

COALITION OF MINNESOTA MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

February 5, 2026

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
U.S. Senate
425 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Betty McCollum
U.S. House of Representatives
2426 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tina Smith
U.S. Senate
720 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ilhan Omar
U.S. House of Representatives
1730 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Brad Finstad
U.S. House of Representatives
2418 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Emmer
U.S. House of Representatives
326 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Angie Craig
U.S. House of Representatives
2052 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Michelle Fischbach
U.S. House of Representatives
2229 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kelly Morrison, MD
U.S. House of Representatives
1205 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Pete Stauber
U.S. House of Representatives
145 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Urgent Action Needed to Protect the Health of Minnesotans

Dear Members of Minnesota's Congressional Delegation,

On behalf of the undersigned Minnesota medical professional societies, representing more than 15,000 Minnesota physicians and the patients they serve, we urge Congress to act promptly to protect the health and safety of detained individuals as well as the health of our communities in the face of current immigration enforcement tactics. Specifically, **as a condition of ongoing funding for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), we urge incorporation of provisions to restrict Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) activities in or near healthcare facilities and other sensitive locations, and to**

hold the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) accountable for ensuring that detainees are provided with appropriate medical care, food, water, and other basic human needs.

We call on Congress to **codify limitations on enforcement action consistent with guidance issued in October 2021** ([“Guidelines for Enforcement Actions in or Near Protected Areas”](#)). These prior common-sense limitations preserved critical access to medical care, childcare, and educational settings without compromising legitimate enforcement activities. These limitations were [rescinded](#) January 21, 2025 as a result of President Trump’s January 20, 2025 [Executive Order](#).

Since the start of “Operation Metro Surge,” we have received troubling reports of ICE and CBP enforcement activity in and near hospitals, clinics, and schools. This activity is, understandably, having a negative impact on the health and safety of your fellow Minnesotans. Nationally, [a KFF/New York Times Survey](#) of immigrants found that 48% of immigrant adults said that they or a family member had avoided seeking medical care since January 2025 due to detention-related concerns. This population includes lawfully present immigrants and naturalized citizens. Minnesota-specific examples of care-avoidance were also shared at a Jan. 20, 2026 [press conference](#) held in St. Paul. A Jan. 16, 2026 New York Times [article](#) chronicled some of the effects of enforcement activity in and around Minnesota healthcare facilities.

In addition, we urge Congress to **conduct rigorous oversight to ensure DHS compliance with current [detention standards](#) for care to ensure detainees have safe and sanitary conditions and access to appropriate medical care.** We are deeply troubled by recent reports that detainees at ICE facilities, including the Bishop Henry Whipple Federal Building in Minneapolis, are experiencing inadequate sanitary conditions and are not receiving needed medical care or having basic human needs met, such as food and water. A January 2026 [report](#) by the nonpartisan Government Accountability Office (GAO) found that “CBP developed policies and guidance for providing medical care to individuals in custody but has not consistently implemented them.” In addition to reviewing the 14 recommendations in the GAO report, we urge Congress to pursue codifying medical standards for DHS detention and holding facilities that are inclusive of meaningful oversight mechanisms.

Thank you for your support and consideration.

Sincerely,

Minnesota Medical Association
Minnesota Academy of Family Physicians
Minnesota Chapter American College of Physicians
Minnesota Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics
Minnesota Psychiatric Society
Minnesota Association of Geriatrics Inspired Clinicians

Minnesota Association of African American Physicians

Minnesota Dermatological Society

Minnesota Radiological Society

Minnesota Society of Clinical Oncology