

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 30, 2026

Mr. Benjamine C. Huffman
Director
Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers
1131 Chapel Crossing Road
Brunswick, GA 31525

Mr. Thomas F. Huse
Chief Counsel
Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers
1131 Chapel Crossing Road
Brunswick, GA 31525

Dear Mr. Huffman and Mr. Huse:

We write to demand answers about the vetting and training of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers as we investigate the killing of Joan Sebastián Durán Guerrero on July 13, 2026, in Biddeford, Maine.¹ According to reports, the ICE officer who killed Mr. Durán Guerrero has a history of domestic violence and was recently hired during the surge in the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) hiring and subsequent new hire training program.² As we investigate the killings of unarmed individuals by ICE officers, we urgently request records, documents and information to identify critical failures in training programs as we demand accountability.

In February 2026, an ICE whistleblower provided testimony to our committees about the dangerous cuts made to the Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers's (FLETC) basic training for newly hired ICE personnel (the Academy).³ Vital classes were slashed, including courses on conducting lawful arrests, detentions, uses of force, and firearms training. FLETC also took steps to guarantee that every cadet would graduate: closed book multiple choice exams became open book, most practical exams were cut, and the remaining ones became ungraded.⁴ These cuts

¹ *What We Know About the 25-Year-Old Father from Colombia Who Was Fatally Shot by an ICE Officer in Maine*, CNN (July 15, 2026) (online at <https://www.cnn.com/2026/07/15/us/joan-sebastian-guerrero-ice-shooting-maine>).

² *The Shooter in Maine Was a New ICE Recruit*, The Atlantic (July 14, 2026) (online at <https://theatlantic.com/politics/2026/07/ice-vehicle-shooting-maine-dhs/687912/>); *ICE Agent Who Fatally Shot a Man in Maine Has a History of Violence, Ex-Wife Says*, NPR (July 17, 2026) (online at <https://npr.org/2026/07/17/nx-s1-5896505/ice-agent-who-fatally-shot-a-man-in-maine-has-a-history-of-violence-ex-wife-says>).

³ Whistleblower Aid, *Press Release: ICE Whistleblower, Speaking Publicly for First Time, Says ICE Violates the Law with Dangerously Shortened Training* (Feb. 23, 2026) (online at <https://whistlebloweraid.org/ice-whistleblower-speaking-publicly-for-first-time-says-ice-violates-the-law-with-dangerously-shortened-training/>)

⁴ Democrats, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and Democrats, Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigation, Testimony of Ryan Schwank, *Our Values at Stake (Part III): Terrorizing*

occurred when FLETC launched a surge in hiring, which led to a training initiative in August 2025 to quickly train more than 12,000 new ICE officers and agents.⁵ Recruits without a background in law enforcement attended a 240-hour (42-day) training program, reduced from a full 584-hour training program.⁶ Meanwhile, recruits with any background in law enforcement received nothing more than a four-week online course.⁷

The ICE officer who killed Mr. Durán Guerrero was reportedly hired late last year during the surge, raising concerns that he was deployed without sufficient vetting or training. Those concerns have merit, as reports from his ex-wives, family court records, and a contemporaneous voicemail paint the picture of a violent, alleged serial abuser with a years-long record of allegations of physical and verbal abuse against his two ex-wives and daughters.⁸ Insufficient vetting also failed to flag open questions as to the officer's credibility.⁹ In October 2025, a Maine District Court Judge denied the officer's request to terminate child support payments to a former wife finding his claims of health issues and a revoked driver's license not credible. Incredulously, the officer claimed his driver's license had been revoked despite state records to the contrary. Elsewhere, the officer claimed to have a job working for the police department of Hallowell, a city in Maine. That claim was denied by Hallowell's Police Chief.¹⁰ Whether the ICE officer was rushed through the Academy or was "trained" by a computer screen during the virtual course, the officer who killed Mr. Durán Guerrero was somehow cleared for duty by your operation.

Communities Without Warrants and No Restraint (Feb. 23, 2026) (online at https://youtube.com/watch?v=t1Y-8_gTcPo&t=116s).

⁵ Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers, *Press Release: Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers (FLETC) Clarifies Training Operations Amid Surge Support for ICE* (Aug. 28, 2025) (online at <https://fletc.gov/federal-law-enforcement-training-centers-fletc-clarifies-training-operations-amid-surge-support-ice>); U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, *Press Release: ICE Announces Historic 120% Manpower Increase Thanks To Recruitment Campaign That Brought In 12,000 Officers And Agents* (Jan. 3, 2026) (online at <https://ice.gov/news/releases/ice-announces-historic-120-manpower-increase-thanks-recruitment-campaign-brought>).

⁶ Democrats, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and Democrats, Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigation, Written Testimony of Ryan Schwank, *Our Values at Stake (Part III): Terrorizing Communities Without Warrants and No Restraint* (Feb. 23, 2026) (online at https://blumenthal.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/2026-2-23_ryan_schwank_statement.pdf).

⁷ In correspondence with Congressional committees, ICE referred to the virtual training as the "Virtual Deportation Officer Training," however, news reports refer to it as the "Law Enforcement Officer Training." See *ICE Error Meant Some Recruits Were Sent into Field Offices Without Proper Training, Sources Say*, NBC News (Jan. 14, 2026) (online at <https://nbcnews.com/politics/immigration/ice-error-meant-recruits-sent-field-offices-proper-training-sources-sa-rna254054>).

⁸ *AP Exclusive: ICE Officer in Maine Shooting Has History of Violent Behavior, Family and Records Say*, AP News (July 17, 2026) (online at <https://apnews.com/article/ice-david-brouillette-johan-guerrero-maine-shooting-dbc30d6d59e2a95fb470afc188e125c6>).

⁹ *ICE Officer Linked to Maine Shooting Was Deemed Not Credible in Court Last Year*, Washington Post, (July 24, 2026) (online at www.washingtonpost.com/immigration/2026/07/24/ice-officer-linked-maine-shooting-was-deemed-not-credible-court-last-year/).

¹⁰ *Id.*

In June 2026, DHS Secretary Mullin testified to Congress that FLETC would return to “regular standards.”¹¹ Reporting also indicated that new recruits would receive additional training while in the field.¹² Given DHS’s pattern of false public statements,¹³ we need proof that changes were actually implemented.¹⁴ It appears that most of the 12,000 new recruits hired by the Trump Administration have already graduated from the dangerously deficient program, with a majority never stepping foot in an actual classroom and instead simply taking an online course.¹⁵

The ICE whistleblower testified to our committees that “[d]eficient training can and will get people killed.”¹⁶ It was only a matter of time before this country saw his prediction come true, and now a three-year-old child is without her father. The dangers inherent in the deployment of untrained and unqualified officers and agents to the streets demand oversight, accountability, and reform. We request that you immediately provide the staff of our committees with a briefing on the current status of the training programs.

The killing of innocent people by DHS personnel is a horrific tragedy and a disaster. The killings of Mr. Durán Guerrero, Mr. Lorenzo Salgado Araujo, Mr. Alex Jeffrey Pretti, Ms. Renée Nicole Good, Mr. Keith Porter Jr., Mr. Silverio Villegas-González, and Mr. Ruben Ray Martinez have all occurred within the context of the Trump Administration’s efforts to systematically weaken training, safeguards, oversight, and accountability mechanisms. These efforts, which stemmed from the highest level of the Trump Administration, have sent a clear message to DHS

¹¹ *Mullin Says ICE Training Going Back to “Regular Standards”*, New York Times (June 3, 2026) (online at <https://nytimes.com/2026/06/03/us/politics/mullin-ice-training.html>).

¹² *ICE Mandates Additional Training for New Hires After Backlash*, CBS News (June 10, 2026) (online at <https://cbsnews.com/news/ice-training-new-hires-backlash/>).

¹³ See, e.g. *DHS Keeps Making False Claims About People. It’s Part of a Broader Pattern*, NPR (Jan. 31, 2026) (online at www.npr.org/2026/01/31/nx-s1-5690124/ice-alex-pretti-immigration-unproven-claims-dhs-enforcement-arrests) (noting that DHS agents claimed Marimar Martinez was a domestic terrorist before federal prosecutors dropped all charges against her; DHS made unsupported allegations against Alex Pretti and Renee Good in the wake of their murders; and DHS accused George Retes of assaulting officers despite video evidence to the contrary).

¹⁴ *Ex-ICE Instructor Testifies That Agency Slashed Officer Training, Lied to Congress*, Washington Post (Feb. 23, 2026) (online at <https://washingtonpost.com/immigration/2026/02/23/former-ice-instructor-says-agency-slashed-training-new-officers/>).

¹⁵ Email attachment from Immigration and Customs Enforcement to Congressional staff, *ICE Responses to Get backs from Monthly Authorizers’ Calls: November 2025 & December 2025* (Apr. 21, 2026) (on file with the Committees). Based on information provided to Congress by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in April 2026: 7,792 of the 11,006 new recruits “have completed training requirements and are fully operational” with another 973 “in residence.” In addition, it appears that the majority of these new recruits—5,423—did not attend the Academy but instead participated in just 4-weeks of virtual training.

¹⁶ Democrats, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and Democrats, Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigation, Written Testimony of Ryan Schwank, *Our Values at Stake (Part III): Terrorizing Communities Without Warrants and No Restraint* (Feb. 23, 2026) (online at https://blumenthal.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/2026-2-23_ryan_schwank_statement.pdf).

officers and agents: that they are free to operate with impunity.¹⁷ There must be accountability for all those responsible.

Please provide written answers to the following questions by August 13, 2026:

1. Did the officer who shot and killed Mr. Durán Guerrero graduate from the 240-hour training program at the Academy or from the four-week online Virtual Deportation Officer Training Program?
 - a. Was the officer's background check completed prior to him entering or graduating from training?
2. Is FLETC continuing to administer the four-week online Virtual Deportation Officer Training Program?
3. For the Virtual Deportation Officer Training, please provide how many Enforcement and Removal Officer (ERO) officers and Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) agents have:
 - a. Entered the online training program;
 - b. Completed the online training program;
 - c. Been removed from the online training program due to an inability to meet the eligibility requirements, e.g., background checks, academic requirements, or fitness standard;
 - d. Been removed from the online training program due to an artificial intelligence screening error;¹⁸ and
 - e. Failed to graduate due to not passing the online training program.

¹⁷ *Gutting of Key US Watchdog Could Pave Way for Grave Immigration Abuses, Experts Warn*, The Guardian (Nov. 30, 2025) (online at <https://theguardian.com/us-news/2025/nov/30/us-watchdog-human-rights-department-homeland-security>); *The Death of Renee Good Has Yet to Be Properly Investigated*, The Atlantic (July 6, 2026) (online at <https://theatlantic.com/ideas/2026/07/alex-preti-renee-good-accountability/687792/>); *Federal Agents Were Told F.B.I. Will No Longer Investigate ICE Confrontations*, New York Times (July 19, 2026) (online at <https://nytimes.com/2026/07/19/us/politics/fbi-ice-agents-investigations-shootings.html>); *Who Can Hold ICE Accountable?* The Atlantic (July 9, 2026) (online at <https://theatlantic.com/podcasts/2026/07/who-can-hold-ice-accountable/687853/>); *DOJ's Alex Pretti Shooting Probe Excludes Prosecutors Who Specialize in Civil Rights Cases, Sources Say*, CBS News (Mar. 10, 2026) (online at www.cbsnews.com/amp/news/doj-civil-rights-division-career-prosecutors-alex-pretti/); *ICE Says Relaxed Detention Standards "Reduce The Burden" on Contractors Running Its Lockups*, AP News (June 16, 2026) (online at <https://apnews.com/article/ice-detention-standards-conditions-immigration-detainees-5f87c9e1099cc70718a2a7f39fb7f9ff>).

¹⁸ *ICE Error Meant Some Recruits Were Sent into Field Offices Without Proper Training, Sources Say*, NBC News (Jan. 14, 2026) (online at <https://nbcnews.com/politics/immigration/ice-error-meant-recruits-sent-field-offices-proper-training-sources-sa-rcna254054>).

4. For the 240-hour training program at the Academy, please provide the number of ERO officers and HSI agents who:
 - a. Entered the training program;
 - b. Completed the training program;
 - c. Were removed from the program due to an inability to meet the eligibility requirements, e.g., background checks, academic requirements, or fitness standards; and
 - d. Failed to graduate due to not passing required courses.
5. Please describe the Advanced Field Officer Training Program, including the course curriculum and length.

In addition to answering the above, please provide the following documents by August 13, 2026:

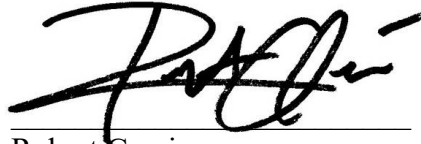
1. All training records, including testing and evaluation results and instructor feedback, for the ICE Officer who shot and killed Mr. Durán Guerrero.
2. All records, including memoranda, notes, interview summaries, and investigative reports, related to the background investigation of the ICE Officer who shot and killed Mr. Durán Guerrero.
3. Since 2020, all versions of matrices tracking curriculum to training requirements, including for the new July 1, 2026, curriculum.
4. Since 2020, all versions of the Academy training curricula, lesson plans, and exams, including for the new July 1, 2026, curriculum.
5. Since January 20, 2025, all records regarding changes to the curricula, exams, and exam proctoring of the Academy, including for the new July 1, 2026, curriculum.
6. Since January 20, 2025, all versions of the curricula, lesson plans, and exams used in FLETC's four-week Virtual Deportation Officer Training Program.
7. Since January 20, 2025, all versions of the curricula, lesson plans, and exams used in the Advanced Field Officer Training Program.

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. The Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations (“the Subcommittee”) is authorized to conduct an inquiry pursuant to Senate Rule XXV of the

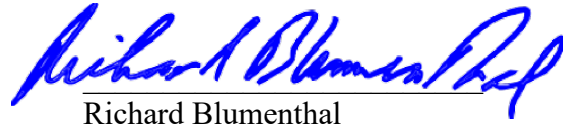
Mr. Benjamine C. Huffman and Mr. Thomas F. Huse
Page 6

Standing Rules of the Senate and Senate Resolution 94 (119th Cong.), Section 12. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Robert Garcia
Ranking Member
House Committee on Oversight
and Government Reform



Richard Blumenthal
Ranking Member
Senate Permanent Subcommittee on
Investigations

cc: The Honorable James Comer, Chairman
House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

The Honorable Ron Johnson, Chairman
Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

The Honorable Markwayne Mullin, Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security