



COLORADO

Governor Jared Polis

August 19, 2025

Attorney General Bondi
Office of the Attorney General
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20530

Re: Colorado is not a sanctuary state

Attorney General Bondi,

Thank you for your letter of August 13th. We share your passion for public safety and offer our full and complete cooperation consistent with state and federal law.

If “so-called sanctuary jurisdiction policies” have “undermined this necessary cooperation and obstructed federal immigration enforcement,” elsewhere in the country we cannot say, but that has not happened and is not happening here. Thankfully, Colorado is not a sanctuary state. As set forth in my letter of May 27, 2025, to you and Secretary Noem, Colorado fully cooperates with federal authorities in identifying, apprehending, and prosecuting criminals – regardless of immigration status. Recently, I signed a law that specifically acknowledges the ability to share information with the federal government to assist in criminal investigations or proceedings. I continue to be frustrated by the administration's mislabeling of Colorado despite conclusive evidence to the contrary, and ask that Colorado's designation as a sanctuary state be revisited and reconsidered by your agency to further the strong partnership between federal and state law enforcement in the interests of making Colorado safer.

In response to your August 13, 2025, letter, Colorado has and will continue to comply with federal law. Colorado, like many states, will not allow the federal government to commandeer our public safety resources, and our right to do so is protected by the Tenth Amendment of the Constitution. We do not find any conflict between state and federal law in this matter, in fact our state laws require compliance with valid federal laws. We will defend our laws in *United States v. Colorado*, Civil Action No. 25-cv-01391, and will follow the court's ruling in that case.

In Colorado, we are focused on improving public safety, and apprehending and prosecuting dangerous criminals, regardless of immigration status, by cooperating with federal law enforcement on criminal investigations, and keeping communities safe. To that end, violent crime has significantly declined in Colorado over the past few years. For example in Denver, FBI data shows violent crime is down 9%

over the past year, and homicides are down 49% – among the largest drops of any major city in America.¹ This tracks with an overall state trend that sees major crime dropping across the board.² By investing in law enforcement, toughening criminal penalties around key crimes like auto theft and gun theft, and supporting prosecutors, we are working hard, in partnership with local and federal law enforcement, to make our state safer.

We are enthusiastic towards working with our federal law enforcement partners to better achieve our shared objectives of making communities safer, and encourage cooperative dialogue and engagement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jared Polis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jared" and last name "Polis" clearly distinguishable.

Jared Polis
Governor

¹ Denver sees drop in violent crime and auto thefts, FBI data shows.

<https://www.cbsnews.com/colorado/news/denver-sees-reduction-violent-crime-auto-thefts-fbi-data/>

² Colorado homicides fall to lowest levels since 2019.

<http://axios.com/local/denver/2025/08/11/colorado-homicide-rate-2024>