. art. I, § 9.

⁸ See 10 U.S.C. § 251.

⁹ *Id.*; see *The Latest from Minnesota After Trump Threatened to Invoke the Insurrection Act*, NPR (Jan. 18, 2026) (online at www.npr.org/2026/01/18/nx-s1-5680362/the-latest-from-minnesota-after-trump-threatened-to-invoke-the-insurrection-act).

¹⁰ Democratic Staff, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, *Operation Metro Surge: How Federal Enforcement Led to the Killings of Renee Good and Alex Pretti* (Feb. 3, 2026) (online at https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/imo/media/doc/mn_oversight_report.pdf).

Trump's repeated interest in suspending habeas corpus and invoking the Insurrection Act indicates a broader effort to use false narratives to justify violent, authoritarian measures against the American people.¹¹

To facilitate the Committee's investigation into the Administration's actions against our constitutional rights, we request the following documents and information by July 1, 2026:

1. All memoranda regarding the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus and all memoranda regarding the Insurrection Act, as well as any documents, records, and communications regarding the invocation of the Insurrection Act or the suspension of habeas corpus;
2. All documents, records, and communications between Deputy Chief Stephen Miller or any other White House official and the Department of Justice regarding the suspension of habeas corpus during the American Civil War;
3. All records of the White House senior staff meeting in which Vice President Vance advocated invoking the Insurrection Act; and
4. The names and titles of all Trump Administration officials that advocated for invoking the Insurrection Act and/or suspending habeas corpus.

Please confirm that the White House and Department of Justice will immediately preserve all documents, communications, and other materials relevant to the matters described above and provide a detailed catalog of all preserved records.

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate "any matter" at "any time" under House Rule X. If you have any questions about this request, please contact Committee Democratic staff at (202) 225-5051. Thank you for your prompt attention to this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Garcia", written over a horizontal line.

Robert Garcia
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable James Comer, Chairman

¹¹ *Trump Officials Consider Suspending Habeas Corpus for Detained Migrants*, New York Times (May 9, 2025) (online at <https://nytimes.com/2025/05/09/us/trump-habeas-corpus.html>).