

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0605

September 8, 2026

The Honorable Harmeet K. Dhillon
Assistant Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
Civil Rights Division
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Assistant Attorney General Dhillon:

I am writing to encourage the Department of Justice's (DOJ) Civil Rights Division to investigate the recent student anti-ICE walkouts that occurred across Colorado on Friday, September 4, 2026. Videos and on-the-ground reporting show that the Denver walkout turned violent, with assaults on journalists and counterprotesters, raising serious questions about whether participants were unlawfully prevented from exercising their own constitutional rights.¹ The growing mobilization of leftist and socialist groups like the Democratic Socialists of America, Indivisible, and 50501 Colorado represents a real threat to law and order in the United States, as these groups support and advocate for defunding federal and state law enforcement officials. The Constitution protects peaceful assembly, but those protections do not extend to violent conduct. For that reason, I believe a federal investigation is warranted, not only to determine whether individuals unlawfully infringed upon the constitutional rights of journalists, counterprotesters, or other members of the public with acts of assault, but also to determine the extent to which outside organizations participated in organizing, funding, or otherwise influencing the violent demonstrations.

Colorado Youth Coalition, a student organization that appears to model itself after other anti-immigration enforcement groups like Indivisible,² and shares a similar platform as the Democratic Socialists of America, issued the initial social media post calling students to participate in the "Walk Out for ICE Out."³ The founders of the coalition say the movement gained traction among students, and further advertising for the walkout on social media shows the walkout date received endorsement from other leftist groups in Colorado.⁴ Colorado Youth Coalition had previously organized protests against the Administration and its enforcement of our immigration laws, but not to the extent of September 4th. That makes it important to determine whether any organization provided funding, logistical support, or guidance that contributed to unlawful conduct, particularly if adults in the area encouraged students to assault journalists or counterprotesters.

¹ <https://www.denvergazette.com/2026/09/04/students-skip-class-as-colorado-ice-protest-turns-violent/>

² <https://www.instagram.com/p/DTjCj9bEdG5/?stkn=MTFsOHRka3V6bzJqdA%3D%3D>

³ <https://www.instagram.com/p/DeRX9mbHecC/?stkn=MWdmdmZreGpodjloNg%3D%3D>

⁴ <https://www.instagram.com/p/DeRX9mbHecC/?stkn=MWdmdmZreGpodjloNg%3D%3D>

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0605

On Friday, students from a reported 200 high schools walked out of their classrooms onto the streets. At the Denver demonstration, hundreds of students gathered at La Alma-Lincoln Park to protest the enforcement of immigration laws. Reports from the Denver Police Department detail that at least five assaults occurred at the Denver demonstration, and three people were transported to the hospital for evaluation.⁵ Further reporting from the scene also documents that students, in an attempt to force counterprotesters from the park and impede their peaceful assembly, screamed and threw water bottles and other objects at them. Additionally, journalists simply documenting the walkout faced assaults from student participants and had equipment stolen. Multiple constituents of Colorado's Fifth Congressional District who were present at the park were physically assaulted and sustained injuries.⁶

Given the scale of the statewide mobilization and the violence that occurred at the Denver demonstration, I believe the DOJ should examine not only the individual incidents but also the extent of participation by outside organizations in the walkout. This should include determining what role outside organizations played in supporting the demonstrations, whether organizers provided guidance on conduct, and whether any individuals or organizations encouraged or facilitated violent conduct that resulted in violations of the civil rights of journalists, counterprotesters, or other members of the public.

I therefore respectfully request that the DOJ review the events of September 4, including available video footage, police reports, witness accounts, and communications from the organizations involved, to determine whether further investigation or federal action is warranted. Thank you for your attention and consideration of this request. If you or your staff have any additional questions, please don't hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,



Jeff Crank
Member of Congress

⁵ <https://coloradonewslines.com/2026/09/04/students-walkout-ice-protest/>

⁶ <https://rockymountainvoice.com/2026/09/08/denver-ice-walkout-turns-violent-and-the-journalists-filming-it-say-they-were-attacked/>