

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6216

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judiciary.house.gov

April 13, 2026

Mr. Steven Vasconcellos
Colorado State Court Administrator
Ralph L. Carr Judicial Center
2 East 14th Avenue
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Vasconcellos:

The Committee on the Judiciary is conducting oversight of state and local jurisdictions that endanger American communities through their refusal to cooperate with federal immigration officials and their obstruction of federal immigration law. We write to request information about the new requirement in Colorado that all attorneys accessing the state's electronic court filing system must certify they will not use the information for federal immigration enforcement. This certification commandeers private attorneys into Colorado's radical sanctuary policies, handcuffs federal officials from enforcing immigration law in Colorado, and violates fundamental free speech principles.

In May 2025, Colorado Governor Jared Polis signed into law the so-called "Protect Civil Rights Immigration Status" bill.¹ The law shields illegal aliens from accountability by extending existing prohibitions on information sharing to additional state officers and by "prohibit[ing] [a] jail custodian from delaying a defendant's release for the purpose of an immigration enforcement operation."² The bill also expands information sharing restrictions to any third party that accesses information through the Colorado Judicial Department.³ In practice, this means that any attorney logging into Colorado's state electronic court filing system must certify, "under penalty of perjury," that the attorney "will not use [or disclose] personal identifying information obtained from the database or automated network for the purpose of investigating for, participating in, cooperating with, or assisting in federal immigration enforcement, including enforcement of civil immigration laws" under federal statute.⁴ The Colorado courts' electronic filing website

¹ Chelsea Casabona, *Undocumented residents celebrate new Colorado immigration law*, ROCKY MOUNTAIN PBS (Oct. 16, 2025), <https://www.rmpbs.org/news/immigration/colorado-new-immigration-law>.

² Colo. Senate Bill 25-276, Protect Civil Rights Immigr. Status, <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb25-276>; see Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 16-4-102.

³ SB 25-276: Colorado Courts E-Filing (CCE) Access, Colorado Judicial Branch, <https://www.coloradojudicial.gov/colorado-courts-efiling-access-and-sb-25-276> (last accessed Apr. 4, 2026).

⁴ *Id.*; see Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 24-74-105.

implemented this certification on March 30, 2026.⁵

This certification, made under penalty of perjury, obstructs federal law and prevents federal officials from using Colorado state court information to enforce federal immigration law. It also hijacks the private practice of law to fulfill the political goals of the state of Colorado and undermines attorneys' ethical obligations, all to ensure that illegal and criminal aliens in Colorado can remain in the state indefinitely. At least one Colorado attorney has already noted that he "cannot represent [his] clients, file lawsuits, access cases, [or] file documents in existing cases" without first agreeing to a policy that is unrelated to his legal practice and to which he is personally opposed.⁶ Another attorney described how a previous rollout of the certification requirement prevented her from filing a document without accepting the new terms, meaning that "[a]ttorneys against a deadline had no choice—accept the pledge or fail their clients."⁷ The certification requirement is a form of compelled speech requiring an attorney to attest to a partisan political statement as a condition of practicing law.

We have seen how Colorado's sanctuary policies harm public safety and threaten law enforcement officers, including with the case of Abraham Smith Gonzalez, a criminal alien and suspected Tren de Aragua gang member who assaulted immigration officers after Colorado authorities failed to honor his detainer.⁸ Given the dangerous nature of sanctuary jurisdictions and their active role in thwarting federal immigration enforcement, the Committee is concerned about how this new certification requirement will further obstruct the enforcement of federal law. Accordingly, to assist the Committee with its continued oversight of federal immigration policy and to inform potential legislative reforms to address sanctuary policies, we ask that you provide the following information:

1. Clarification of the penalties for third parties who violate the above-referenced certification requirement;
2. The number of complaints received by the Colorado Judicial Branch about the certification requirement from May 23, 2025, to the present;
3. The number of private attorneys who have been punished for violating the certification requirement from May 23, 2025, to the present;
4. All documents and communications between or among the Colorado Judicial Branch or its components referring or relating to the implementation of the certification

⁵ SB 25-276: Colorado Courts E-Filing (CCE) Access, Colorado Judicial Branch, <https://www.coloradojudicial.gov/colorado-courts-efiling-access-and-sb-25-276> (last accessed Apr. 4, 2026).

⁶ Ian Speir (@IanSpeir), X (Apr. 2, 2026, 11:20 AM), <https://x.com/IanSpeir/status/2039724650150994362>.

⁷ Jimmy Sengenberger, *Lawyers bullied to enforce Colorado's sanctuary*, DENVER GAZETTE (Sept. 2, 2025), <https://www.denvergazette.com/2025/09/02/lawyers-bullied-to-enforce-colorados-sanctuary-jimmy-sengenberger-ccee5886-c451-5d7c-950c-ce5be31b1662/>.

⁸ Peter Pinedo, *'Sanctuary' city mayor confronted after gang member allegedly assaults federal officers*, FOX NEWS (Mar. 5, 2025, 3:03 PM), <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/sanctuary-city-mayor-confronted-allowing-gang-member-assault-federal-officers>; Info. provided to H. Comm. on the Judiciary by Immigr. and Customs Enf't (Mar. 4, 2025) (on file with Comm.).

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requirement and any penalties associated with a lack of compliance with such requirement, for the period April 4, 2025, to the present; and


5. All documents and communications between or among the Colorado Judicial Branch or its components referring or relating to investigations into private attorneys who violate the certification requirement, for the period April 4, 2025, to the present.

Please provide the information requested as soon as possible but no later than 5:00 p.m. on April 27, 2026. The Committee is authorized to conduct oversight of federal immigration law pursuant to the Rules of the House of Representatives.⁹ If you have any questions, please contact Committee staff at (202) 225-6906. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Jim Jordan
Chairman



Tom McClintock
Chairman
Subcommittee on Immigration
Integrity, Security, and Enforcement

cc: The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member

The Honorable Pramila Jayapal, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Immigration
Integrity, Security, and Enforcement

⁹ Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, R. X (2025).