

# Warren, Markey demand Border Patrol ‘reverse course’ on deploying SWAT teams to sanctuary cities

Massachusetts Democratic Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Edward Markey demanded over the weekend that Customs and Border Protection (CBP) “reverse course” on its decision to send specially trained agents to sanctuary cities to help Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) capture illegal immigrants in those locales.

CBP announced Friday that it would send 100 members of its Border Patrol Tactical Unit (BORTAC), which can be compared to CBP’s SWAT team, to track down and detain illegal immigrants freed by left-wing cities and states. Warren and Markey demanded, in a letter to Acting Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf, Acting CBP Commissioner Mark Morgan, and Acting ICE Director Matthew Albence, that they roll back the tactics.

“Because this initiative is unnecessary, unwelcome, dangerous, menacing, retaliatory and unlikely to achieve its stated goal,” Warren and Markey said, “We write to demand that you reverse course and to pose questions to better understand your rationale for employing paramilitary-style immigration personnel equipped with ‘stun grenades and enhanced Special Forces-type training, including sniper certification’ in Boston and elsewhere in the United States.”



*Elizabeth Warren@SenWarren*

*The Trump administration shouldn't be deploying militarized @CBP agents to menace Boston & other cities that don't cooperate with the President's inhumane immigration policies. @SenMarkey & I demand they reverse course on this dangerous, unneeded new plan.*  
[http://www.wbur.org/news/2020/02/16/bortac-immigration-officers-boston ...](http://www.wbur.org/news/2020/02/16/bortac-immigration-officers-boston)



# **Warren And Markey Demand CBP Withdraw Plan To Deploy Heavily Armed Officers**

*The Massachusetts senators call the initiative “unnecessary, unwelcome, dangerous, menacing, retaliatory and unlikely to achieve its stated goal.”*

*wbur.org*

## **TRUMP ADMINISTRATION TO DEPLOY BORDER PATROL TO SANCTUARY CITIES TO HELP ICE CATCH ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS**

The New York Times reported Friday that the CBP reinforcements would make their way to “San Francisco, Los Angeles, Atlanta, Houston, Boston, New Orleans, Detroit and Newark, N.J.”

Wolf told Fox News on Saturday that agents often get no help from law enforcement in such jurisdictions.

“Most of the times, they are prohibited from helping us due to either state or the local law there. Not only do they not call us and honor our detainers in the jail setting, they’ll provide no support as we go into the communities, either,” he said.

Warren and Markey lay out in their letter some of the places BORTAC agents have operated, including remote and dangerous areas of the U.S. southern border, Iraq and Afghanistan, before criticizing ICE’s use of the specially trained agents.



Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., speaks during a campaign event, Sunday, Jan. 26, 2020, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. (AP Photo/Matt Rourke)

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## **WHERE DOES ELIZABETH WARREN STAND ON THE ISSUES?**

“BORTAC personnel are not meant to focus on routine operations in some of the United States’ largest cities, and there is no need for them to be part of these operations,” they wrote. “Last July, an ‘emergency’ supplemental appropriation was passed and signed into law (over our opposition), providing ICE with hundreds of millions of dollars of additional funding. It is unclear why ICE now needs to draw upon elite CBP resources in order to carry out its operations.”

In a statement Friday, the CBP said the crisis at the border led to an increase in so-called non-detained cases – 3.2 million in fiscal 2019, up from 2.6 million in fiscal 2018. ICE struggled to keep up, particularly as more jurisdictions implemented the controversial sanctuary policies.

*‘The real explanation for this deployment appears to be that President Trump and his administration are attempting to punish Americans cities that reject his misguided immigration policies.’*

*— Sens. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., and Edward Markey, D-Mass.*

“With 5,300 [Enforcement and Removal Operations] law enforcement officers – some of whom were detailed to the border – ICE does not have sufficient resources to effectively manage the sustained increase in non-detained cases, which is exacerbated by the rise of sanctuary jurisdictions,” the statement said.

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Warren and Markey closed their letter with a list of questions for Wolf, Morgan and Albence about the nature of the nationwide deployment. They specifically ask how many BORTAC members will be deployed around the country and where, what their orders are, and whether or not the deployment was “intended to cause fear in immigrant communities or other populations in these cities.”

“The real explanation for this deployment appears to be that President Trump and his administration are attempting to punish Americans cities that reject his misguided immigration policies,” Warren and Markey said in the letter, which was accompanied by a press release saying Trump’s actions raise “grave concerns about the decision to send CBP’s SWAT teams into cities legally choosing not to cooperate with President Trump’s inhumane immigration policies.”

*Fox News’ Adam Shaw contributed to this report.*

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