

EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER
FIRST DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1001

WASHINGTON OFFICE
2432 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-5831

SAVANNAH OFFICE
6602 ABERCORN STREET, SUITE 105B
SAVANNAH, GA 31405
(912) 352-0101

BRUNSWICK OFFICE
777 GLOUCESTER STREET, SUITE 410
BRUNSWICK, GA 31520
(912) 265-9010

<http://BuddyCarter.House.gov>

November 20, 2025

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

Mr. Todd M. Lyons
Acting Director
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
500 12th St SW
Washington, D.C. 20536

Dear Secretary Noem and Acting Director Lyons:

I am writing to respectfully urge the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to increase federal law enforcement resources in Atlanta, Georgia, to protect citizens against record levels of illegal immigrants and to confront safety concerns.

Thanks to the leadership of President Trump and the tireless efforts of your departments, our southern border remains secure, with apprehensions at their lowest level in fifty years.¹ While this represents a landmark achievement for our country, significant work remains, especially in the state of Georgia. According to one report, nearly 500,000 illegal aliens are living in Georgia.² That represents a 45% increase since 2018 in the number of people in Georgia living in open defiance of the law.³ Every single person who is here illegally has broken the law and must be treated accordingly; anything less invites a culture of not just mass illegal immigration, but mass crime.

Rising levels of illegal immigrants and increasing threats to public safety in Georgia highlight the urgent need for an enhanced ICE presence in Atlanta. Recently, ICE arrested Salvador Rodriguez-Mendoza, a criminal illegal alien from Mexico with an active arrest warrant for murder and two counts of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon by the Clayton County Sheriff's Office.⁴ Additionally, earlier this year in Atlanta, a mother of five children was brutally murdered by a criminal illegal alien from Honduras.⁵ Without the increased assistance of federal agents with local law enforcement, more of these criminals will be emboldened to commit crimes and will never face justice. Residents are clamoring for additional federal support, which would greatly assist state and local partners in maintaining public safety and ensuring that immigration laws are properly upheld.

¹ [Sep '25 Border Brief](#)

² [Changing Origins, Rising Numbers: Unauthorized Immigrants in the United States](#)

³ [id](#)

⁴ <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2025/10/30/ice-arrests-two-criminal-illegal-alien-fugitive-murderers-same-day-georgia-and>

⁵ [Georgia: Illegal immigrant strangled mother of 5 to death](#)

By deploying more federal officers, DHS and ICE would provide crucial support to local and state partners. Increasing enforcement presence would help deter unlawful entry, disrupt illegal networks, and uphold the rule of law. A stronger federal role would also help prevent the very real public safety risks that criminals pose and restore confidence in the system designed to keep us safe.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your continued commitment to public safety and removing criminals from our streets. I look forward to working with your departments to make Georgia and our nation safer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Earl L. 'Buddy' Carter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress