

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 5, 2026

Governor Abigail Spanberger
Office of the Governor
1111 East Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Governor Spanberger,

We write to express our opposition to recent actions taken by your administration to rescind law enforcement cooperation with federal immigration services. We respectfully request that your administration modify executive actions dissolving cooperative agreements, and work to reinstate Governor Youngkin's policies that aim to support our local law enforcement officers, promote public safety, and protect communities in Virginia.

Under the Biden-Harris administration, the Commonwealth of Virginia faced a dangerous surge of illegal immigration. This led to increased criminal activity, enabled illegal immigrants to fraudulently benefit from taxpayer funded social services, and strained Virginia's law enforcement capabilities. It is now estimated that approximately 361,000 unauthorized individuals reside in Virginia, raising the risk of criminal activity in our local communities.¹

To combat this large-scale illegal immigration, Governor Youngkin signed Executive Order 47, "Keeping Virginians Safe from Dangerous Criminal Illegal Immigrants." These 287(g) agreements increased cooperation between state and federal officials, and as a result, the Commonwealth made significant progress in restoring order to our immigration system, removing violent criminals, and protecting Virginia communities.

In the first seven months of 2025 alone, 4,264 illegal immigrants were arrested, nearly triple the total amount from 2024. Additionally, over 130 gang members were brought to justice, including one operation in Northern Virginia in which 30 gang members were arrested.²

¹ <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/data/unauthorized-immigrant-population/state/VA>

² <https://www.ice.gov/news/releases/30-gang-members-associates-arrested-northern-virginia>

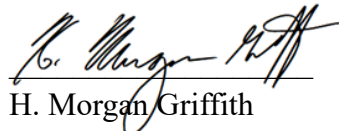
Numerous violent criminals such as Edwin Antonio Hernandez, a man responsible for five murders in El Salvador, have been taken off Virginia's streets.³ With the absence of cooperation between state and federal law enforcement agencies, apprehending violent individuals such as Hernandez will be more difficult and dangerous to achieve.

During your first day in office, you signed Executive Order Ten, to reverse Governor Glenn Youngkin's Executive Order 47, which required state and local law enforcement to enter into 287(g) agreements with federal immigration authorities. Furthermore, your decision to formally terminate all existing 287(g) agreements with U.S. Customs and Immigration Enforcement (ICE) through Executive Order 12 and Executive Directive One sets a dangerous precedent for our local law enforcement officers.

These recent actions are inconsistent with your previous support for law enforcement. During your campaign for Governor of Virginia, you ran on the promise to empower law enforcement and protect Virginians from violent crime. Your recent executive actions do not reflect that commitment to protection.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge you to restore the cooperation between state and federal law enforcement that existed under Governor Youngkin's Administration that successfully removed a large number of dangerous criminals from the streets of Virginia. We appreciate your consideration and stand ready to work with you on solutions to strengthen Virginia's security and put the interests of the Commonwealth first.

Sincerely,



H. Morgan Griffith
Member of Congress



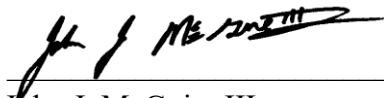
Jen A. Kiggans
Member of Congress



Ben Cline
Member of Congress



Robert Wittman
Member of Congress



John J. McGuire III
Member of Congress

³ <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2026/02/03/ms-13-gang-member-who-confessed-5-murders-arrested-just-weeks-virginia-governor>