

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 8, 2025

The Honorable Kristi Noem
Secretary of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr Ave SE
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Noem:

We write to understand the Department of Homeland Security's reasoning for erecting a fence around the U.S. District Court for Northern Illinois at 327 S Church St in Rockford, Illinois. Fencing went up with insufficient notice to the community, and the Department has yet to respond to questions raised by local officials.

We ask for responses to the following questions:

- Why was a fence erected around the federal courthouse in Rockford?
- What does the Department expect to happen at the federal courthouse?
- How much did it cost to purchase the fencing and put it up?
- What efforts has the Department made to brief state or local officials?
- How long does the Department expect the fencing to remain up?

This all comes amid uncertainty over whether Rockford is to expect an increased presence of federal immigration officers in their community. We are deeply worried about the potential for federal agents intimidating and arresting people in the community with little transparency or accountability. We are proud to represent Rockford in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, and they deserve more from their leaders in the federal government.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your swift reply.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Eric Sorensen
Member of Congress