



OCTOBER 8, 2026

**The Honorable Ned Lamont**  
Governor of Connecticut  
State Capitol, 210 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106

cc: Attorney General William Tong · State Attorney David R. Applegate · State Senate Majority Leader Bob Duff · State Senate Deputy Majority Leader Matt Lesser · State Senator Gary Winfield · House Speaker Matt Ritter · House Majority Leader Jason Rojas · State Representative Steve Stafstrom · State Representative Jillian Gilchrest · Norwalk Delegation of the Connecticut General Assembly

Dear Governor Lamont,

Our state is experiencing a humanitarian crisis. Masked federal agents are taking people off Connecticut streets and moving them out of state within days, away from their families, out of reach of local lawyers who could represent them. Since May, Connecticut law has forbidden these agents to wear masks and required them to show their badges, and they have not complied. On September 23, masked agents arrested a man at the Meriden courthouse using a federal deportation warrant, not one signed by a judge, while court marshals cleared the room around them. Three quarters of the people ICE detained in Connecticut in 2025 had no criminal conviction. Parents have been taken at school bus stops in front of their children, traumatizing the children, who have gone to school with no idea where their parents have gone.

You signed the 2025 Trust Act expansion, House Bill 8004 and Public Act 26-14, which passed as Senate Bill 397. The accountability tools in PA 26-14, including the badge display and no-mask requirements noted above, and the right to sue for constitutional violations, took effect the day you signed it in May. And the restriction on arrests in protected areas took effect October 1. All these provisions allowed the state of Connecticut and individuals to hold ICE agents to account when they ignore these requirements and break our laws. None has been used. They stay unused for two reasons: no state body is recording what happens, and the person who was taken often has no lawyer.

Three requests follow, each within your authority and none requiring a special session. The appendix for each opens with our request, followed by why it matters, where it has been done, recommended steps, and estimated costs.

**01 FUND LEGAL REPRESENTATION FROM THE FEDERAL CUTS RESPONSE FUND** APPENDIX A

Propose \$25 million for immigration legal representation and direct emergency assistance for families destabilized by ICE arrest. Roughly \$262.5 million of the \$550 million reserve is unallocated, only the Governor may propose uses, and \$5 million was allocated in July 2026 for residents who lost Temporary Protected Status.

**02 BUILD THE STATEWIDE RESPONSE SYSTEM CONNECTICUT DOESN'T HAVE** APPENDIX B

Direct an executive branch agency to build a statewide system that receives reports, tracks incidents, connects families to resources, and publicly reports aggregate data. Back statutory

authority in 2027. A hotline and an oversight board were written into Connecticut's 2025 Trust Act expansion and stripped before passage.

**03 DIRECT THE STATE POLICE TO DOCUMENT AND REFER** APPENDIX C

Require the State Police to document alleged violations by any law enforcement officer operating in Connecticut and refer them to the Attorney General and the Inspector General. Both have enforcement authority under Public Act 26-14 but cannot use it on conduct the state never documented.

The first step in each of these is yours alone, and none of them waits for the legislature to return in January.

We would welcome a meeting with your office.

Sincerely,

**GOOD TROUBLE INDIVISIBLE NORWALK**

goodtroublenorwalk.org · goodtroublenorwalk@gmail.com

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**CO-SIGNED BY**

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Bridgeport Generation Now, Bridgeport, CT  
Greater New Haven Indivisible, New Haven, CT  
Vecinos Seguros 2, Sharon, CT  
Indivisible Small & Mighty, Somers, CT  
Make Voting Easy CT, Glastonbury, CT  
REBS Moving Forward, Redding, CT  
CT River Huddle Indivisible, Glastonbury, CT  
Indivisible Fairfield County, Fairfield County, CT  
Sharon Democratic Town Committee, Sharon, CT  
Unitarian Universalist Church in Meriden, Meriden, CT  
CT Against Mass Surveillance  
Connecticut Democratic Party AAPI Caucus  
Farmington Democratic Town Committee, Farmington, CT  
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New Haven Sunday Vigil for Peace and Justice, New Haven, CT  
Sasco River Center, Norwalk, CT  
Brookfield Votes, Brookfield, CT

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Extinction Rebellion SWCT, Easton, CT  
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Arleen Kline, Farmington, CT  
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Deb D'Arinzo, Norwalk, CT  
Hector Pachas, Norwalk, CT  
Eva Beau, Norwalk, CT  
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James Jeter, Hartford, CT  
Tamar Mays, Norwalk, CT  
Tony Bacigalupo, Norwalk, CT  
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Brook Manewal, Stamford, CT  
Debra Cohen, Wethersfield, CT  
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Michelle Sawyer, Stamford, CT  
Donna Grossman, Windsor, CT  
Maya Porrino, Westport, CT  
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Tracy Bowens, Hamden, CT  
David Campbell, Ridgefield, CT  
Lidia Velazquez, Norwalk, CT  
Cal Hasbrouck, Norwalk, CT  
Vicki Volper, Founder of ReSisters, Westport, CT  
Kelly Linder, Westport, CT  
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Abneris Correa, Norwalk, CT  
Tracy Barclay, UConn Student, Norwalk, CT  
Anna Forgione, Norwalk, CT  
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Beth Pachas, Norwalk, CT  
Alexander Francoeur, Norwalk, CT  
Jesse Friedman, Trumbull, CT  
Julie Kaye, Norwalk, CT  
Pam Blackwell, Norwalk, CT  
Marcia Formica, South Glastonbury, CT  
Karen Nemiah, Concerned CT Voter, Glastonbury, CT

## APPENDIX A

## FUND LEGAL REPRESENTATION AND FAMILY STABILITY

### WHAT WE ARE ASKING FOR

- A. **Propose \$25 million from the Federal Cuts Response Fund** for immigration legal representation and direct emergency assistance for families destabilized by an ICE arrest in Connecticut.
- B. **Route the funding through organizations already doing removal defense** rather than a new program, with a share reserved for the first days after a detention, when counsel matters most and is hardest to reach. Route family assistance through community organizations already serving these families (not through DSS or another state agency), so families without a Social Security number, or wary of government contact, aren't excluded or put at risk.
- C. **Publish how much is committed and to which organizations.**

### WHY IT MATTERS

As of May 2025, 26 percent of people with a pending Connecticut immigration case had a lawyer, the 17th lowest rate in the country. More than 42,000 cases sit before two judges, resolution runs near 500 days, and private representation starts around \$10,000. A family whose relative was detained on Monday has no realistic way to find counsel by Friday, and by then the person has often already been moved out of state. When an arrest happens, a household typically loses an income overnight, not just a person: those detained are often the family's primary earner, frequently leaving behind a partner and young children, including U.S. citizen kids. Organizations supporting these families are already seeing parents unable to make rent, buy groceries, or afford diapers within days, in a state where most working families live paycheck to paycheck. Direct cash assistance is the most effective way to keep a family stable, and it works only if the community organizations families already trust are the ones making the referrals.

### WHERE IT HAS BEEN DONE

Colorado, Massachusetts, Washington and California all fund immigration legal defense at the state level. Connecticut has done it once already: \$5 million from this same fund went in July 2026 to residents who lost Temporary Protected Status. California's Governor committed \$35 million this February to connect families to legal help and emergency resources through community networks rather than a new state office. Marin County, California, and Arlington County, Virginia, go further and pay direct cash assistance, \$2,000 to \$3,000 per household, to families of someone detained. Pasadena, California, appropriated \$100,000 for a similar fund routed through nonprofits rather than direct household grants.

### POTENTIAL STRATEGIES

- Propose the allocation. Only the Governor may propose uses of the fund.
- The six-member legislative panel has 24 hours to object. Democrats hold four of the six seats, and all four prior proposals passed without objection.
- Distribute through existing providers, on the model used for the Temporary Protected Status allocation. For family assistance, require that applicants be referred by a partner organization already serving them, rather than applying directly to a state office.
- Publish the recipient organizations and the amounts.

#### OUR ESTIMATE OF THE COST

\$25 million of roughly \$262.5 million still unallocated in a fund already appropriated. No legislative session and no new revenue.

## APPENDIX B

## A SYSTEM THAT TRACKS AND RESPONDS

### WHAT WE ARE ASKING FOR

- Direct an executive branch agency to build a statewide response system:** receive reports of alleged violations and their outcomes, connect affected families to legal and emergency resources, and publicly report aggregate data. This complements, rather than replaces, the rapid response networks already tracking ICE presence in real time; it is where a violation gets written down and referred once it's happened.
- Ensure the system is accessible.** Make it reachable by phone and online, in Spanish and Haitian Creole as well as English, and staffed seven days a week.
- Back statutory authority for the system in the 2027 session,** including a right to pre-arrange guardianship for children and the stronger location-based protections other states have passed.

### WHY IT MATTERS

Municipalities file six-month ICE-access reports with the Office of Policy and Management, and the state does publish them, but only for people already in custody, and on a lag: whatever happened in Danbury this August won't even be due to OPM until January 2027. When CT Mirror and Connecticut Public went looking last month, they found nine police departments had produced records of dozens of ICE requests since January 2025. Reporters found that because no state office was looking. Right now, real-time tracking exists only because volunteers built it: for example, CT Students for a Dream compiles arrest data from rapid response teams' video. The state has never done what a handful of unpaid volunteers already do.

You've told reporters you were working with state lawmakers, the National Governors Association and members of Congress to find out more about the arrests. Connecticut should not need Washington to tell it what happened in Danbury.

### WHERE IT HAS BEEN DONE

New York's Office for New Americans has run a multilingual hotline since 2012, in 200-plus languages, paired with a reporting form through the Attorney General's office for federal enforcement incidents specifically. Massachusetts built half of its reporting system by executive order: before its legislature passed a comprehensive statute in August, Governor Healey and Attorney General Campbell launched a statewide online portal to report alleged misconduct, barred new agreements deputizing local agencies for immigration enforcement, and kept ICE out of non-public state facilities. Oregon runs a hotline in English, Spanish and other languages, with annual reports to its legislature. Connecticut's own legislature drafted a version in 2025, as a violation hotline and an oversight board, and stripped both before passage.

### POTENTIAL STRATEGIES

- Assign the function to an existing agency by directive. No statute is needed to begin taking calls.
- Publish the number and the online form, and route them through school districts, hospitals and community organizations rather than only state channels.
- Report to the General Assembly annually, and back a 2027 bill putting the office and an oversight board in statute.

#### OUR ESTIMATE OF THE COST

A phone line, a case management system, and the staff to answer it.

## APPENDIX C

## DOCUMENT AND AUDIT

### WHAT WE ARE ASKING FOR

- A. **Document alleged violations** by any law enforcement officer operating in Connecticut, including federal officers, through the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection.
- B. **Refer completed records to the Attorney General and the Inspector General** on a fixed schedule.
- C. **Audit whether any state or municipal plate reader data has been queried for immigration purposes**, which Public Act 26-14 prohibits, and publish the result.

### WHY IT MATTERS

Connecticut has two ways to hold federal agents accountable directly, and a third that runs through Connecticut towns. The Inspector General can prosecute unauthorized use of deadly force, and residents can sue officials for constitutional violations (but not for a mask or badge violation alone, which only a prosecutor can charge). Separately, residents can sue a municipality that violates the Trust Act. All three need evidence the state gathered itself. Residents have filmed these encounters, and that footage is what's carried the story publicly. On September 23, video from Meriden courthouse showed masked agents making an arrest while judicial marshals ordered bystanders out; one woman was pepper-sprayed and another was taken away by ambulance after being pushed to the ground. The document ICE presented was a federal Warrant of Removal/Deportation, not a warrant signed by a judge, and the Judicial Branch itself said afterward it was still reviewing whether state law had been followed. That is a question the State Police could answer in real time if they were the ones writing it down. More broadly, the state itself has no official record of whether an agent showed ID as the law requires, or what legal authority (a warrant, or nothing) was cited for the arrest. We are not asking you to direct a prosecution. We are asking you to direct the State Police, who report to you, to write down what they see and hand it to the Attorney General.

### WHERE IT HAS BEEN DONE

Danbury's mayor has said CT's anti-mask law has 'no teeth.' But the state has power to fix this. Chicago's mayor gave its version teeth by order in February. Chicago police now record encounters with immigration agents on body cameras, note the names of the senior federal agents present, and route what they collect through a set channel. Chicago PD published that guidance in July. Cook County's State's Attorney then adopted a written procedure for charging federal agents, which was reviewed by the Illinois Attorney General's office.

On the plate reader audit there is a separate model: San Francisco found hundreds of unlawful searches of its own system only after it checked the query logs.

### POTENTIAL STRATEGIES

- Issue the directive to the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection. The authority already exists. It should cover any incident a trooper witnesses or responds to, and any report the department receives from a municipal department or from the public.
- Adopt a standard incident record: date, time, location, agency, badge numbers or their absence, video and witness statements, to a standard a prosecutor can use. Where a state trooper was not present, the record should note what was reported, by whom, and what the department did to corroborate it.

- Route completed records to the Attorney General and the Inspector General monthly, and log what happens to each.
- Request plate reader query logs from state/municipal systems, and publish a short public finding.
- Raise what happened in Meriden directly with the Chief Justice: judicial marshals cleared the courthouse while ICE made an arrest on the strength of a deportation warrant, not a judicial one. You don't control the Judicial branch, but it is your law they were testing.

OUR ESTIMATE OF THE COST

Staff time and a records request. No new authority and no legislation.