

Indivisible Meeting with Sen. Ben Ray Luján's Staff

Date: January 15, 2026 (Zoom)

Staff Present: Graham Mason

Participants: Indivisible members and advocates

Purpose

To thank Senator Luján for recent actions, raise urgent concerns about DHS/ICE and Democratic leadership, ask a legislative follow-up question, and propose stronger coordinated Democratic legal resistance to the Trump administration.

1. Gratitude & Positive Feedback

Participants expressed strong appreciation for Senator Luján's recent work, including:

- Condemning actions against Venezuela and opposing alignment with Putin's global agenda
- Co-sponsoring the Russia Sanctions Bill (S.1241)
- Securing \$211.5M for New Mexico rural health care
- Advocacy for veterans' dignity and benefits
- Exposing Trump-era weaponization of federal agencies
- Introducing legislation to repeal SNAP cuts
- Pressing for wildfire risk staffing clarity
- Urging a vaccine strategy for avian influenza
- Seeking DOJ transparency on Epstein files
- Advancing legislation addressing federal failures affecting NM Land Grant Communities

Graham Mason agreed to pass this gratitude directly to Senator Luján.

2. Legislative Question Reflecting Constituent Advocacy

Issue: Inclusion of USPHS and NOAA retirees in the Military Retirement Fund.

- A member asked whether Sen. Luján's office has coordinated with Rep. Fernández or Sen. Heinrich on this issue.
 - Graham committed to follow up with an identified advocate.
 - Connections were made during the meeting to advance this effort.
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3. DHS / ICE Crisis Response (Minnesota)

Due to rapidly escalating events—including the killing of Renee Good and aggressive DHS/ICE actions—participants agreed to address this urgent issue despite it not being on the original agenda.

Key points raised:

- Condemnation of DHS/ICE actions and administration rhetoric
- Call for a **hard NO vote** on DHS/ICE appropriations, even if separated into a standalone CR
- Alignment with Indivisible national leadership's strategy

Graham confirmed:

- Senator Luján shares the group's moral outrage
 - Senate negotiations led by Sen. Patty Murray are ongoing and aligned with these values
 - The concerns would be directly conveyed to the Senator
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4. Democratic Leadership Concerns

Participants raised serious concerns about Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer:

- Perception that current leadership is inadequate for the urgency of 2026
- Belief that Schumer represents not only senators but Democratic voters
- Call for leadership transition, with preference for a more assertive figure (e.g., Chris Murphy)
- Request that Senator Luján use his influence to convey constituents' desire for stronger leadership

Graham agreed to share these views with Senator Luján.

5. Proposal: Bicameral Democratic Litigation Task Force

Participants urged the creation of a **formal, funded, bicameral Democratic Litigation Task Force** to counter illegal executive actions.

Rationale:

- Recent Senate and House actions show growing appetite for aggressive legal pushback
- The existing House Litigation Task Force provides a model
- A unified Senate–House effort could coordinate with Democratic AGs, Secretaries of State, and Governors
- Goal: defend Article I authority, create accountability, attract press attention, and counter authoritarian overreach

Graham acknowledged the idea, noted institutional differences between the House and Senate, and agreed to pass the proposal to Senator Luján.

6. Educational Resources Shared

For member education:

- Overview of Senator Luján's committee assignments
 - Explanation of Unanimous Consent in the U.S. Senate
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Overall Takeaways

- Strong constituent appreciation for Senator Luján's actions
- Heightened alarm over DHS/ICE and authoritarian behavior
- Growing frustration with Democratic Senate leadership
- A strategic push for stronger, coordinated legal and political resistance in 2026
- Staff committed to relaying all concerns and proposals to Senator Luján