



TESTIMONY OF

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BEFORE

Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
United States Senate

ON

*“Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Request for the
Department of Homeland Security”*

June 2, 2026
Washington, DC

Introduction

Chairwoman Britt, Ranking Member Murphy, and Members of the Subcommittee:

I appreciate the opportunity to discuss the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS or the Department) Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 President's Budget. The Department has a vital mission to secure the Nation from the many threats we face while enhancing our resilience against the greatest risks. It is my honor to serve alongside the more than 275,000 men and women of DHS who work every day to carry out this mission: safeguarding the American people, our homeland, and our values with honor and integrity in cyberspace, air, land and sea. Our duties are wide-ranging, and our goal is clear—keep America safe. I thank the House for passing the Senate DHS funding bill to end the longest shutdown in U.S. Government history. I further urge the House to work expeditiously to enact a second reconciliation measure by June 1 to provide sustained funding to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the U.S. Border Patrol.

The President's Budget builds on the historic investments provided by the *Working Families Tax Cut Act* and advances President Trump's most critical priorities for DHS. It provides \$118.4 billion for DHS to secure the Nation's borders and enforce immigration laws; modernize the U.S. Coast Guard's force design, fleet and facilities; refocus cybersecurity work on protecting Federal networks and critical infrastructure; enhance Federal disaster response and recovery through effective emergency management; and bolster state and local capacity, enhancing their own ability to respond and recover or provide security at special events, such as the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics. The Budget provides \$63.0 billion in net discretionary funding, which is comprised of \$60.2 billion in non-defense funding and \$2.8 billion in defense funding, and includes \$1.7 billion in additional offsetting collections from the Passenger Security Fee gained from rededicating fee revenues previously diverted to deficit reduction back to TSA (not a fee increase). The FY 2027 President's Budget also includes \$28.4 billion for the Disaster Relief Fund Majors account.

Security, Enforcement, and Investigations

The FY 2027 Budget strengthens border security, bolsters immigration enforcement, begins TSA privatization, invests in the military workforce, and supports protective operations.

Under President Trump's leadership, and thanks to the tireless efforts of the men and women of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), America has the most secure border in our Nation's history. It is imperative that we build on the success of the last 15 months to deliver sustained border security and prosperity for our country. The CBP FY 2027 Budget of \$18.5 billion in net discretionary authority prioritizes investments in border security technology and assets, counternarcotics, and frontline operational needs. This funding, when combined with the funding provided by the *Working Families Tax Cut Act*, will enable CBP to fully implement the President's border security strategy. The Budget includes \$322 million for counter-drug technology and operations to disrupt transnational criminal organizations and interdict illicit narcotics at and between ports of entry. It invests \$243 million in Air and Marine Operations assets to enhance air and maritime domain awareness, support interdiction operations, and secure

the Homeland. The Budget also provides \$136 million in the Automated Commercial Environment (ACE) system to modernize trade processing and tariff revenue collection, accelerating full implementation by one year and strengthening economic security.

To protect American communities and ensure the integrity of the American immigration system, ICE personnel work around the clock. The President's Budget will allow DHS and ICE to continue and enhance our responsibility to enforce U.S. immigration law as enacted by Congress. The \$10.0 billion net discretionary request for ICE sustains funding for core enforcement, investigations, and removal operations. The Budget provides \$2.2 billion to maintain a base of 41,500 immigration detention beds, ensuring the ability to detain and remove individuals who violate U.S. immigration laws, while leveraging multi-year *Working Families Tax Cut Act* resources to enable activation of up to 100,000 single-adult detention beds and 30,000 family unit beds as operational requirements dictate. ICE has successfully hired over 10,000 Law Enforcement Officers and 1,243 attorneys through funding provided by the *Working Family Tax Cut Act*, exceeding an onboard workforce greater than 30,000 positions.

Under President Trump's vision for a Golden Age of Travel in America, the FY 2027 Budget includes a legislative proposal that will move all Category III and IV airports into the Screening Partnership Program and set the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) on the path to privatization. TSA is focused on modernization to create a secure, seamless, and hospitable traveler experience. The President's Budget advances a more cost-effective and efficient model at TSA, which emphasizes oversight, risk-based policy, and technology deployment while maintaining security standards. The Budget provides a total of \$11.7 billion for TSA and prioritizes security technology, improving passenger experience, optimizing operations, and strengthening privatized airport screening to meet evolving mission needs and increase efficiency. After accounting for offsetting fees and collections, the net discretionary request for FY 2027 is \$6.1 billion. Key initiatives include modernizing security systems, streamlining traveler processes, enabling real-time data sharing through cloud-based connectivity, and enhancing privatized screening programs, all in alignment with national security and operational priorities.

As a key member of both the Department of Homeland Security and the Joint Force, the Coast Guard is a vital instrument of national power, deterring threats, securing the flow of commerce, protecting the maritime transportation system which supports over \$4.6 trillion of U.S. economic activity, and responding to maritime emergencies. Under President Trump, we are restoring America's maritime dominance. While the *Working Families Tax Cut Act* made a significant \$24.6 billion investment in Coast Guard assets and infrastructure, the FY 2027 Budget adds critical funds to expand the Service by growing workforce capacity and readiness to meet emerging maritime threats. The President's Budget implements Force Design 2028, a bold roadmap designed to improve mission success to achieve three strategic outcomes: control, secure, and defend the U.S. border and maritime approaches; facilitate maritime commerce vital to U.S. economic prosperity; and successfully respond to maritime crises and contingencies. It funds workforce transformation by putting the Service on a path to grow military personnel, invests in new technology for maritime dominance, and overhauls support systems to ensure the

Coast Guard can defeat adversaries and protect the Homeland. The FY 2027 Budget continues the reversal of decades of underinvestment to transform the Service into a more agile, capable, and responsive fighting force.

The Secret Service is the global leader in protective operations, providing comprehensive security to our Nation's leaders, conducting intelligence investigations, and continuing to meet the mission in today's heightened threat environment. The Budget includes major investments to support the U.S. Secret Service by providing \$3.5 billion, including an additional \$36 million, to bolster protective operations, specialized support, and protective travel. The request builds upon the \$1.2 billion in multi-year *Working Families Tax Cut Act* investments to modernize technology and security systems, harden perimeters, and enhance threat detection and response capabilities. These funds are critical to meet increasing demands and to prepare for the 2028 Presidential Campaign and the 2028 Olympics and Paralympics.

Protection, Preparedness, Response, and Recovery

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) is the operational lead for reducing risk to the cyber and physical infrastructure of the United States, a mission that involves coordination with federal, state, and private sector partners. The Budget restores CISA to its original mission of securing cyberspace and protecting critical infrastructure. The \$2.5 billion request for CISA advances the Administration's objectives and funds critical positions within CISA to sustain mission readiness and operational effectiveness. It also invests in advanced cybersecurity tools under CISA's Continuous Diagnostics and Mitigation program to enhance security and visibility through comprehensive monitoring and reporting. Furthermore, the Budget eliminates redundant functions and non-statutory programs that do not align with the Administration's priorities. The FY 2027 Budget transfers many of the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office's current functions to CISA, including its policy, research and development, biosurveillance (including the National Biosurveillance Integration Center), and Federal assistance programs, such as Securing the Cities and BioWatch.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is taking active steps to strengthen its focus and mission to accelerate disaster response and recovery, empower local leadership, reduce federal taxpayer costs, and build a more resilient America. The FY 2027 Budget includes \$4.1 billion in net discretionary authority for FEMA. This funding, when combined with the historic funding provided by the *Working Families Tax Cut Act*, will enable FEMA to accomplish its mission. The Budget reflects FEMA's commitment to meeting public needs while using taxpayer resources efficiently and responsibly and advances Administration priorities by focusing on the agency's core mission: helping people before, during, and after disasters.

Research, Development, Training, and Services

The FY 2027 Budget invests in research and development efforts that deliver cutting-edge technology and mitigation strategies that strengthen threat awareness for DHS Components and partners in the Homeland Security Enterprise. The Budget also supports the Federal Law

Enforcement Training Centers (FLETC) as the Nation's premier law enforcement training provider.

The \$754 million request for the Science and Technology (S&T) Directorate funds Research and Development (R&D) activities that are critical to delivering cutting-edge technology, threat awareness, and mitigation strategies for DHS Components and Homeland Security Enterprise partners alike. R&D efforts focus on four key areas—Border Security and Immigration; Counter Terrorism and Threats; Cyber, Infrastructure, and National Resiliency; and Innovative Research and Foundational Tools.

The Budget includes \$418 million for FLETC in FY 2027. This funding, when combined with the historic funding provided by the *Working Families Tax Cut Act*, will enable FLETC to fully implement the President's border security strategy to defend the Homeland. The Budget continues training operations, to include salaries, support contracts, travel, supplies, and minor construction and maintenance; it also includes an increase for Basic Training. Additionally, the Budget provides much-needed expansion and renovation funding, including funding for phase one of the Cheltenham training facility's expansion and renovating dormitory buildings.

The mission of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is to effectively administer the U.S. immigration system with integrity, including strengthening national security safeguards, combatting fraud, and reinforcing quality and consistency in administering immigration benefits. The FY 2027 Budget for USCIS includes \$113 million in net discretionary authority to administer the E-Verify program and \$6.8 billion in mandatory budget authority for the Immigration Examinations Fee Account, H-1B Nonimmigrant Petitioner Account, EB-5 Integrity Fund, and Fraud Prevention and Detection Account.

Conclusion

The Department of Homeland Security will continue to evolve and rise to the challenges posed by an ever-changing threat landscape. It is a great privilege to represent and serve alongside the DHS workforce that has time and again demonstrated exceptional skill and an unwavering commitment to keeping our country safe.

The FY 2027 President's Budget strengthens border security and immigration enforcement initiatives and invests in critical areas while realigning operations to support Administration priorities and returning other mission sets to core functions. I am grateful to this Committee for your continued support and the opportunity to appear before you today. I look forward to working together and to answering your questions.