Jewish Democratic Council of America

January 28, 2026

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate
United States Senate SD-511
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives
H–232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives
2267 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Leader Thune, Leader Schumer, Speaker Johnson, and Leader Jeffries:

We write as Jewish organizers and Jewish state caucuses to express our profound grief and alarm following the shootings of Renee Good and Alex Pretti during Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) operations in Minneapolis. Our hearts are with their families, loved ones, and neighbors as they mourn this tragic and deeply unjust loss.

The shootings of Renee Good and Alex Pretti raise deep and serious questions about ICE operations throughout the country, and we urge Congress to conduct investigations into their deaths as well as meaningful oversight over ICE, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and any other agencies putting armed federal agents in local communities.

The use of lethal force by federal agents in these situations is unconscionable and demands immediate accountability. Regardless of one's views on immigration policy, no enforcement action should result in the loss of innocent life. Our Jewish tradition affirms that every person is created *b'tzelem Elokim*, in the image of God, and that preserving life is a paramount value. Deaths like these should never be trivialized and must be taken seriously by members of both parties.

As Jews, we are called on to protect the stranger, because we know all too well what it is like to be a stranger in a strange land. For many immigrant families and communities, this incident has reinforced a growing sense of fear and unease caused by aggressive and allegedly unlawful enforcement tactics carried out in residential neighborhoods.

This preventable tragedy underscores the urgent need for robust oversight of federal immigration enforcement. We call on Congress to fulfill its constitutional responsibilities by conducting rigorous oversight of ICE and DHS, demanding clear answers about what occurred in Minneapolis, and taking concrete steps to prevent further harm. Independent, transparent investigations are essential, as is accountability for any officials whose actions, policies, or rhetoric contributed to this loss of life.

Furthermore, at a time of national tension and grief, leaders at every level have a responsibility to de-escalate fear and division, not inflame it through misinformation. Rhetoric that exploits anxiety or targets vulnerable communities only deepens harm and makes tragedies like this more likely, not less. Rhetoric that distorts facts or misinforms the public must be investigated, and we urge Congress to conduct oversight over administration officials who actively engage in such misinformation and take appropriate action to curb and punish such behavior.

Signed,

Jewish Democratic Council of America (JDCA)

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California Jewish Democrats

DFL Jewish Community Outreach Organization

Florida Jewish Democrats

Michigan Democratic Jewish Caucus

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