Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 1, 2025

The Honorable Kristi Noem
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Mr. Todd M. Lyons
Acting Director
Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Washington, D.C. 20536

Secretary Noem and Acting Director Lyons,

We write to express concern and oppose the Trump Administration's ongoing efforts to expand U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention capacity by awarding new detention contracts using funds not approved by Congress.

The Administration is spending hundreds of millions of dollars to execute its reckless mass deportation plans, run irresponsible publicity campaigns, and unconstitutionally remove immigrants to foreign prisons without due process.[1] Congress recently increased ICE's annual budget by nearly $500 million through the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Continuing Resolution, giving the agency a $10 billion budget in total, with $3.9 billion for detention capacity.[2] According to a recent solicitation, ICE envisions spending up to $10 billion on additional contracts over the next two years for more ICE detention centers.[3] As Congress debates ICE's FY 2026 budget, the agency's pattern of overspending must be brought under control.[4] Homeland Security Secretary Noem admitted in May 2025 to spending far beyond appropriated levels, gambling that DHS could get an extra $170 billion to supercharge immigration detention through the partisan reconciliation bill that is still under debate.[5] This spending spree has been as inhumane as it has

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[1] NYT, *Government Notices to Migrants Fall Short of Due Process, Legal Experts Say.* https://www.nytimes.com/2025/04/25/us/politics/trump-migrants-due-process.html

[2] Department of Homeland Security, *U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Budget Overview, Fiscal Year 2026, Congressional Justification.* https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/2025-05/25_0530_ice_fy26-congressional-budget-justification.pdf

[3] U.S. Immigration and Customers Enforcement, *Emergency Detention and Related Services Strategic Sourcing Vehicle.* https://sam.gov/opp/cf7e3520674e4fabb395ce06a3e1b840/view;
National Immigrant Justice Center, *Congress must stop Trump's exorbitant spending on new contracts for ICE detention & arrests.* https://immigrantjustice.org/blog/congress-must-stop-trumps-exorbitant-spending-on-new-contracts-for-ice-detention-arrests/.

[4] Politico, *House appropriators decry 'egregious' ICE funding mismanagement*, *https://www.politico.com/live-updates/2025/06/11/congress/house-appropriators-post-homeland-security-committee--00399652*

[5] Office of Senator Patty Murray, *Murray Grills Kristi Noem on Frozen Disaster Relief, Slams Trump's Lawless, Inhumane Immigration Policy*.
https://www.murray.senate.gov/murray-grills-kristi-noem-on-frozen-disaster-relief-slams-trumps-lawless-inhumane-immigration-policy/

been costly to taxpayers, including approximately $259 million already awarded to enrich private prison corporations to jail families since the start of Trump administration.[6] According to ICE Acting Director Mr. Lyons, the Administration seeks to develop a deportation system that could function "like Amazon, trying to get your product delivered in 24 hours."[7]

The forthcoming contract solicitations and awards pave the way for the expansion of detention facilities operated by private prison corporations—companies that have contributed to the President's election and have already profited significantly from detaining our neighbors and loved ones, including infants and students.[8] For-profit prisons understand that the Administration's actions benefit them. Geo Group founder George Zoley, whose company is the country's largest private prison operator, told investors that, "the Geo Group was built for this unique moment in our history and the opportunities that it will bring."[9] John Sandweg, a former ICE acting director, said he expects "private contractors are going to make billions, legitimate billions off this."[10]

The Administration's move to secure massive profits for its donors and corporate bosses through mass deportations and detention is an ineffective, wasteful, and negligent enterprise. Research shows that community-based case management alternatives to detention are far more cost-efficient and effective at ensuring compliance with immigration requirements; doubling down to expand a costly immigration detention system plagued by abuse and negligence is irresponsible.[11]

Furthermore, the expansion of ICE detention centers ignores years of reporting from federal oversight agencies, civil society, and news outlets that many ICE detention facilities, especially those operated by a private company, fail to comply with ICE's required minimum standards of care for people in detention. In some instances, the abuses and conditions detained people describe potentially violate U.S. constitutional law around due process; federal law, including

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[6] The Geo Group, *The GEO Group Announces Contract Modification for Company-Owned, 1,328-Bed Karnes ICE Processing Center.* *https://investors.geogroup.com/news-releases/news-release-details/geo-group-announces-contract-modification-company-owned-1328-bed;*
NPR, *President Trump brings back practice of detaining families together.* *https://www.npr.org/2025/03/07/g-s1-52674/trump-detention-families*

[7] The Guardian, *Ice director wants to run deportations like 'Amazon Prime for human beings.* https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/apr/09/ice-todd-lyons-deporation-amazon

[8] AP News,
Trump administration resumes detention of immigrant families after Biden-era pause.
https://apnews.com/article/immigration-detention-texas-border-c008c78469d85a7c1962a6b36ac29330;
CNN, *What we know about the Tufts University PhD student detained by federal agents.*
https://www.cnn.com/2025/03/27/us/rumeysa-ozturk-detained-what-we-know/index.html;
The Geo Group, *The GEO Group Awarded 15-Year Contract by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement for Company-Owned, 1,000-Bed Delaney Hall Facility in New Jersey, New Jersey.* https://investors.geogroup.com/news-releases/news-release-details/geo-group-awarded-15-year-contract-us-immigration-and-customs

[9] ABC News, *In Trump's mass deportation plan, the private prison industry sees a lucrative opportunity.*
https://abcnews.go.com/US/trumps-deportation-plan-private-prison-industry-sees-lucrative/story?id=115775702

[10] ABC News, *In Trump's mass deportation plan, the private prison industry sees a lucrative opportunity.*
https://abcnews.go.com/US/trumps-deportation-plan-private-prison-industry-sees-lucrative/story?id=115775702

[11] National Immigrant Justice Center, *The Real Alternative to Detention.*
immigrantjustice.org/sites/default/files/content-type/research-item/documents/2018-06/The%20Real%20Alternatives%20to%20Detention%20FINAL%2006.17.pdf;
American Immigration Council, *Alternatives to Immigration Detention: An Overview.*
americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/alternatives-immigration-detention-overview

against forced labor and discrimination; and international treaties against torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment.[12] Given recent reports of troubling trends and worsening conditions in detention facilities, DHS and ICE must prioritize their responsibility to ensure U.S. taxpayer funds are not misused to contravene individual liberty, fairness, and equality guaranteed under U.S. law or to benefit entities that facilitate such acts.

Given the Trump Administration's ongoing plans to expand ICE detention centers, its unabashed overspending going to for-profit companies with a notorious track record of persistent abuse, we are requesting comprehensive information on the Administration's actions and their impact. Please respond to the following requests and questions no later than **July 11th, 2025.**

1. Please provide a list of the following records, produced or received since January 20, 2025:
    a. Copy of ICE contracts awarded for detention and related services.
    b. Copy of any proposals, solicitations and bids received for ICE detention and related services.
    c. Names of the state, county, and local governments or private companies that responded to the Emergency Detention Related Services sourcing vehicle solicitation that ICE posted in April 2025.
    d. Names of proposed facilities or regions included in any bids or other responses to the Emergency Detention Related Services solicitation.
2. What studies has ICE conducted to evaluate the feasibility of building new facilities in specific communities versus utilizing existing detention facilities or prisons to detain more individuals as described in the Emergency Detention Related Services sourcing vehicle?
    a. Please provide the results of the studies, including any environmental impact assessments.
3. Provide the number of contracts under consideration, and for each, the type of facility, the region, and the number of beds.
4. How will ICE follow all procurement laws and transparency and accountability requirements required by the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR)?
5. Does ICE have any plans to enter into any additional Intergovernmental Support Agreements (IGSAs)?
6. How is ICE funding these contracts when it is exceeding its appropriated budget?

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[12]The Center for Victims of Torture, *Arbitrary and Cruel: How U.S. Immigration Detention Violates the Convention against Torture and Other International Obligations.* cvt.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Arbitrary_and_Cruel_d5_FINAL.pdf;
Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights, *Inside the Black Hole: Systemic Human Rights Abuses Against Immigrants Detained & Disappeared in Louisiana*. rfkhumanrights.org/report/inside-the-black-hole-systemic-human-rights-abuses-against-immigrants-detained-disappeared-in-louisiana;
Physicians for Human Rights, *Endless Nightmare': Torture and Inhuman Treatment in Solitary Confinement in U.S. Immigration Detention.* phr.org/our-work/resources/endless-nightmare-solitary-confinement-in-us-immigration-detention;
American Civil Liberties Union, *Federal Judge Rules against Baker County Detention Center in Lawsuit Alleging Constitutional Violations.* aclufl.org/en/press-releases/federal-judge-rules-against-baker-county-detention-center-lawsuit-alleging;
Center for Social Justice, *In the Shadows of the Valley: The Unnecessary Confinement and Dehumanizing Conditions of People in Immigration Detention at Moshannon Valley Processing Center.* law.temple.edu/csj/2024/09/04/moshannan-valley-processing-center;
Office of Senator Elizabeth Warren, *United States Senate letter to DHS and ICE on ending solitary confinement in ICE detention.* warren.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/letter_solitary_confinement_in_immigration_detention_32924.pdf.

7. Has DHS reprogrammed funding from other DHS agencies to ICE? If so, which agency and what amounts were transferred?

Members of Congress have long demanded accountability for the abuses conducted in immigration detention facilities and to end our reliance on for-profit corporations.[13] We renew that call today. DHS and ICE have been well aware of the conditions and treatment of detained persons in ICE detention facilities.[14] It is a fact that this Administration seems to revel in. DHS must cease its efforts to expand ICE detention and engage contractors and agreement-holders who have systemically failed to meet basic standards of care and human decency.

I look forward to reviewing your prompt and thorough response.

Sincerely,

Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress

LaMonica McIver
Member of Congress

Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress

Juan Vargas
Member of Congress

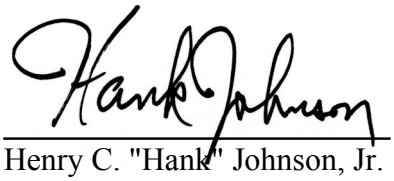
Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

[13] Office of Senator Elizabeth Warren, *Senate letter to DHS and ICE on ending private detention centers.* warren.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/final_-_letter_to_dhs_and_ice_on_private_detention_center_use_05142024.pdf; Senate Committee on the Judiciary, *Senate Letter to DHS and ICE on systemic health care failures in ICE detention facilities.* judiciary.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/DHS%20ICE%20Detainee%20Deaths%20in%20Detention%20Letter.pdf.

[14] Committee on Homeland Security, *ICE Detention Facilities Failing to Meet Basic Standards of Care.* democrats-homeland.house.gov/imo/media/doc/Homeland%20ICE%20facility%20staff%20report.pdf

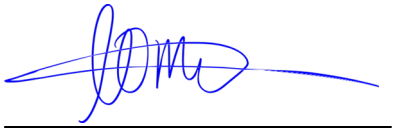
Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



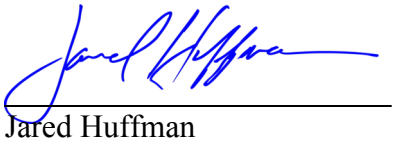
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress

Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress

Robert J. Menendez
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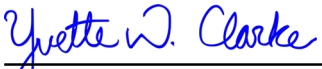
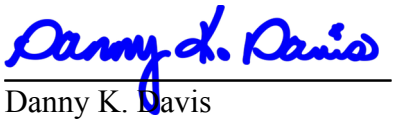
Yassamin Ansari
Member of Congress

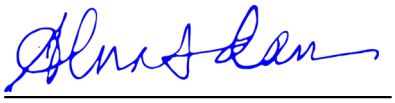


Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



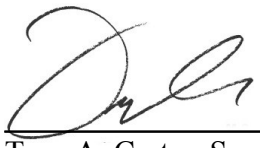
Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress

Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress

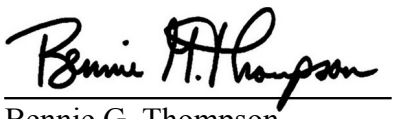


Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress

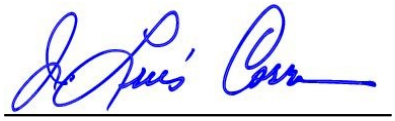
Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



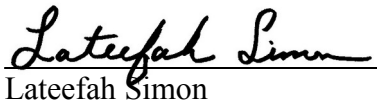
Troy A. Carter, Sr.
Member of Congress



Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress



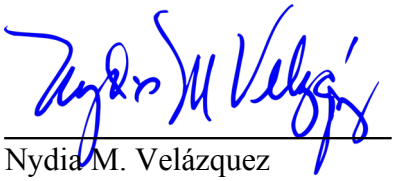
J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



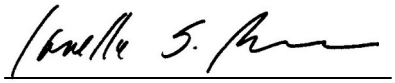
Lateefah Simon
Member of Congress

Adriano Espaillat
Chair
Congressional Hispanic
Caucus

Andre Carson
Member of Congress



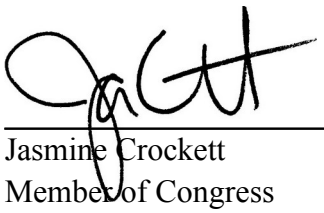
Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



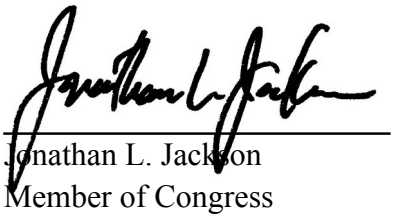
Janelle S. Bynum
Member of Congress

Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress

Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress

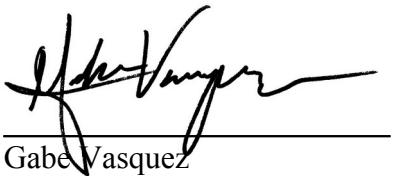


Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress

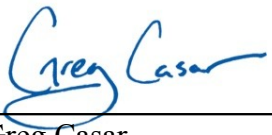


Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress

Darren Soto
Member of Congress



Gabe Vasquez
Member of Congress



Greg Casar
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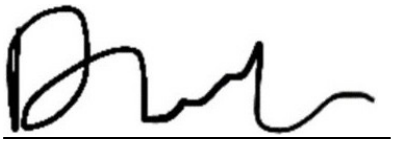
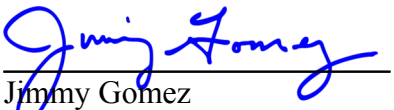
Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress

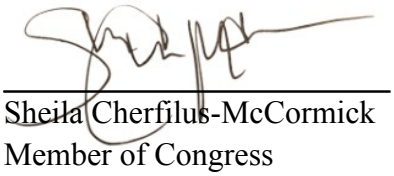


Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress

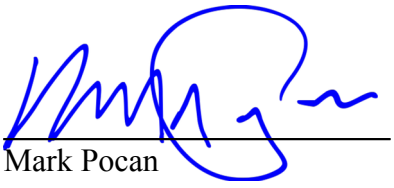
Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
Member of Congress

Betty McCollum
Member of Congress

Maxine Dexter
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress

Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress

Nikema Williams
Member of Congress

Andrea Salinas
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Adam Smith
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Veronica Escobar
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