



April 2, 2026

The Honorable Pete Hegseth  
Secretary of War  
Department of War  
1400 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301-1400

Dear Secretary Hegseth,

We respectfully request that the Department of War initiate a review of the conduct of Tim Walz, the Governor of Minnesota and a retired Army Master Sergeant (E-8).<sup>1</sup> Recently, Walz received a grand jury subpoena related to a federal investigation into whether he obstructed or impeded federal law enforcement during a sweeping immigration operation in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area.<sup>2</sup> Given the severity of these potential federal crime(s) and Walz's status as a retired member of the Army, we believe a review is necessary to determine any necessary punishment that should be administered to Walz, including any court martial proceedings or administrative measures.

The Center to Advance Security in America (CASA) is a nonpartisan organization dedicated to improving the safety and security of the American people. CASA educates and informs the American people about the actions of their government and its officials that impact their safety; peace and security; democracy, civil rights and civil liberties; and privacy.

## **I. Background**

Tim Walz is the Governor of Minnesota. Walz has made a series of inflammatory statements which may be in violation of federal law and which may have led to his receipt of a grand jury subpoena from the DOJ.

On January 14, 2026, Walz called ICE agents "undertrained," and stated that they were "indiscriminately" pulling people over demanding to see immigration papers and "kidnapping innocent people." Further he said that ICE was orchestrating a "campaign of organized brutality against the people of Minnesota" and "ICE agents are going door to door, ordering people to point out where their neighbors of color live."<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Jake Horton and Joshua Cheetham. "Fact-checking Claims about Tim Walz's Military Record," BBC News, October 1, 2024, <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cze5ggr97ewo>.

<sup>2</sup> Steve Karnowski and Alanna Durkin Richer, "DOJ Subpoenas Minnesota Gov. Walz and Other Officials in Obstruction Investigation," PBS NewsHour, January 21, 2026, [www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/doj-subpoenas-minnesota-gov-walz-and-other-officials-in-obstruction-investigation](http://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/doj-subpoenas-minnesota-gov-walz-and-other-officials-in-obstruction-investigation).

<sup>3</sup> WCCO-CBS Minnesota, "Gov. Walz Calls Federal Presence in Minnesota 'Organized Brutality,' Urges Peaceful Protests," YouTube video, 6:29, posted January 14, 2026, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M-SOHdsCdpI>.



Next, again on January 14, 2026, Walz encouraged Minnesotans to aid in the potential obstruction of federal immigration enforcement activities. Walz stated:

“Help us establish a record of exactly what's happening in our communities. You have an absolute right to peacefully film ICE agents as they conduct these activities, so carry your phone with you at all times, and if you see these ICE agents in your neighborhood, take out that phone and hit record. Help us create a database of the atrocities against Minnesotans, not just to establish a record for posterity, but to bank evidence for future prosecution.”<sup>4</sup>

Next, on January 24, 2026, Walz posted on social media alleging that federal agents in Minnesota were “violent” and “untrained.” Walz stated, “I just spoke with the White House after another horrific shooting by federal agents this morning. Minnesota has had it. This is sickening. The President must end this operation. Pull the thousands of violent, untrained officers out of Minnesota. Now.”<sup>5</sup>

These types of insidious remarks are not new to Walz. Last year on May 17, 2025, Walz alluded to ICE as “Donald Trump's modern-day Gestapo” who were shipping people off to “foreign torture dungeons.”<sup>6</sup>

## II. Legal Overview and Analysis

Given Walz’s conduct outlined above, he may have violated several federal laws.

First, Walz may be obstructing federal immigration enforcement officials. It is against federal law to obstruct or impede any federal agency investigation.<sup>7</sup> It seems clear that Walz’s plan to track, record, and prosecute federal law enforcement (ICE) agents is designed to obstruct their efforts to detain illegal aliens. He encouraged people to film ICE agents during the course of their duties and then stated that the footage from these films will be used to develop a “database.” This “database” is problematic for Walz for several reasons. First, depending on who has access to the “database,” it could lead activists and other government employees to harass or intimidate ICE agents and potentially target, threaten, or harass specific agents. Second, it could also lead to “doxxing” where activists could analyze the footage and then release to the public all of the relevant details about a specific ICE agent’s family, home, or personal vehicle.

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<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Tim Walz (@GovTimWalz), “I just spoke with the White House after another horrific shooting by federal agents this morning. Minnesota has had it. This is sickening. The President must end this operation. Pull the thousands of violent, untrained officers out of Minnesota. Now,” X, January 24, 2026, 11:03 a.m., <https://x.com/GovTimWalz/status/2015093164999119352>.

<sup>6</sup> Fox 9 Minneapolis-St. Paul, “Gov. Walz says ICE is 'Trump's modern-day Gestapo'” YouTube video, 12:30, posted May 20, 2025, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KVOrOkxeCD4>.

<sup>7</sup> 18 U.S.C. § 1505.



All of this is designed to deter agents from doing their job, which is a *de facto* way of obstructing the operation itself. But if the system is used to track agents in real time, as he implies people should do, the effort becomes overt obstruction of federal immigration enforcement activities. All of this is potential grounds for investigation of Walz.

It is also against federal law to harbor, transport, or conceal illegal aliens while knowing that they are in the United States illegally.<sup>8</sup> Again, Walz's described plan essentially is designed to allow illegal immigrants to evade ICE agents. It is to enable them to get away, or to not be found. This constitutes "conceal[ing]" illegal immigrants.

Finally, it is against federal law to threaten a federal law enforcement officer with future prosecution for legally executing his job responsibilities.<sup>9</sup> Walz appears to have an intent to threaten, intimidate, or impede federal officials for doing their assigned duties. Given Walz's admission that he will use the "database" that he plans to create to aid in the prosecution of ICE agents, this should be sufficient for an investigation.

### **III. Conclusion**

Given our serious concerns above and the ongoing federal investigation into Walz, we are requesting that you initiate a review of this conduct to determine any necessary military-related punishment that should be administered. This request is submitted in the interest of upholding the values, culture, warrior ethos, and military bearing that you have restored at the Department of War. Our retired Soldiers should be upholding those values at all times and if they are actively engaging in potential federal crimes, particularly as public officials, they should be held accountable. Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your continued efforts to defend and protect the United States of America.

Very Respectfully,

James Fitzpatrick  
Director  
Center to Advance Security in America  
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<sup>8</sup> See 8 U.S.C. § 1324(c).

<sup>9</sup> See 18 U.S.C. § 1503.