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August 24, 2026

The Honorable Markwayne Mullin
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
1790 Ash Street, SE
Washington, DC 20032

Dear Secretary Mullin,

I write regarding the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) reported plans to spend up to \$20 million to equip U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) personnel with electric shock gloves.¹ At a time when DHS continues to face serious questions about its use of force and has yet to fully equip its law enforcement personnel with body worn cameras, I strongly oppose spending millions of taxpayer dollars on a new device designed to inflict pain on our community members.

The devices DHS plans to purchase, known as Generated Low Output Voltage Emitters (G.L.O.V.E.), deliver an electrical shock when an officer makes physical contact with an individual.² Even the manufacturer warns against their use on elderly people, small children, pregnant women, and people with severe disabilities.³ Officers must also receive specialized training and retrain every two years simply to remain certified to use them.⁴ These are significant warnings for a device DHS apparently intends to put into the hands of immigration officers operating in communities across the country.

Yet DHS has provided little information about when these gloves could be used or against whom. It is unclear whether ICE officers could use them during arrests, routine encounters, transportation or detention, or against protesters.

There are also serious questions about what happens after an officer administers a shock. Electrical stimulation can interfere with coordinated muscle movement and cause involuntary physical reactions. An individual who is shocked may tense, pull away, fall, or otherwise lose control of their movement.⁵ DHS must explain how an officer will determine whether that reaction constitutes resistance or whether the person is experiencing an involuntary physiological

¹ <https://apfs-cloud.dhs.gov/record/74524/public-print/>

² <https://www.complianttechnologies.net/the-glove>

³ <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cQ176YYgNL3VXCgLX0ScoihsfXyATpfY/view>

⁴ <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cQ176YYgNL3VXCgLX0ScoihsfXyATpfY/view>

⁵ <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC2763825/>

response or medical distress. Without clear safeguards, the use of the glove itself could produce a reaction that an officer then uses to justify escalating force.

The design of these gloves compounds that concern. Proponents tout their ability to administer an electrical shock without leaving burns, marks, or scars.⁶ That means a person could allege that an officer shocked them repeatedly or unnecessarily with little physical evidence to corroborate what happened. DHS has not explained what record the device itself creates, whether every activation will be documented as a use of force, or how allegations of misuse will be investigated when there may be no visible evidence that the glove was used at all.

This concern is not hypothetical. In multiple recent use of force incidents, DHS's initial characterization of an encounter has been contradicted by video and other evidence. These incidents underscore the importance of independent documentation when evaluating allegations of misconduct.⁷

This comes just weeks after I met with DHS leadership about the Department's failure to fully deploy body worn cameras across its law enforcement components. During that briefing, DHS officials pointed to the substantial upfront and recurring costs of equipping ICE and U.S. Customs and Border Protection personnel with cameras. DHS was reluctant to commit available funding to close those gaps. Yet the Department now appears prepared to spend millions of taxpayer dollars on electric shock gloves. DHS should not be more willing to fund a new way for officers to use force than it is to fund the cameras needed to document that force.

Given these serious concerns, DHS must provide greater transparency regarding its plans to procure, deploy, and regulate the use of these devices. Please provide responses to the following questions by September 18th, 2026:

1. Has DHS established a policy governing when ICE personnel may use electric shock gloves? If yes, please provide the policy and identify the specific circumstances and conduct by an individual that would authorize an officer to administer an electric shock.
2. Will DHS prohibit the use of electric shock gloves against elderly people, minors, pregnant women, and people with disabilities, consistent with the manufacturer's warnings? If no, please identify the populations against whom DHS will permit their use and provide the medical or safety assessment supporting that decision.
3. How will officers determine whether an individual is pregnant or has a disability or other condition that may not be readily apparent before administering an electric shock.
4. How will officers distinguish intentional resistance from involuntary movement or medical distress caused by an electrical shock? What policies will prevent an involuntary reaction to the device from being used to justify additional shocks or another escalation of force?
5. What limits will DHS place on the number and duration of shocks that may be administered to an individual during an encounter?

⁶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ddd-Klualec>

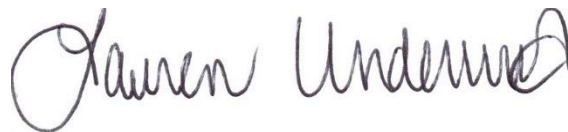
⁷ <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/lawyers-of-chicago-woman-shot-by-federal-agents-say-documents-show-how-dhs-lies-about-investigations>

6. Will every activation be documented as a use of force? Does the device independently record when and for how long it is activated, and will DHS preserve those records?
7. How will DHS investigate complaints of excessive or unnecessary use when these devices may leave no visible evidence that a person was shocked?
8. Will DHS require an officer's body worn camera to be activated whenever the glove is used? Will officers without functioning body worn cameras be permitted to carry or use these devices?
9. Who made the decision to prioritize taxpayer spending on electric shock gloves rather than address gaps in body-worn camera coverage at ICE and CBP?
10. Please explain why DHS determined that purchasing electric shock gloves was a better use of taxpayer funds than ensuring DHS law enforcement personnel are adequately equipped with body-worn cameras. Please provide the justification, analysis, cost-benefit assessment, or other documentation DHS relied upon in making this determination, including the officials or offices involved in the decision-making process.
11. What is the total projected cost to purchase, deploy, train personnel on, and maintain these devices? Please identify the source of funding for each of these costs, including the specific appropriation account and Program, Project, or Activity (PPA), or, if funded through reconciliation or other supplemental funding, the specific statutory provision and funding allocation from which the funds will be derived. Please also identify any funds that DHS intends to transfer or reprogram for these purposes.
12. Please provide all policies, training materials, medical guidance, use of force standards, and legal and civil rights reviews governing or supporting the planned use of these devices.

I strongly urge DHS to abandon this procurement. Electric shock gloves should not be deployed under any circumstances. DHS's consideration of deploying these devices without first establishing even basic safeguards, including clear restrictions on their use, mechanisms to identify and investigate every activation, and sufficient body worn camera coverage to independently document these encounters, demonstrates the serious deficiencies in the Department's approach to their potential deployment.

I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Lauren Underwood". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lauren" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Underwood".

Lauren Underwood
Member of Congress