



## National Association of Hispanic Nurses Call to Action Regarding the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2026

**February 23, 2026 (Lexington, KY)** We extend our deepest condolences to the family, loved ones, colleagues, friends, and all those whose lives were touched by **Alex Jeffrey Pretti, RN**, who was killed on January 24, 2026. Mr. Pretti was an intensive care unit nurse whose life and career were defined by compassion, service, and unwavering dedication to veterans and patients in need.

We are deeply troubled by the events unfolding in Minnesota. Nursing advocacy extends far beyond the bedside. Each day, nurses work to build communities in which safety, health, and well-being are accessible to all. Guided by the **Nursing Code of Ethics**, which affirms the nurse's duty to protect human dignity, promote justice, and safeguard the health and safety of all people, our ethical principles inform both our care and our advocacy. In this moment of profound grief, we stand united.

The **National Association of Hispanic Nurses (NAHN)** is committed to advancing health equity in Hispanic communities and to leading, promoting, and advocating for the educational, professional, and leadership development of Hispanic nurses. Our mission is to honor and elevate the culture, compassion, and service of Hispanic nurses, who serve as a vital voice for health in communities across the nation.

These tragic and preventable losses of life raise serious concerns regarding the escalation of federal enforcement actions and the safety of civilians in our communities, including health care professionals who serve on the front lines every day.

As nurses committed to safety, dignity, and the protection of human life—and in accordance with the Nursing Code of Ethics, which calls on nurses to advocate for social justice, accountability, and the reduction of health inequities—we urge reconsideration of the **Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2026 (H.R. 7147)**. This legislation, currently before the U.S. Senate, proposes a significant increase in funding for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

NAHN opposes this legislation for two fundamental reasons.

**First**, a substantial portion of the proposed funding would be directed toward immigration enforcement agencies, including Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP). Expanding enforcement resources—particularly in light of recent fatal shootings captured on widely circulated video and witnessed by the public—underscores the urgent need for de-escalation, accountability, and clear operational safeguards. Without these protections, increased enforcement poses significant risks to community safety and public trust.

**Second**, the legislation fails to include adequate accountability and oversight mechanisms. The bill contains insufficient safeguards, transparency requirements, or enforceable standards to

ensure responsible conduct by DHS personnel, particularly within vulnerable and marginalized communities. Notably, it does not mandate independent investigations, reporting requirements, or protections tied to enforcement activities.

We must be clear: increasing funding for DHS without meaningful accountability does not enhance safety in our workplaces, our communities, or the environments in which patients receive care.

Nurses nationwide are already facing escalating violence in both clinical and community settings. The Nursing Code of Ethics affirms that nurses have an obligation to protect patients, colleagues, and themselves from harm and to address conditions that threaten safety and well-being. The killing of Alex Pretti, RN, who was protecting others during a violent incident, was not an isolated tragedy, but a stark reminder of the growing risks faced by nurses as they fulfill their ethical duties to serve the public.

Alex Pretti's courage reflects the highest ideals of the nursing profession. His death underscores the urgent need for collective action and responsible policymaking.

Therefore, NAHN respectfully urges Congress to consider the following actions:

1. **Authorize a full, independent, and transparent investigation** into the killing of Nurse Alex Jeffrey Pretti.
2. **Restrict ICE's interior enforcement operations in cities** to criminal investigations and the arrest of individuals credibly suspected of serious violent offenses or trafficking-related crimes.
3. **Establish clear restrictions on civil immigration enforcement activities**—including sweeps and collateral arrests—in crowded civilian settings and in or near hospitals, schools, protest sites, places of worship, and other designated sensitive locations.
4. **Implement and enforce safeguards to prevent racial profiling and discriminatory enforcement practices of Black, Brown, Indigenous, and immigrant communities**, and prohibit the wrongful arrest, detention, or deportation or death of U.S. citizens and individuals with lawful immigration status or recognized pathways to citizenship.
5. **Require full public disclosure, consistent with applicable law**, of all body-worn camera and surveillance footage related to these incidents.
6. **Review and end enforcement metrics or quotas** that may incentivize disproportionate or non-risk-based targeting of marginalized or vulnerable communities.

As nurses, we are bound by the Nursing Code of Ethics to protect life, uphold dignity, and advocate for justice. Silence is not an option. NAHN will continue to stand with our communities and call for policies that prioritize safety, accountability, and human rights for all.

## References:

American Nurses Association. (2025). Code of ethics for nurses.  
<https://codeofethics.ana.org/provisions>

Cole, T. (2026). Appropriations: Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2026.

<https://appropriations.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/republicans-appropriations.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/final-fy26-homeland-security-minibus-4-summary.pdf>

Department of Homeland Security appropriations Act, 2026, H.R. 7147, 119<sup>th</sup> Cong. (2026).  
<https://www.congress.gov/bills/119/congress-house/bills/7147/text>

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**About the National Association of Hispanic Nurses**

Since 1975, NAHN has been the nation's leading professional society for Latino nurses. With a growing membership of more than 40 local chapters, NAHN represents the voices of over 220,000 Latino nurses throughout the United States. NAHN is devoted to promoting safe, quality health care delivery to Latino communities and recognizing excellence among Latino nurses. To learn more, visit [www.nahnnet.org](http://www.nahnnet.org).

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