

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 20, 2026

The Honorable Mark Amodei
Chairman
House Subcommittee on Homeland
Security
2006 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20515

The Honorable Henry Cuellar
Ranking Member
House Subcommittee on Homeland
Security
2228 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Amodei and Ranking Member Cuellar:

As you consider the Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Homeland Security appropriations bill, we request that you place strict restrictions on any funding to purchase warehouses for immigration detention. We understand that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is moving forward with [plans](#) to cage people in massive warehouse camps across the country. This “[Detention Reengineering Initiative](#)” – as ICE refers to it – is a threat to life, due process, and democracy.

The planned creation of this sprawling network of industrial jails represents an unprecedented expansion of the already massive immigration detention system. If enacted, ICE’s warehouse plan would rapidly increase detention capacity to 92,600 “beds”, drastically expanding the already massive detention system within months. There are currently around 61,000 people in ICE prisons across the country, and [ICE has said](#) they plan to expand capacity to over 100,000 beds. At some sites, ICE is reportedly planning on detaining people in the warehouses as soon as April 2026. To meet this unrealistic and alarming goal, ICE recently [awarded](#) contracts to [two firms with no prior experience](#) in operating immigration detention facilities, and is circumventing the normal competitive bidding processes by using the U.S. Navy’s Supply Systems Command [contracting vehicle](#), a process meant for [overseas work](#), not internal mass immigrant detention sites. These plans come despite massive [opposition](#) across party lines to the planned warehouse purchases and renovations. In response to local governments and private warehouse owners rejecting ICE’s plans, the Administration has threatened to use eminent domain to seize them - despite public sentiment against them and the resulting harm to the public. With ICE’s track record of [abuse](#) and record breaking [deaths](#) in detention already this year, this plan is a human rights catastrophe in the making.

Given the already widespread due process and human rights violations occurring at the hands of ICE, it is certain that this historic expansion will result in an increase in unlawful arrests [to fill the beds](#), rushed and wrongful deportations in violation of people’s due process rights, widespread family separations, disease outbreaks in facilities, and preventable deaths due to medical negligence.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) estimates that this project will cost taxpayers \$38.3 billion – nearly 10 times ICE’s entire FY2024 detention budget. ICE intends to use funds provided by Congress through the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA) to create its warehouse jails. This money, \$45 billion for ICE alone, could go towards repairing roads, building hospitals, saving health care coverage for hundreds of thousands of people, or investing in our schools. Instead, billions of dollars are being poured into a mass incarceration detention scheme that only stands to hurt communities.

Through the appropriations process, Congress has the authority and the imperative to stop ICE from using taxpayer funds to realize its warehouse project, and redirect the hundreds of billions of [unspent OBBBA funds](#) away from ICE detention.

That is why we respectfully urge that you support the following funding levels:

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Homeland Security by this Act or any other Act, including prior Acts and laws other than appropriations Acts, and including Public Law 119-21, may be used

1. To purchase a warehouse or to contract with the owner or any warehouse for the purpose of detaining noncitizens; or
2. To repurpose, operate, staff or maintain any warehouse owned by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement or U.S. Customs and Border Protection to accommodate the detention of noncitizens; or
3. To contract with any company using any Department of Defense contracting vehicles that circumvent or bypass the normal open procurement DHS bidding process.

Further, none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Homeland Security by this Act or any other Act, including prior Acts and laws other than appropriations Acts, and including Public Law 119-21, may be used for:

1. For construction or alteration of buildings used for ICE detention facilities that do not comply with state and local zoning, environmental, building, electrical, fire and life safety, plumbing, historic preservation codes, ordinances, and other similar laws;

Immigration detention has already cost far too much in pain and suffering of immigrant communities. It is time for Congress to take control over ICE spending, prevent this warehouse expansion from moving forward, and work towards redirecting unspent OBBBA funds for ICE detention towards community needs, not cages.

Sincerely,



Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress



Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



Sydney Kamlager-Dove
Member of Congress



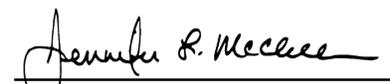
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Member of Congress



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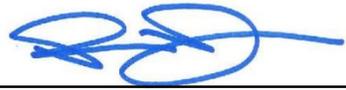
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Eric Swalwell
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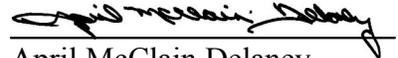
Salud Carbajal
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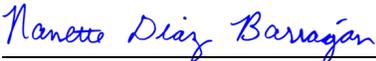
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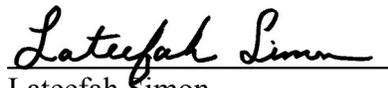
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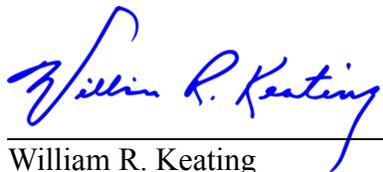
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