

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 25, 2026

Secretary Markwayne Mullin
Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20032

Acting Director David Venturella
Immigration and Customs Enforcement
500 12th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20536

Secretary Mullin and Acting Director Venturella,

As Members of the House of Representatives, we write with profound outrage following the latest death connected to Delaney Hall Immigration Detention Facility in Newark, New Jersey operated under a billion-dollar contract by GEO Group, a for-profit prison contractor. This tragic death is part of a broader and deeply troubling pattern of deaths occurring in Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention facilities across the country. More than 50 people have died in ICE custody since January 20, 2025, with additional deaths occurring shortly after individuals were released from ICE custody.¹ These deaths raise serious questions about the conditions in which individuals are being detained, the quality and timeliness of the medical care they receive, and whether ICE and its private detention center contractors are meeting their responsibilities to safeguard the health and well-being of people in their custody.

Detention should never be a death sentence. Yet reports from detention centers across the country have documented delayed and denied medical treatment, failures to provide necessary medications, inadequate treatment of chronic illnesses, insufficient mental health services, and dangerous delays in emergency care. More than 300 allegations of medical neglect have been identified in federal court filings involving individuals detained across at least 33 states. Detainees have reported going without medications for high blood pressure, diabetes, depression, epilepsy, Parkinson's disease, HIV, and other serious conditions, while requests for medical attention have gone unanswered for weeks as their conditions deteriorated.²

These concerns are particularly serious about facilities operated by GEO Group and CoreCivic, two of ICE's largest private detention contractors. The federal government cannot outsource its responsibility to provide adequate medical care, nor can ICE continue paying private companies

¹ Human Rights Watch, *Dying in Detention*. June 25, 2026. <https://www.hrw.org/report/2026/06/25/dying-in-detention/rising-deaths-in-an-expanding-us-immigration-detention-system>

² The Associated Press, *From Festering Infections to Untreated Cancer, ICE Detainees Across the US Describe Medical Neglect*. June 2, 2026. <https://www.ap.org/news-highlights/spotlights/2026/from-festering-infections-to-untreated-cancer-ice-detainees-across-the-us-describe-medical-neglect/>

to detain people without holding those companies accountable when serious deficiencies in care put lives at risk.

At GEO Group's Delaney Hall operations, detainees and their families have repeatedly reported difficulty obtaining medications and timely medical treatment.³ Members of Congress have raised these concerns with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) repeatedly, and recent reporting has described seriously ill detainees being released from the facility while families and advocates continue to raise questions about the medical treatment they received while in custody.⁴ ICE's subsequent decision to stop requiring public reporting and congressional notifications of deaths occurring within 30-days of release makes it even more difficult to determine whether inadequate medical care in federal custody contributed to these deaths.⁵

The concerns involving GEO Group are not limited to New Jersey. At GEO Group's Adelanto ICE Processing Center in California, a federal court recently ordered significant changes to conditions at the facility and required independent monitoring of medical care. The order followed allegations concerning inadequate medical treatment and other conditions that placed detainees at risk.⁶ Taken together, the documented problems at Delaney Hall and other GEO-operated facilities demand federal oversight and accountability rather than continued acceptance of contractor assurances that adequate medical care is being provided.

Serious deficiencies have also been documented at facilities operated by CoreCivic. In February, cases of measles, a highly contagious virus that spreads in close quarters, occurred in two CoreCivic detention facilities in Arizona and Texas. Dozens of detainees at CoreCivic facilities have also complained of hours-long waits to see nurses, only to be turned away and told their conditions were not serious enough to warrant treatment. Detainees with injuries have reportedly waited days or even weeks for x-rays, while people with diabetes have struggled to receive regular access to insulin. Many detainees and their attorneys also reported denial of access to outside specialists, including oncologists and dentists. Even when detainees are able to see a doctor and receive a prescription, they are often forced to wait days or weeks for their medication to be provided.⁷ Infectious disease outbreaks are particularly concerning in detention settings where overcrowding and inadequate access to medical care can place both detained individuals and surrounding communities at risk.

At CoreCivic's California City Detention Facility, these concerns have been substantiated through independent court oversight. A court-appointed medical monitor recently documented

³ nj.com, *Sick detainees are being released from Delaney Hall*. August 14, 2026.

<https://www.nj.com/essex/2026/08/sick-detainees-are-being-released-from-delaney-hall-family-legislators-need-to-keep-up-the-pressure-calavia-robertson.html>

⁴ The Associated Press, *DHS cites recent policy shift after not disclosing death of Guatemalan man who had been in custody*. August 12, 2026. <https://apnews.com/article/delaney-hall-guatemalan-man-death-f8290aa3c055b27a9958f22934c5db55>

⁵ Immigration and Customs Enforcement, *ICE Directive 11003.7*. June 2, 2026. <https://www.ice.gov/node/69921>

⁶ CalMatters, *Judge demands immigrants at Adelanto get clean water and medical care*. July 16, 2026. <https://calmatters.org/justice/2026/07/judge-adelanto-conditions-injunction/>

⁷ The New York Times, *ICE Health Care, CoreCivic and Immigrant Detention*. February 14, 2026. <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/02/14/business/ice-health-care-corecivic-immigrants-detention.html>

delays in medical assessments and treatment, missed medications, and inadequate follow-up care. The monitor concluded that the facility lacked a reliable system for consistently providing adequate health care and that these deficiencies placed detainees at risk of immediate and long-term harm.⁸ A separate investigation by the California Department of Justice found that medical staffing at the facility had failed to keep pace with the growing detained population. At the time of the state's inspection, the facility reportedly had only one physician for nearly 1,000 detainees.⁹

Similar concerns have been identified regarding facilities operated by other major ICE contractors. At Winn Correctional Center in Louisiana, operated by LaSalle Corrections, two detainees died in less than two months this year. A federal inspection identified deficiencies involving medical care and medical recordkeeping, including failures to maintain updated treatment documents and laboratory testing records.¹⁰ At the Buffalo Federal Detention Facility in New York, where ICE contracts with Akima Global Services, medical staffing shortages have contributed to significant delays in care. A 2025 DHS Inspector General inspection found that staffing shortages resulted in detainees waiting as long as five months for dental care.¹¹ At the Management & Training Corporation operated Imperial Regional Detention Facility in California, two detainees died over the past year amid concerns about access to medical care as the population increased. One death, at the detention center in Camp East Montana operated by Amentum Services Inc, was even ruled to be a homicide by a local medical examiner and the Government Accountability Office documented preventable deaths and medical neglect in the facility in a June 2026 report.¹²

These deaths cannot be viewed in isolation from the documented failures in medical care occurring throughout ICE's detention system. Delayed treatment, interruptions in prescription medications, inadequate medical and mental health staffing, failures to respond appropriately to serious medical conditions, and gaps in emergency and follow-up care have devastating and fatal consequences. DHS and ICE have an obligation to determine whether failures in medical care contributed to deaths in federal custody or shortly after release, make those findings available to Congress, and hold responsible officials and contractors accountable.

Federal standards of care require ICE detention facilities to provide timely and appropriate medical care to individuals in their custody. Under these standards, detainees must receive a physical examination and mental health screening within 14 days of arrival. Detention facilities

⁸ Los Angeles Times, *Monitor Cites List of Healthcare Failings at California ICE Detention Center*. July 28, 2026. <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2026-07-28/court-appointed-monitor-ice-medical-care>

⁹ CalMatters, *Six People Died in California ICE Detention Centers as Trump Deportations Soared*. May 15, 2026. <https://calmatters.org/justice/2026/05/ice-detention-centers-state-inspections/>

¹⁰ The Associated Press, *ICE Facility in Louisiana Reports Its Second Death in 2 Months*. June 8, 2026. <https://apnews.com/article/ice-detainee-death-winn-a1ab66753aa4a1effdff0b7abef2240f>

¹¹ Spectrum News 1, *Lives in the Balance: Life inside Upstate New York's ICE detention center*. July 28, 2026. <https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/central-ny/future-journalists-project/2026/07/28/life-inside-upstate-new-york-s-ice-detention-center>

¹² National Immigrant Justice Center, *Costly & Inhumane: Trump's Mass Deportation Tactics Escalate, Continue to Harm Our Chicago Neighbors*. August 2026. <https://immigrantjustice.org/research/costly-inhumane-trumps-mass-deportation-tactics-escalate-continue-to-harm-our-chicago-neighbors/>

must also have a physician available around the clock, and prescription medications and other necessary treatments must be provided in a timely manner.¹³ Yet a recent investigation into ICE's detention oversight system found that facilities continue to receive high inspection ratings despite reports of serious medical and safety deficiencies, raising more concerns about whether ICE's inspection process is effectively identifying and correcting dangerous conditions.¹⁴ The repeated reports of medical neglect across facilities operated by multiple private contractors raise fundamental questions about whether ICE is adequately enforcing its own requirements and what consequences, if any, contractors face when they fail to comply.

Accordingly, we request your response to the following:

1. Provide data on access to medical and mental health care provided to individuals in ICE custody since January 20, 2025, including the average time from intake to initial medical screening, comprehensive health assessment, receipt of prescribed medications, and the average response time for routine and urgent medical requests. Identify, by facility, the number of instances in which required medical evaluations or treatment were delayed and the length of those delays.
2. Provide, by facility, data on specialty medical care and diagnostic services, including the number of requests for outside specialists, diagnostic testing, and follow-up appointments; the number approved and denied; average wait times; and any current backlogs.
3. Describe in detail ICE's procedures for ensuring continuity of prescription medications, including medications prescribed before detention and time-sensitive medications such as insulin, HIV medications, seizure medications, psychiatric medications, anticoagulants, and transplant medications. For each facility, identify the number of documented medication interruptions, and any current backlogs in filling or administering prescriptions.
4. Provide, by facility, data on serious medical emergencies in ICE custody since January 20, 2025, including hospitalizations, emergency-department visits, suicide attempts, overdoses, cardiac events, seizures, and other life-threatening incidents. Identify any instances in which treatment, transportation, or hospitalization was delayed and the length of the delay.
5. Provide the total number of deaths in ICE custody since January 20, 2025, including the facility, date, cause of death when known, and whether the death remains under investigation. How many deaths involved documented medical complaints or concerns about the adequacy or timeliness of medical care? Provide autopsy results and other records for every death in ICE custody, or an explanation of why an autopsy was not conducted.

¹³ Immigration and Customs Enforcement, *National Detention Standards 2026*.

<https://www.ice.gov/detain/detention-management/2026>

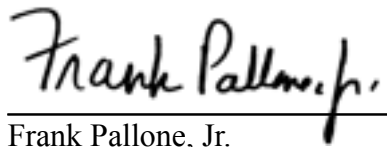
¹⁴ Project On Government Oversight, *Inside ICE's Broken System for Inspecting Detention Facilities*. August 18, 2026. <https://www.pogo.org/investigates/inside-ices-broken-system-for-inspecting-detention-facilities>

6. Identify all individuals since January 20, 2025, who were released from ICE custody or transferred to another facility after experiencing a serious medical emergency or while hospitalized. For each individual, provide the facility and facility operator, date and reason for the release or transfer, the individual's medical condition at the time, and whether the individual subsequently died.
7. Describe ICE's mental health and suicide-prevention procedures, including screening requirements, suicide-watch policies, available interventions, and the number of individuals identified as being at risk of suicide since January 20, 2025.
8. Provide current medical staffing levels and vacancies at each ICE detention facility, including physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, mental health professionals, dentists, and pharmacists. Are licensed medical professionals available onsite 24 hours a day at each facility?
9. Identify the private contractors responsible for providing medical, mental health, and pharmaceutical services at each ICE detention facility and describe how ICE monitors their performance. How many medical care violations have resulted in corrective actions, financial penalties, contract modifications, or contract termination since January 20, 2025?
10. Describe ICE's process for inspecting and enforcing compliance with applicable detention standards, including the number of medical-care deficiencies identified since January 20, 2025, the number that remain unresolved, and the corrective actions required.
11. What mechanisms are available to detained individuals and their attorneys to report inadequate medical care or violations of detention standards, and what protections are in place against retaliation?
12. What steps has ICE taken to address systemic concerns regarding medical care, medication access, staffing, serious medical emergencies, and deaths across its detention system, and what additional measures does the agency plan to implement?
13. Identify all ICE detention contracts executed, amended, or renewed since January 20, 2025, that include provisions stating or asserting that state or local laws, regulations, licensing requirements, inspections, or enforcement actions "shall not apply" to the detention facility. Why is ICE attempting to prevent state and local authorities from independently inspecting these facilities?

As Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security and Acting Director of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, you both have the authority and responsibility to address the serious deficiencies at these facilities. If they cannot be operated in compliance with federal law and the Constitution, GEO Group, CoreCivic, and any other private contractors should not continue to profit from taxpayer dollars, and the detention centers must be closed. We expect your prompt

response no later than Tuesday, September 1st. As Members of Congress, we remain prepared to exercise our constitutional oversight authority to ensure that detainees are treated humanely and federal law is faithfully executed.

Sincerely,



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



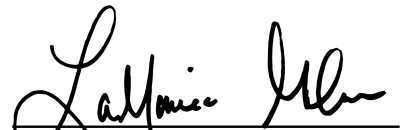
Analilia Mejia
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



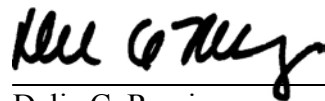
Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



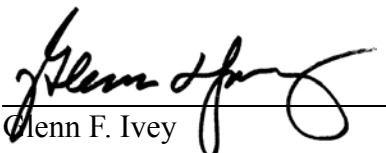
LaMonica McIver
Member of Congress



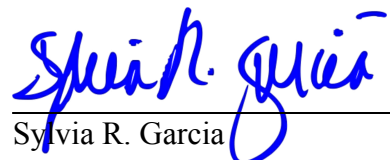
Sydney Kamlager-Dove
Member of Congress



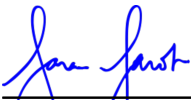
Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



Glenn F. Ivey
Member of Congress



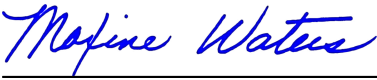
Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



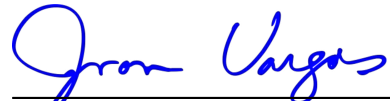
Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Maxine Waters
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



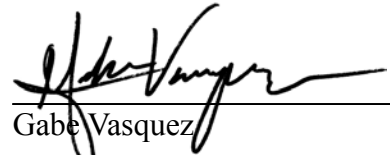
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



André Carson
Ranking Member, Aviation
Subcommittee



Gabe Vasquez
Member of Congress



Maxine Dexter, M.D.
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress



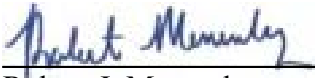
Lateefah Simon
Member of Congress



Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress



Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



Robert J. Menendez
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



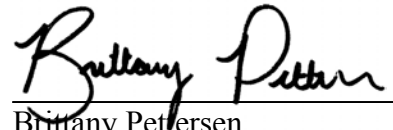
Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



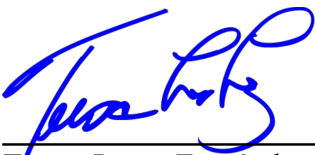
Brittany Petersen
Member of Congress



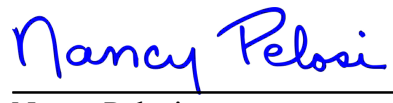
Adenita S. Grijalva
Member of Congress



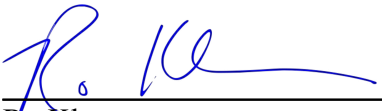
Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



Teresa Leger Fernández
Member of Congress



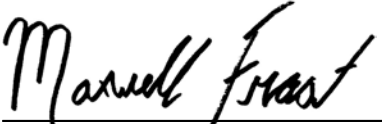
Nancy Pelosi
Member of Congress



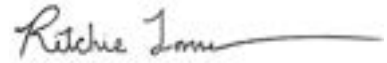
Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



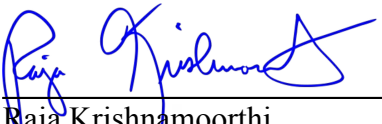
Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



Maxwell Alejandro Frost
Member of Congress



Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress



Joe Neguse
Member of Congress



Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress



Bill Foster
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



Val Hoyle
Member of Congress



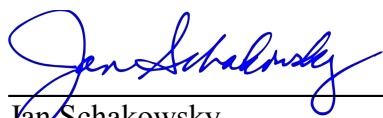
Pablo José Hernández
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



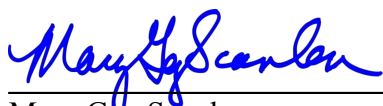
Al Green
Member of Congress



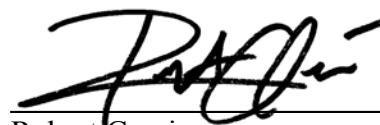
Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Troy A. Carter, Sr.
Member of Congress



Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



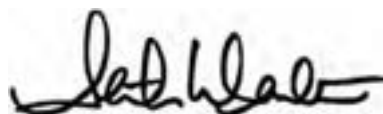
Robert Garcia
Member of Congress



Nellie Pou
Member of Congress



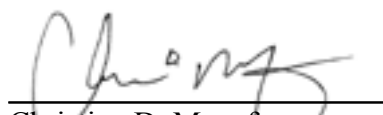
Kelly Morrison
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress



Christian D. Menefee
Member of Congress



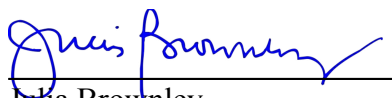
Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Member of Congress



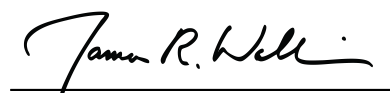
Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress



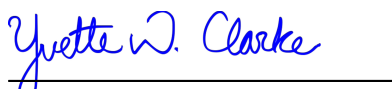
Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



James R. Walkinshaw
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



Greg Casar
Member of Congress



Derek T. Tran
Member of Congress



Gabe Amo
Member of Congress



Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



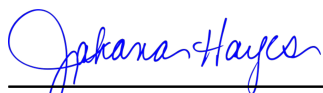
Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



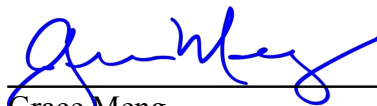
Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



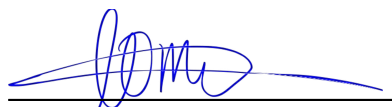
Andrea Salinas
Member of Congress



Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress



Grace Meng
Member of Congress



Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress



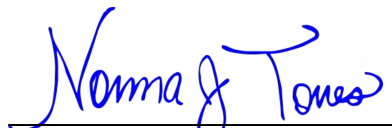
Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress



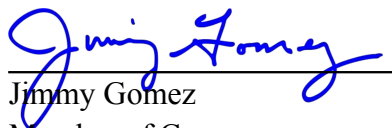
Luz M. Rivas
Member of Congress



Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



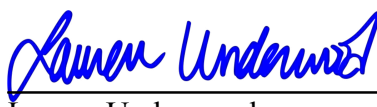
Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress



Jason Crow
Member of Congress



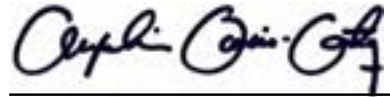
Herbert C. Conaway, Jr.
Member of Congress



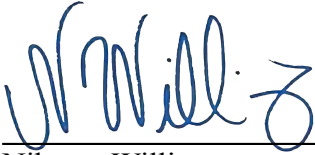
Lauren Underwood
Member of Congress



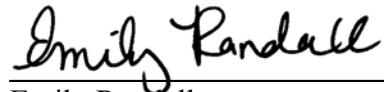
Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress



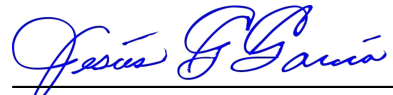
Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



Emily Randall
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress