

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 23, 2026

The Honorable Kristi Noem
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr Ave SE
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Noem,

I write with great concern regarding unprecedented obstruction and partisanship that has caused the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to be closed since February 14, 2026. Since then, congressional Democrats have voted to fund all Department of Homeland Security (DHS) component agencies, including the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), except Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP)--giving both parties more time to negotiate ICE reforms following the killing of two U.S. citizens. Additionally, President Trump reportedly rejected Senate Majority Leader John Thune's attempts to reopen TSA and other vital DHS agencies and programs with the exception of ICE—playing partisan politics with Americans' safety.¹ Delays in our country's airports caused by this shutdown are reaching crisis levels, including at Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport (PHX), and the deployment of ICE agents to major airports across the country is fueling further chaos.

To better assess the situation and ensure the American public understands the consequences of President Trump's unwillingness to re-open TSA, I request that you immediately supply the following information:

1. The number of TSA officers who have resigned or separated from PHX since February 14, 2026;
2. The current authorized staffing level at PHX;
3. The current staffing level at PHX;
4. The number of officers on approved leave at PHX, broken down by week since February 14, 2026;
5. The number of officers who have called out at PHX, broken down by week since February 14, 2026;
6. The number of officers who have not showed up to work without prior notification, broken down by week since February 14, 2026;
7. The number of current officers at PHX with over three years of experience;
8. The daily callout rates at PHX since February 14, 2026, by week;
9. The average security wait times at PHX before the lapse of appropriations versus during the lapse of appropriations (broken down by checkpoint);
10. The number of days PHX exceeded the 10% callout threshold since February 14, 2026

¹ Sahil Kapur, Ryan Nobles, Julie Tsirkin, "Trump rejects off-ramp to fund DHS as airport delays worsen," NBC News, March 23, 2026. <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/donald-trump/trump-rejects-ramp-fund-dhs-airport-delays-worsen-except-ice-rcna264724>.

11. The number of flights delayed or missed connections attributable to TSA staffing issues at PHX since February 14, 2026; and
12. The total unpaid wages owed to PHX-based TSA officers to date.

Additionally, I request the following information regarding the deployment of ICE agents to PHX:

1. How many ICE agents and other personnel have been deployed to PHX?
2. How many total ICE agents and other personnel does DHS plan to deploy to PHX as part of this mission?
3. How long are these deployments expected to last?
4. What are the assigned duties and directives for these agents?
5. What training have these agents completed that makes them qualified to assist TSA agents?
6. Are the agents authorized or expected to conduct immigration enforcement activities?
7. What is the chain of command for ICE agents operating at PHX?
8. What guidance, policies, and procedures are in place for ICE agents assisting TSA personnel regarding use-of-force and interacting with protestors or other members of the public exercising their First Amendment rights?

Please respond to the above questions by Friday, March 27, 2026. The American people deserve to understand how President Trump's obstruction and partisan politics is making their lives more difficult and putting them in harm's way. I look forward to a prompt response.

Sincerely,



Ruben Gallego

United States Senator