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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

September 30, 2025

The Honorable Kristi Noem
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Noem:

I am deeply troubled after learning that Ian Andre Roberts, who until his arrest had been superintendent of Iowa's largest school district, is allegedly an illegal immigrant with a criminal history. According to public reporting, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has taken Mr. Roberts into custody. An ICE press release, dated September 26, 2025,¹ states that Mr. Roberts:

- is "a criminal illegal alien from Guyana" who "has existing weapon possession charges" and who "was given a final order of removal by an immigration judge";
- was working as the Superintendent of Des Moines Public Schools despite having "no work authorization";
- fled from immigration authorities and local police, before ultimately abandoning his vehicle in a wooded area; and
- was unlawfully in possession of a "loaded handgun" at the time of his arrest, as well as "\$3,000 in cash and a fixed blade hunting knife."

Parents in the Des Moines area are understandably concerned about this situation. I am writing the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) on their behalf to seek more information about Mr. Roberts' case. Please provide answers to the following questions:

1. Can DHS provide further details about Mr. Roberts, including his complete criminal and immigration history?
2. Does DHS know what work authorization documents, if any, Mr. Roberts provided to Des Moines Public Schools?

¹ Press Release, U.S. Immigr. & Customs Enf't, ICE arrests criminal alien serving as Des Moines Public Schools superintendent; prior weapons charges and in possession of loaded handgun at time of arrest (Sept. 26, 2025), <https://www.ice.gov/news/releases/ice-arrests-criminal-alien-serving-des-moines-public-schools-superintendent-prior>.

3. Can you provide a general overview of how ICE typically conducts a “Form I-9 Inspection/Audit” of employers?
4. In the last six years, has ICE conducted a “Form I-9 Inspection/Audit” at Des Moines Public Schools?
5. Does Des Moines Public Schools participate in E-Verify? If not, could the use of E-Verify have prevented Mr. Roberts from obtaining employment given his work authorization status?

Given this highly concerning situation, please provide a response to these questions as soon as possible, but no later than Friday, October 3, 2025. Thank you for your prompt attention to this time-sensitive matter.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley

United States Senator

Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee