

Patricia A. Jacobs
Chair, Board of Directors
Massachusetts Port Authority
One Harborside Drive, Suite 200S, East Boston, MA 02128

Dear Ms. Jacobs:

RE: Enforce 740 CMR 25.03 - Stop Illegal ICE Flights at Hanscom Field

Massport has received over 600 individual emails and you as Board Members have received 125 direct individual letters asking you to take action to stop ICE flights from operating at Hanscom Field.

These flights from Hanscom are illegal under your own rules and legislative operating authority as defined in 740 CMR 25.03.

Governor Maura Healey has said in two letters requesting a halt to these flights: "A significant majority of people detained by ICE in Massachusetts over the past year have no criminal convictions or charges. Many of them are in the midst of a lawful process seeking citizenship through Massachusetts courts. Some have been United States citizens. Some have been children."

She continued: "Facilitating the rapid removal of these individuals out of Massachusetts through Hanscom Field purposely obstructs the due process and legal representation they are owed."

Approximately 6% of our state's population, 442,000 people, are at risk of having a family member taken away in denial of their due process.

State facilities, such as Hanscom Field operated by Massport, cannot be used for such harmful purposes. We have already seen the extreme damage illegal ICE operations have caused to our state, with a 30-year low in school attendance, and increased cancellation of hospital and doctors' visits because people are terrified of being seized and transported to far-flung prisons without access to lawyers, their family or a legal process.

The operation of three to four ICE charters per week at Hanscom, using large planes with 150-180 seat capacity, is a direct violation of 740 CMR 25.03, which says no person conducting commercial air passenger service shall operate an aircraft with capacity greater than 60 seats. The FAA defines Section 121 charters, such as those of GlobalX, Eastern, and other ICE contractors, as commercial air passenger service. This 1980 regulation is protected from federal preemption under the Airport Noise and Capacity Act's grandfather clause.

The Massport Board must immediately take action to enforce this rule. The Board has used its authority in the past to force compliance on its lessees and contractors on matters of vital interest to the State, as evidenced by Board resolutions of 2014 and 2019 requiring all lessees and contractors to pay above the minimum wage. Similarly, the Board must enforce the 60-seat rule on all contractors, unless the Executive Director has granted an exemption under 740 CMR 25.00, which expressly prohibits exemptions for regular and recurring flights.

The fact Massport has allowed these deportation flights (up 143% in 2025) from Hanscom means you are responsible for direct harm to Massachusetts residents.

We have seen how ICE's dangerous actions have resulted in the deaths of Americans. We must prevent such tragedies in Massachusetts.

Our Governor has demanded that this harm stop immediately. We demand that you vote immediately to halt all large charter operations at Hanscom Field unless they have received a waiver from the Massport Executive Director in compliance with 740 CMR 25.00.

Sincerely