

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0913

March 5, 2025

The Honorable Pam Bondi
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Attorney General Bondi:

I write to formally request an investigation into Boston Mayor Michelle Wu's enforcement of sanctuary city policies, specifically the Boston Trust Act, which may constitute violations of federal immigration law under 8 U.S.C. § 1324.

The Boston Trust Act, originally enacted in 2014 and reaffirmed unanimously by the Boston City Council in December 2024, limits local law enforcement's cooperation with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The Act prohibits local officials from detaining individuals based solely on ICE detainer requests, even if the individuals have criminal histories. It also restricts local officials from inquiring about a person's immigration status and from responding to ICE requests for information regarding an individual's criminal history.

Mayor Wu has publicly reaffirmed Boston's status as a sanctuary city and has expressed her commitment to non-cooperation with ICE, stating that such federal efforts "actually threaten the safety of everyone by causing widespread fear."

These policies and statements may conflict with federal statutes designed to regulate immigration and ensure cooperation between local and federal authorities. Specifically, 8 U.S.C. § 1324(a)(1)(A)(iii) prohibits concealing, harboring, or shielding unauthorized immigrants from detection, and 8 U.S.C. § 1324(a)(1)(A)(iv) criminalizes attempts to encourage or induce unauthorized immigration. By limiting cooperation with federal immigration authorities, the Boston Trust Act and Mayor Wu's directives may be construed as attempts to harbor or shield unauthorized immigrants, potentially violating these federal statutes.

Furthermore, 8 U.S.C. § 1373(a) stipulates that local governments cannot prohibit or restrict communication with federal immigration authorities regarding individuals' immigration status. Mayor Wu's commitment to enforce the Boston Trust Act's restrictions on sharing information with ICE may be in direct violation of this statute.

Given these potential conflicts between Boston's sanctuary city policies and federal immigration laws, I urge the Department of Justice to investigate whether Mayor Michelle Wu's actions constitute violations of 8 U.S.C. § 1324 and related statutes.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, featuring a large, stylized capital 'L' followed by the word 'Luna.' in a cursive script.

Anna Paulina Luna
Member of Congress