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Chairman Comer, Ranking Member Lynch, and Members of the Committee. I am proud to be here today as Governor of the great state of Minnesota.

Minnesota's strength comes from our values: our commitment to working together, seeing past differences, and always being willing to lend a helping hand.

Wherever you go in this country, people tend to want the same basic things out of American life: safe neighborhoods, good schools, affordable household goods, and meaningful work. That is what I, alongside my colleagues in the Minnesota state legislature, work each day to deliver for our state.

Under my leadership, we have increased families' access to pre-k and healthy meals, ensured that no schoolchild goes without breakfast or lunch, and reduced the financial stress on families with a child tax credit. We've also made Minnesota home to dozens of Fortune 500 and 1000 companies that employ hard-working Minnesotans. These companies' investments are creating good, durable jobs that pay well, provide benefits, and offer protections to improve workers' quality of life.

Thanks to these efforts, Minnesota has been ranked the fourth best state to live in, the second best state to raise a family in, and the third best state for jobs.

And when it comes to serious crime, Minnesota hit its lowest level in over three decades in 2023. Minnesota has also consistently had a lower violent crime rate than the U.S. average.

Minnesota Is Not a Sanctuary State

We have a broken immigration system in this country. I think everyone in this room agrees with that. But nothing Minnesota has done to serve its own people stands in the way of the federal government managing its border security and policy.

Minnesota is not a sanctuary state: the Minnesota legislature has not passed legislation making Minnesota a sanctuary state, and I have not signed any such legislation into law.

The fact is, Minnesota cooperates with federal immigration authorities in a number of ways. When there is a convicted felon in our prisons, we ask about their immigration status, and we share that information with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) if they are undocumented. That is codified in Minnesota state law. Minnesota also complies with DHS requests when they are backed by a judicial warrant, issued by an Article III court, and the due process afforded by our Constitution to all people in the United States has been served.

We also respect cities and counties who choose to not dedicate further time, resources, or personnel to coordination with DHS, beyond this state-level minimum. We recognize that fear of deportation can chill effective law enforcement. We believe that when immigrants are afraid to interact with the police, witnesses and victims may avoid reporting crime or cooperating with criminal investigations. Public safety is not served by this fear. Communities are safer when all members, including undocumented ones, feel comfortable reporting crime to law enforcement. City and county officials know their communities best, and we trust them to ensure the appropriate balance that best serves public safety.

I am disappointed to see that the federal government seems unwilling to give states that same respect. Right now, the federal government's attempts to dictate how state and local law enforcement should operate, and to divert state resources to achieve federal goals, are fundamentally inconsistent with our founding principles as a nation.

As part of this effort, the federal government seems to suggest that Minnesota's reluctance to divert its own resources to implement federal policy somehow frustrates the federal government's ability to enforce immigration laws. That is simply not the case. It is ridiculous to suggest that Minnesota—a state that is over 1,500 miles away from the Southern border, and a thousand miles from lawmakers in Washington, D.C. who decide and implement border policy—is somehow responsible for a failure of immigration enforcement.

Enforcing federal immigration law is not the role of state or local law enforcement. Congress has given federal agencies the authority to enforce immigration laws across the country, including in Minnesota, and I support their doing so.

As a former member of Congress, I also know whose job it is to fix the border: the federal government's. That's why when I was in Congress, I spent time visiting the Southern border to tour border fencing, observe K-9 training facilities, and inspect the technology being used by DHS. I also voted for bills that would have increased funding for border patrol services, deployed advanced risk assessment technologies at the border to quickly and efficiently identify national security risks, and increased funding for states and localities that opted into helping DHS enforce immigration laws and incurred costs as a result. Most importantly, in working on these issues as a Congressman, I recognized that securing our border does not mean we sacrifice our constitutional values.

This Administration Is Failing to Live Up to Our Constitution

Unfortunately, the cruel and misguided immigration policies of this Administration fail to live up to those values. Minnesotans are angry with what they've seen happen to their neighbors. They're angry that the federal government has been snatching people up, putting them in prison, or detaining or deporting them without a shred of due process. In many cases, there seems to have been no notice, no meaningful opportunity to object, and—according to President Trump's

Department of Justice until recently—no way to get out of those overseas prisons once you're there.

Let's be clear: many being detained or deported are law-abiding Americans, people who have or were promised legal status. They are mothers, fathers, husbands, wives, friends, and neighbors. In many cases, it seems people are getting detained or deported not based on criminal behavior, but how they look, what they've said, or just for being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

And because this Administration is not being transparent regarding their operations, we have no idea how many citizens or lawful residents are being detained improperly, or have been sent overseas with vanishingly little hope of coming back. Is that the American promise? Are these our values?

I refuse to believe this is who we really are. While we may disagree on the best way to maintain border security and public safety, I know that we can all agree on a few basic principles: that all people in America deserve due process. That we live in a free country where people should not be locked up for exercising their constitutional rights. That Americans should not have to be afraid of their government detaining or deporting them based on their appearance, or an idea they expressed. I hope you will join me in enforcing accountability to those fundamental ideals.

Today, I'm here before you as the Governor of Minnesota. I would like to work with Congress on the changes necessary to secure our border and update our immigration system so that legal pathways to immigration exist. I imagine all of the Governors at this table feel similarly. Americans deserve a sensible, humane, and effective immigration policy that reduces illegal immigration while protecting fundamental rights.

For my part, as Governor of Minnesota, I am accountable to the hard-working residents of that great state. They deserve someone who prioritizes their health, education, safety, and overall wellbeing, and that is how I govern.

Minnesota Prioritizes Public Safety

In Minnesota, we prioritize public safety. That is why we make sure that state and local law enforcement are empowered to take care of their communities.

As Governor, I take seriously my job to make sure all Minnesotans can grow and thrive in safe neighborhoods. Since 2018, Minnesota has spent over \$15.3 billion on public safety and on our court systems. In 2023 in particular, on top of the standard budget allocation, we invested an additional \$300 million in public safety departments across the state. With this funding, we recognized that Sheriffs and local law enforcement know their communities best, so we allowed local communities to use these funds for public safety purposes as they saw fit. More recently, for fiscal years 2024 through 2025, we enacted a budget that dedicates over \$4.46 billion to ensuring public safety. Simply put, ensuring safe communities has been—and will always be—a top priority for me.

The success of our efforts and investments is clear from the data. When it comes to serious crime, Minnesota hit its lowest rate in over three decades in 2023, with a serious crime rate of approximately 1,995 per 100,000 residents. Minnesota has also consistently had a lower violent crime rate than the U.S. average.

While Minnesota, like many other states, saw a spike in violent crime during the pandemic, that trend has reversed course: between 2021 and 2022, violent crime dropped by approximately 8.6%, and between 2022 and 2023, violent crime dropped by approximately 6.9%. Since 2021, the total crime rate has continued to decrease, dropping by approximately 4.4% between 2021 and 2022, and by approximately 12.7% between 2022 and 2023. Since 2021, property crime has also gone down, dropping by approximately 3.6% between 2021 and 2022, and by approximately 13.1% between 2022 and 2023.

The Federal Government Has Failed Americans

It is ridiculous to expect Minnesota to pick up the federal government's slack at a time when the federal government has caused a series of crises that harm everyday Americans, including Minnesotans.

The Administration is trying to cut Medicaid and food stamps, which could result in 180,000 Minnesotans losing their health insurance and 92,000 Minnesotans struggling to put food on the table. Their misguided economic policies are also throwing our economy into crisis. After "Liberation Day," Americans woke up to find trillions in American value virtually wiped out overnight, with the stock market in utter chaos. People's 401(k)s—their retirements that they carefully saved for their whole lives—were in danger as they had never been before. We saw warnings of a worldwide recession—something that would force Americans to pay higher prices for everything from canned goods to baby supplies. Under these misguided policies, businesses will struggle to make payroll, to operate with increased costs, and to plan for the future without the economic certainty that America has long enjoyed. All because of a single, irresponsible policy choice by the President, gone unchecked by Republicans in Congress.

The Administration and DOGE's reckless cuts are further impacting Minnesotans. As wildfire season begins, the Administration's cuts to the Forest Service threaten our preparedness. Wait times at Social Security offices are increasing, with seniors looking for information about benefits they have paid into their whole lives waiting longer and longer to meet with staff. And, the Department of Health and Human Services is canceling work on a new bird flu vaccine, after bird flu drove high grocery prices earlier in the year.

Minnesota families are still struggling to figure out how they're going to afford living in this new economy. As Governor of Minnesota, it is incumbent on me to use the state's resources to help Minnesota families—not turn those resources over to the Administration so they can stage another photo-op in tactical gear, or accidentally deport more children without observing due process.

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Today, I hope that we can discuss some sensible solutions to the crisis this Administration has inflicted upon all of us. Immigration reform is of critical importance to our nation's security, and the American public deserves a sane immigration policy that enforces border security while treating people with humanity and dignity. I look forward to having a productive dialogue today about how best to ensure border security and public safety and to maximize the wellbeing of all Americans, including all Americans who call Minnesota home.