

# Defund the Detention and Deportation Machine

## A quick explainer on how to #DefundHate



Money is one of the only barriers to Trump's DHS fully enacting its hate-fueled detention and deportation nightmare. Despite the fact that ICE and CBP regularly lie, actively hide information from the public, have an ever-increasing death toll, and are plagued by system-wide abuses, President Trump asked for A LOT more money for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) (which includes Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP)) in his 2019 budget.

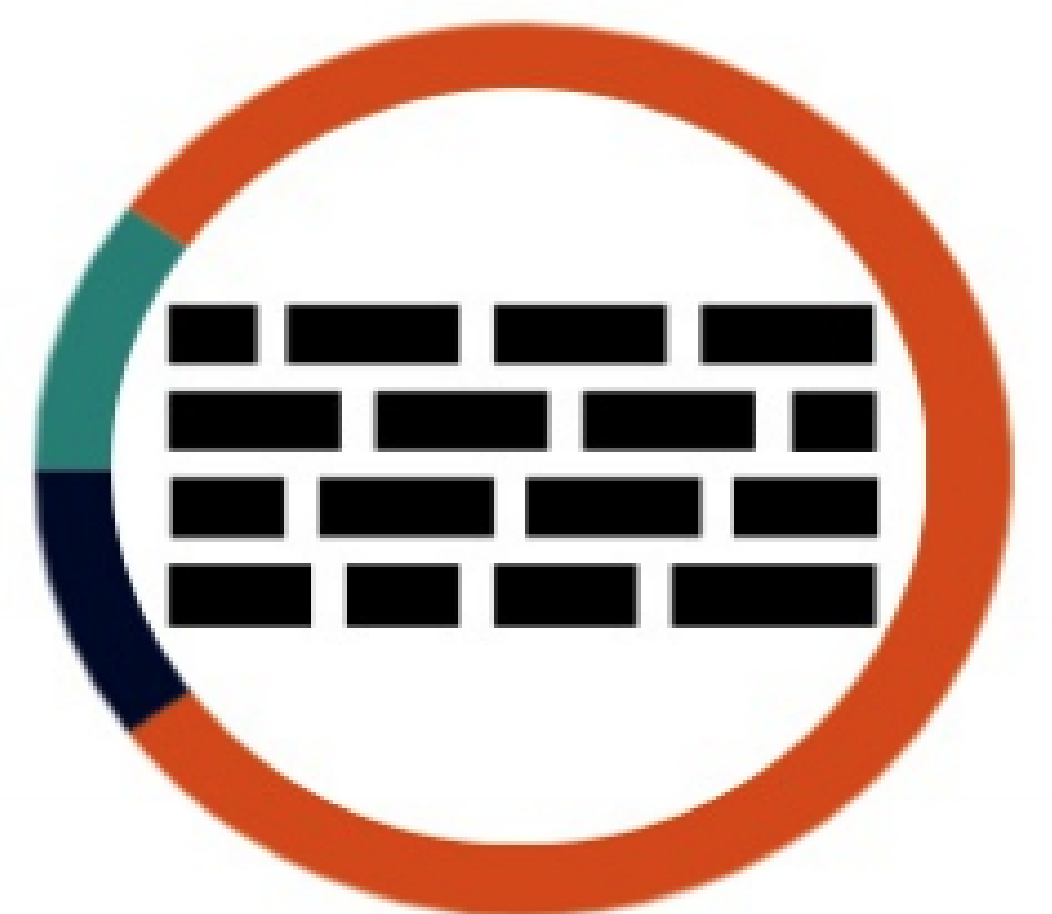
**Among other harmful things, he asked for:**



A massive increase in immigrant detention—to 52,000 people in detention every day.



Funds to recruit and hire 750 additional Border Patrol agents and 2,000 additional ICE officers,



\$1.6 billion to build a southern border wall, and further border militarization including aircraft and surveillance technology.

Even though the President can make funding requests, Congress is ultimately the decision maker when it comes to federal spending. For a long time, even Senators and Representatives who have said they support immigrant communities and publicly condemned aggressive immigration enforcement have quietly voted to fund it. In the last year, Congress allowed a transfer of over \$200 million from other DHS agencies like the Coast Guard and the Federal Emergency Management Agency to bail out ICE's over spending in their attempts to build more detention centers and incarcerate more immigrants.



Stopping the flow of money is critical to stopping the Trump anti-immigrant agenda. Constant growth of their budget is not inevitable. In September, Congress denied ICE's request for [\\$1 BILLION](#) in additional detention money in a short term spending bill. Now is the time to tell Congress to take the next step and cut funding to ICE and CBP.



## How does this all work?

Every year, the President submits their ideal budget to Congress in early February. Congress is the ultimate decisionmaker about how to spend taxpayer dollars—both in terms of how much money to spend, and how to divide it up. They do this by dividing the total budget among 12 appropriations subcommittees that represent different areas of government spending like Homeland Security, Defense, Financial Services, Health and Education, etc. Each of the subcommittees must decide how to divide the amount they've been given between specific programs like ICE agents, detention, Border Patrol agents, or border militarization. These decisions are put into a bill that must pass out of both the House and Senate and be signed by the President. If that doesn't happen, the government will shut down. Sometimes, Congress may pass a short term spending bill (or continuing resolution) to keep funding levels where they currently are, to avoid a total shutdown.

## This means we need to do 3 things:



1. In the budget process: decrease the overall amount of money going to the Department of Homeland Security
2. In the appropriations process: influence the division of overall DHS funds to decrease funding for detention, ICE or CBP agents, or border militarization.
3. Change the overall political landscape of constant funding increases for CBP and ICE. This year, we'll be focusing on getting progressive champions to record a short video about why they want to #DefundHate by cutting funds for ICE and CBP.



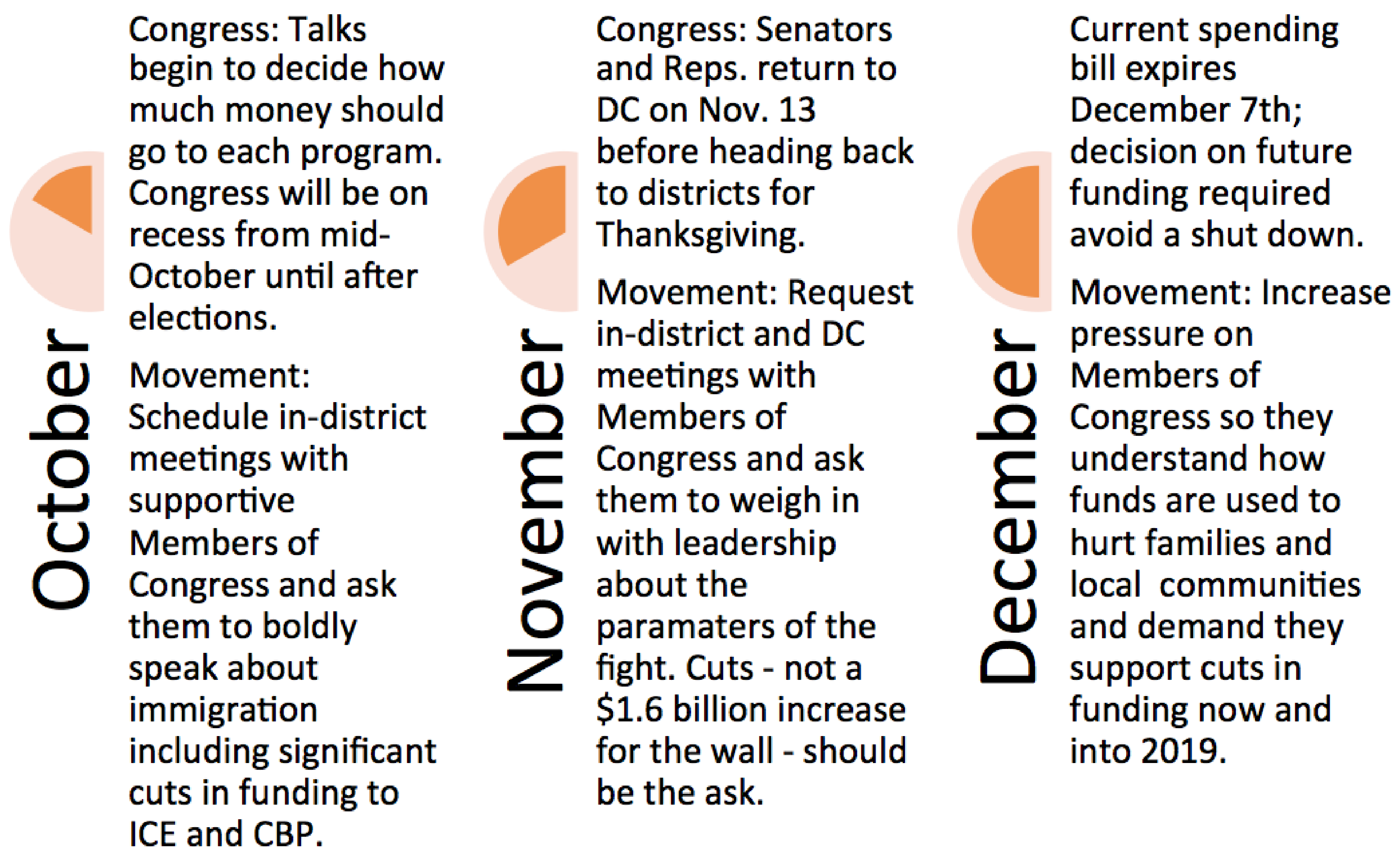
# What's the timeline?

President Trump signed a short-term spending bill to fund the government from October 1st through December 7th, 2018. In order to avoid a government shutdown, Congress must pass a big NEW spending bill or pass another temporary extension of the current spending bills (continuing resolution) before December 7th. We expect this to be a tough fight and Republicans are already threatening to shut down the government in order to pay for the southern border wall. Some Democrats see the wall funding as inevitable and think that \$1.6 billion increase in funding is the lowest winnable number.

Our biggest threats right now are:

1. Border militarization: Trump wants the border wall and Democrats seem prepared to give on border “technology”
2. Detention funding: ICE is systematically overspending on detention and will be asking to be bailed out
3. Policy Riders: Any number of things that may change policies not just funding.

**We must respond with a clear, consistent demand for cuts in funding for detention beds, a wall, or additional agents.**





# Who are the targets?



## Supportive Members of Congress

who must talk publicly about significant cuts to the enforcement, detention and deportation machine and weigh in with leadership to support cuts in funding; see list here: [bit.ly/DHTargets](https://bit.ly/DHTargets)

## Leadership

who are involved in negotiating the final deal and who must push the bounds of the negotiations to start with cuts; see list here: [bit.ly/DHTargets](https://bit.ly/DHTargets)

## Members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and border Reps and Senators

who will likely play an outsized role in influencing the negotiations; see list here: [bit.ly/DHTargets](https://bit.ly/DHTargets)

## All Members of Congress

wherever you live, make sure that your Representative and Senators oppose funding for the enforcement, detention and deportation machine!

**We've seen that powerful organizing and constituent pressure can change the outcome of something that previously seemed inevitable. Even with the White House and Congress controlled by openly anti-immigrant politicians, we can still win.**



# So how can I take action?

Sign the petition:

- <http://bit.ly/2zMICYD>

Call your representative:

- Dial 1-844-332-6361 and follow instructions to connect you with [your Member of Congress](#).
- Use this call in Script as a guide, though feel free to include whatever reason for cutting funds is most important to you/your community:

*"Hello, my name is [first and last name] and I'm a constituent of [state/congressional district]. I'm calling as part of the Defund Hate campaign. We're calling on [Member of Congress] to **commit to supporting cuts in funding to ICE and CBP**. ICE and CBP have a long track record of abuse, mismanagement of funds, and retaliation against those who speak out against them. Increases in funding shouldn't even be part of a conversation. **We demand that [Member of Congress] speak to leadership and take a public stand in support of significant cuts to ICE and CBP.**"*

Request a meeting with your member of Congress:

- Decide who – among your two Senators and Representative – you want to target. Reach out if you need help deciding.
- As soon as possible, request a meeting with your target(s).
- Plan for your meeting and use the accountability scorecards ([House and Senate](#)) to guide your conversation.
- **Focus on the local impacts of the detention and deportation machine** to make the connection between the money and harm done to local communities.

Use social media to amplify your work:

- Use #DefundHate on your social media
- **Follow us on Instagram at @defundhate\_campaign**
- **Share this explainer, the petition, and [these graphics](#) and use #DefundHate**

