

STATEMENT OF ATTORNEY GENERAL PAMELA JO BONDI BEFORE THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES

Good afternoon, Chairman Rogers, Ranking Member Meng, and other distinguished Members of the Subcommittee. I am honored to appear before you today to present President Trump's Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 budget for the Department of Justice. I look forward to working with you to ensure continued support for the Department of Justice and its many critical missions.

President Trump's FY 2026 Budget proposal totals \$34 billion for the Department of Justice to support our law enforcement priorities. During my confirmation hearing, I stated that my overriding objective would be to return the Department of Justice to its core mission of keeping Americans safe and vigorously enforcing the law.

This \$34 billion request reflects a commitment by the President and me to reduce crime, enforce our Nation's immigration laws, and support our local, State, and Tribal partners.

First, the Department of Justice is working hard every day to combat violent crime. With the extraordinary help of our Federal, State, local, and Tribal partners, the Department of Justice, in the first 140 days of the Trump Administration, has brought charges against MS-13 gang members all across the country. We have utilized terrorism and RICO charges to prosecute members of Tren de Aragua (TdA). We have arrested over 200 child sexual abuse offenders. We have moved resources to help solve thousands of open investigations into violent crimes committed against American Indian and Alaska Native people (AIAN). That effort involves providing more resources than ever to support Operation Not Forgotten on Tribal territory nationwide. To continue our successes, the President's Budget includes \$18.3 billion to our law enforcement components and the U.S. Attorney's Offices. These funds will enable the Department to dismantle the worst criminal organizations and continue to target the most violent offenders domestically and abroad.

Second, the crisis at the border continues to pose a serious risk to our national security. Enforcing our immigration laws is the Administration and the Department's top priority. To that end, the President's Budget proposes \$844 million for the Executive Office for Immigration Review. To ensure that our immigration system works properly, we must secure our Nation's borders, and we must guarantee that our laws allow us to process, hold, and remove those who violate our immigration laws. Through the President's Budget, the Department will improve its ability to enforce our immigration laws and combat illegal immigration.

The President has also proposed \$2.8 billion for the U.S. Attorney's offices, including additional funds to enable U.S. Attorneys to more effectively work with Federal, State, and local law enforcement to investigate and prosecute the increasing volume of immigration-related criminal offenses, particularly the serious immigration and border-related crime and apprehensions occurring along the Southwest and Northern borders.

President Trump and I have established or reinvigorated three Task Force that will enforce the Administration's priorities. The Homeland Security Task Forces, established in

Executive Order 14159, will work in every State to end the existence of criminal cartels, foreign gangs, and transnational criminal organizations and dismantle cross-border human smuggling and trafficking networks, particularly those involving children. Joint Task Force Alpha has been reestablished and will target human trafficking and human smuggling. And finally, Joint Task Force Vulcan, created during the President's first term, will target TdA and MS-13.

Finally, it is incumbent on Congress to pass the One Big Beautiful Bill Act. Under this bill, funding provided to the Department would be directed towards the hiring of immigration judges, attorneys, and staff, as well as state and local governments to aid them in incarcerating and removing illegal aliens. With the enactment of this bill, the Department can continue the important work enforcing our immigration laws and securing our border.

Third, the United States is in the midst of the deadliest drug epidemic in American history. Ending the scourge of dangerous opioids and other drugs is one of the Department's most pressing missions. To aid that mission, the Budget invests \$10.1 billion in anti-drug programming, of which \$4.9 billion supports federal law enforcement and prosecutors and \$788 million supports our State, local, and Tribal partners. These resources will empower the Department to identify and dismantle the drug trafficking organizations driving the opioid crisis and contributing to drug-related violence in our communities.

Our efforts thus far illustrate our capacity to translate funding into real results that keep Americans safe. Since January, the DEA has seized 37.4 million pills of fentanyl and 4,200 pounds of fentanyl powder. In February, the Department announced the conclusion of Operation Double Down, a successful operation that dismantled a major Sinaloa Cartel network on the West Coast and resulted in the seizure of 1.7 million fentanyl pills. In May, the DEA executed its largest single fentanyl bust in history, seizing over 400 kilograms of fentanyl in one operation spanning six states. These seizures represent lives saved and families protected. These are just two examples. Every day Department components are removing drugs from our streets and prosecuting those who facilitate their sale.

Fourth, as noted in my confirmation hearing, a strong prison system is necessary to make America safe again. The Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) is not only responsible for keeping violent criminals off our nation's streets but also for providing those in prison the tools that are needed to break the cycle of recidivism. For years the BOP has suffered from mismanagement, understaffing, inadequate funding, and low morale. Under the President's and my leadership, we will do better.

The President's Budget requests \$8.9 billion for BOP's Salaries and Expenses including nearly \$227 million in additional program funding to address critical staffing shortages across the nation. In addition, the President's Budget will also build on the significant progress made by the First Step Act enacted during President Trump's first term. The President's leadership on criminal justice reform demonstrates what is possible when a President is unafraid to do things that have been deemed "too difficult," and to reach across the aisle to bring about real solutions.

Finally, the FY 2026 Budget continues my commitment, and the commitment of the President, to finding savings in the Department, reducing inefficiencies, and delivering value to the American taxpayer. The Department is expeditiously implementing its Agency Reduction in

Force and Reorganization Plan (ARRP) in FY 2025, and this budget request builds on those efforts. In FY 2026, the Department will merge components that work in overlapping areas. This will make the Department more efficient and make our law enforcement and grantmaking work more effective. We will also reallocate resources that support investigations into drug enforcement and organized crime organizations so that they are more directly in the hands of agents and prosecutors on the ground. The President has directed a transformation of the Federal bureaucracy, and the Department will emerge from this work with greater ability to focus on its missions that matter to the American people.

Chairman Rogers, Ranking Member Meng, it is my pleasure to highlight our efforts to be good stewards of the resources and authorities bestowed on us as we strengthen the Department's ability to ensure safety, security, and justice for all Americans. As Attorney General, I am committed to making the Department of Justice run as efficiently and effectively as possible, without adding to the burden on the American taxpayer. I am working diligently to restore confidence and integrity to the Department of Justice and each of its components. Thank you for your continued support of the Department's financial needs, and for the opportunity to present our FY 2026 budget request. I look forward to working with you through the upcoming fiscal year to ensure that the Department of Justice remains on solid financial footing and can accomplish its mission of keeping Americans safe. Thank you.