

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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<https://oversight.house.gov>

June 13, 2025

The Honorable James Comer  
Chairman  
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Comer,

We write to urge the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform to demand sworn testimony from Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem to address the violent detention of California Senator Alex Padilla. If she does not agree to appear before the Committee immediately, we urge you to take the bipartisan action that the gravity of this matter warrants and issue a subpoena to compel such testimony.

Yesterday we were disturbed to witness another shocking escalation of executive overreach by the Trump Administration. While attempting to ask a question at a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) press conference in Los Angeles, multiple videos show several seemingly unidentified plainclothes men whom we assume to be DHS agents violently push and pull Senator Padilla out of the room where the press conference was being held. Once outside of the room, video shows agents—in this case, wearing FBI insignia—roughly push Senator Padilla to the ground in the hallway, twist his arms behind his back, and handcuff him.

According to a statement released by his office, Senator Padilla was performing “Congressional oversight of the federal government’s operations in Los Angeles and across California” when he was assaulted.<sup>1</sup> DHS claims that the Senator attempted to ask his question “without identifying himself or having his Senate security pin on,” which suggests that the Trump Administration believes it would have been justified to forcibly remove, wrestle to the ground, and handcuff any other American citizen for questioning the Trump Administration’s policies.<sup>2</sup> DHS’s claim is also directly contradicted by video footage of the assault, during which the Senator can be heard clearly identifying himself.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Jake Sherman (@JakeSherman), X (June 12, 2025) (online at <https://x.com/JakeSherman/status/1933234875517304883>).

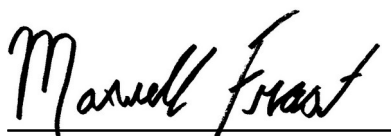
<sup>2</sup> Department of Homeland Security (@DHSgov), X (June 12, 2025) (online at <https://x.com/DHSgov/status/1933236707060822447>).

<sup>3</sup> *Sen. Alex Padilla is forcibly removed from DHS Secretary Kristi Noem's news conference in Los Angeles*, NBC (June 12, 2025) (online at <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/congress/sen-alex-padilla-forcibly-removed-dhs->

This shocking encounter adds to a litany of alarming moves by the Trump Administration to seize and abuse power, including by turning the military on the American people. The Trump Administration has mobilized the military to the streets of an American city, and any other city could be next. The Trump Administration has violently tackled, kneeled on, and handcuffed a sitting U.S. senator, and any other American could be next. The American people have questions, and we hope you will join us in bringing these dictatorial actions to account.

We request that you demand by June 14, 2025, that Secretary Noem appear before the Committee. If the Secretary does not commit by June 21, 2025, to such testimony, we urge you to issue a subpoena to compel her appearance before the Committee to answer to Congress and the American people.

Sincerely,



Maxwell Alejandro Frost  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Economic  
Growth, Energy Policy, and  
Regulatory Affairs



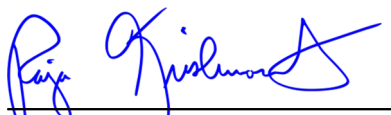
Stephen F. Lynch  
Acting Ranking Member



Summer L. Lee  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Federal  
Law Enforcement



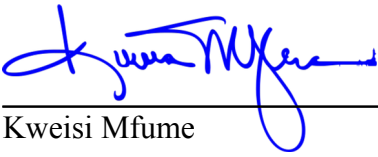
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Raja Krishnamoorthi  
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Kweisi Mfume  
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Shontel M. Brown  
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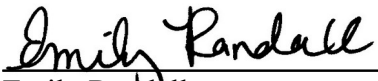
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