

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 15, 2026

The Honorable Markwayne Mullin
Secretary of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave SE
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Mullin,

We urge you to shut down the Dilley Immigration Processing Center. There is no humane way to imprison a child and their family. It is nothing more than a trailer prison that detains families. In fact, the Dilley facility is the only place in the United States dedicated to detaining families with children who have not been charged with a crime. Yet, the Trump Administration continues to detain families and children in support of its mass deportation campaign. Former and current detained families describe horrific conditions perpetuated by CoreCivic and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) that are meant to strip them of their dignity and make them feel hopeless. Americans have watched ICE's brutality play out in their communities, but what happens behind the walls of the Dilley detention facility remains out of sight by design. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) must stop imprisoning families, end this inhumanity, and close the Dilley detention facility.

Parents describe horrendous conditions at Dilley, leading to severe depression, hopelessness, and suicidal ideation amongst their children. Children have reported that their food is often contaminated with worms and mold and that they feel sick after drinking tap water.¹² Families also report not being able to sleep at night because the lights are kept on in their rooms throughout the night. Education remains inadequate for middle and high school youth, many of whom were attending school in the U.S. for years before they were detained. No person, much less a child, should be subjected to these conditions.

Medical care provided by CoreCivic staff is delayed, denied, and in many cases outright dismissed, even when children are suffering life-threatening medical emergencies. One minor boy described having severe stomach pain for days, yet a CoreCivic nurse told him to take Ibuprofen and make an appointment with a doctor in a few days. It was not until he vomited

¹ [Children Describe Life Inside Dilley ICE Detention Center — ProPublica](#)

ProPublica. (2024, June 18). Children describe life inside Dilley ICE detention center.

² [Former detainees report water price-gouging at the Dilley Immigration Processing Center | TPR](#)

Texas Public Radio. (2026, April 23). Former detainees report water price-gouging at the Dilley Immigration Processing Center.

from pain that medical staff transported him to a hospital. He was immediately diagnosed with appendicitis and required emergency surgery. Other families say they do not get the medication needed for their chronic illnesses. A diabetic patient described not having access to the regular treatment she needed. ICE and CoreCivic are creating barriers to medical services detained families need. Instead of allowing families to continue treatment within their communities, they detain and force these families to suffer. The Dilley detention facility is unsafe for children and families and must shut down.

Despite this cruelty, your agency violates the Flores Settlement Agreement by routinely detaining children and families past the general 20-day detention limitation governed by the *Flores* Settlement Agreement (FSA). The FSA requires that children in immigration custody must be held in the least restrictive setting appropriate to their needs and be detained no longer than 20 days in unlicensed facilities. The Trump Administration consistently and systematically violates these requirements. Families at Dilley report being held well beyond that limit with no clear timeline or explanation. In February and March 2026, the government has stated that children's average time in custody at Dilley was approximately 57 days, and the median time in custody was approximately 44 days, with 92 children being detained for 61-90 days, and 80 children detained for more than 91 days.³ The FSA exists precisely because courts recognized that detention causes irreparable harm to children. As noted by the American Academy of Pediatrics, there is no evidence indicating that any time in detention is safe for children.⁴

Families detained at Dilley also face severe restrictions on internet and communications access. These restrictions by ICE are clearly meant to limit the flow of information into and out of Dilley. Their internet access is often throttled and many websites are blocked, limiting access to resources crucial to their cases. During a Congressional visit in early April, a Member and staff tested websites that ICE and CoreCivic staff had claimed were accessible but were actually blocked. Detained families report the same — no traditional search engines, limited educational sites, and little to no web-based games for their kids. DHS has further compounded these restrictions by limiting detainees' access to video calls, a response that came after children used those calls to describe conditions at the facility.⁵ These restrictions speak for themselves: an administration with nothing to hide would not silence the communication of families and children inside.

³[Flores v. Blanche, Notice of Filing Supplemental ICE Juvenile Coordinator Report, 85-cv-04544, May 4, 2026](#) U.S. District Court, Central District of California. (2026, May 4). Notice of filing supplemental ICE juvenile coordinator report (Flores v. Blanche, 85-cv-04544).

⁴[American Academy of Pediatrics, Detention of Immigrant Children, Policy Statement, May 1, 2017](#) American Academy of Pediatrics. (2017, May 1; reaffirmed 2022, November). Detention of immigrant children [Policy statement].

⁵[Dilley immigrant prison camp clamps down on video calls in further censorship of detainees - San Antonio Current](#) San Antonio Current. (2026, April 10). Dilley immigrant prison camp clamps down on video calls in further censorship of detainees.

CoreCivic is prioritizing profits over humane treatment of its detainees. In March 2025, CoreCivic announced an agreement with ICE and Target Hospitality Corporations to resume family detention at Dilley.⁶ CoreCivic expects to receive approximately \$180 million annually at full capacity, while Target Hospitality anticipates \$246 million over the five-year contract.⁷⁸ Patrick Swindle, President and CEO of CoreCivic, recently boasted that CoreCivic provides the most humane, most efficient, most compliant, and best value to the government.⁹ Here, “best value” means maximizing profit through lack of trained personnel, inedible food, and insufficient medical care. CoreCivic cares about their bottom line, not about the people in their care. The Trump Administration’s policy of mass deportation with maximum cruelty aligns with CoreCivic’s mission to provide low-cost and efficient solutions to the government.

No child and family should be imprisoned for seeking safety by legitimately following United States immigration laws. The United States has the tools, the resources, and the legal framework to process these families without detention. Alternatives to detention programs have proven effective, with families appearing for immigration proceedings at rates exceeding 99 percent.¹⁰ Many kids cannot comprehend why their lives suddenly went from spending their days at school learning and playing with their friends to being imprisoned at Dilley with no end in sight.

We demand that you terminate CoreCivic’s contract to operate the Dilley facility and shut down the Dilley Immigration Processing Center immediately.

Sincerely,



Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



Greg Casar
Member of Congress

⁶ [South Texas immigration detention center to reopen — Texas Tribune](#)

Texas Tribune. (2025, March 6). South Texas immigration detention center to reopen.

⁷ [CoreCivic Announces Resumption of Operations at South Texas Family Residential Center in Dilley, Texas | CoreCivic, Inc.](#) CoreCivic, Inc. (2025, March 6). CoreCivic announces resumption of operations at South Texas Family Residential Center in Dilley, Texas.

⁸ [Target Hospitality Announces 5-year Contract Award Reactivating South Texas Assets](#)

Target Hospitality. (2025, March 6). Target Hospitality announces 5-year contract award reactivating South Texas assets.

⁹ [CoreCivic, Inc. Q2 2025 Earnings Call Transcript — Investing.com](#)

CoreCivic, Inc. (2025, Q2). Earnings call transcript.

¹⁰ [Women’s Refugee Commission, The Family Case Management Program: Why Case Management Can and Must Be Part of the US Approach to Immigration, June 2019](#)

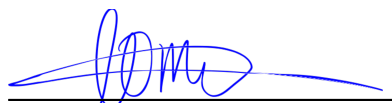
Women’s Refugee Commission. (2019, June). The Family Case Management Program: Why case management can and must be part of the US approach to immigration.



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress



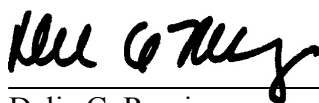
Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



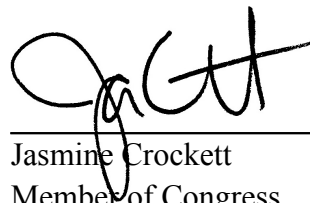
Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



Al Green
Member of Congress



Andrea Salinas
Member of Congress



Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress



Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress



Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



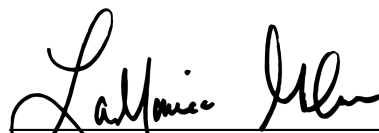
Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress



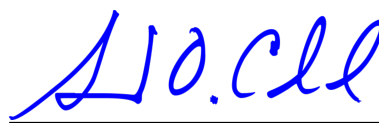
Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress



LaMonica McIver
Member of Congress



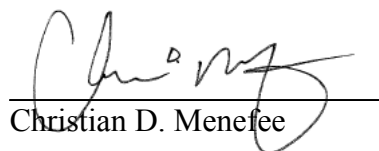
Maxwell Alejandro Frost
Member of Congress



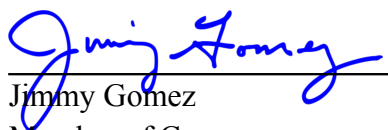
Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



Christian D. Menefee
Member of Congress



Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress



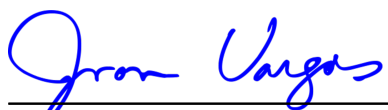
Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress



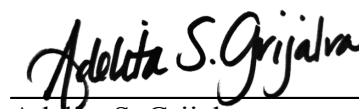
Maxine Dexter, M.D.
Member of Congress



Nancy Pelosi
Member of Congress



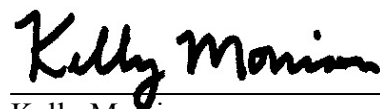
J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



Adelita S. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Analilia Mejia
Member of Congress



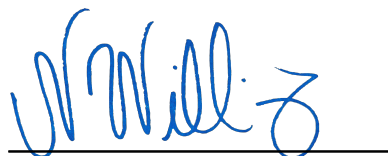
Kelly Morrison
Member of Congress



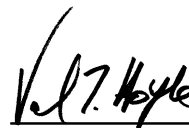
Robert J. Menendez
Member of Congress



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



Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



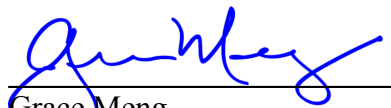
Val Hoyle
Member of Congress

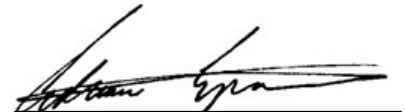

Yassamin Ansari
Member of Congress


Lateefah Simon
Member of Congress


Mike Quigley
Member of Congress


Summer L. Lee
Member of Congress


Grace Meng
Member of Congress

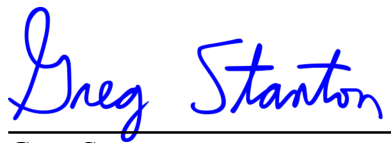

Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress


Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress


James R. Walkinshaw
Member of Congress


André Carson
Member of Congress


Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress


Greg Stanton
Member of Congress


MARK TAKANO
Member of Congress



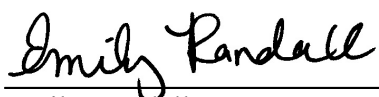
Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



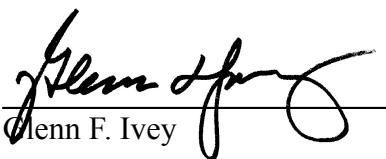
Robert Garcia
Member of Congress



Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



Emily Randall
Member of Congress



Glenn F. Ivey
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



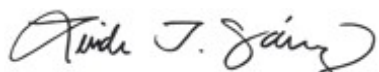
Sarah McBride
Member of Congress



Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress



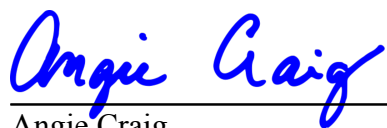
Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



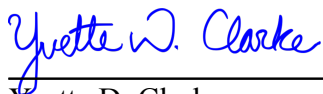
Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



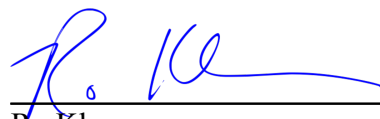
Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress



Angie Craig
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



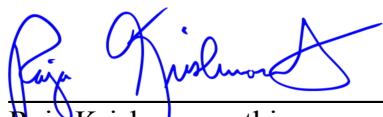
Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



Gabe Amo
Member of Congress



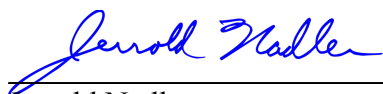
Luz M. Rivas
Member of Congress



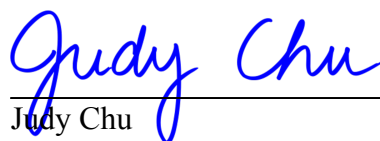
Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



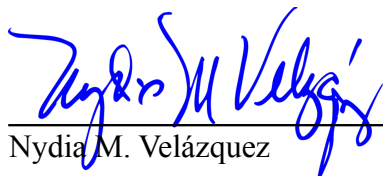
Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



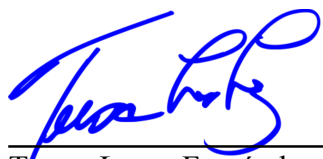
Judy Chu
Member of Congress



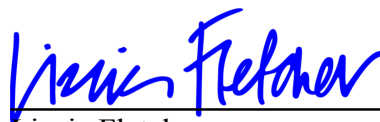
Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



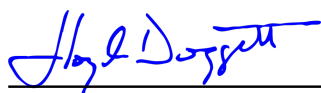
Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress



Teresa Leger Fernández
Member of Congress



Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress



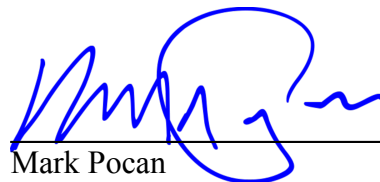
Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



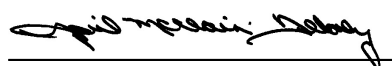
Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



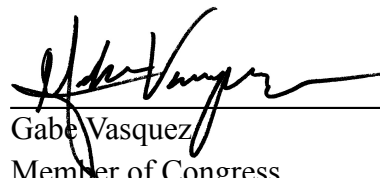
Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress



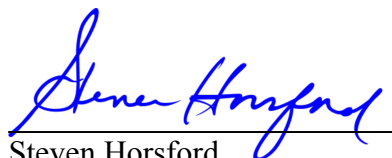
Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



April McClain Delaney
Member of Congress



Gabe Vasquez
Member of Congress



Steven Horsford
Member of Congress



Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress



Herbert C. Conaway, Jr.
Member of Congress



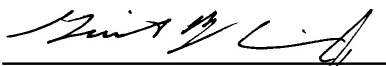
Darren Soto
Member of Congress



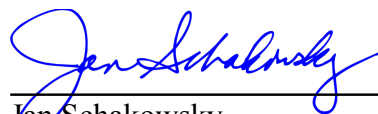
Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress



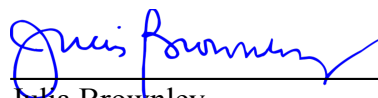
Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress



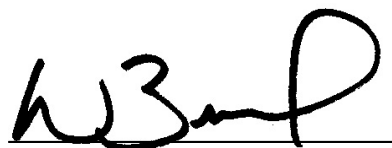
Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Wesley Bell
Member of Congress



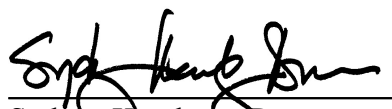
Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress



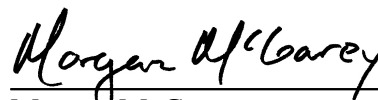
John Garamendi
Member of Congress



John B. Larson
Member of Congress



Sydney Kamlager Dove
Member of Congress



Morgan McGarvey
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



Pablo José Hernández
Member of Congress



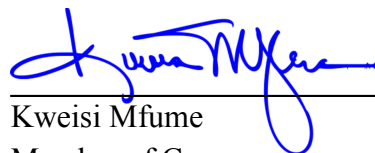
Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress



George Latimer
Member of Congress



Jim Tokuda
Member of Congress



Kweisi Mfume
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress



Nellie Pou
Member of Congress



Sam T. Liccardo
Member of Congress



Mike Levin
Member of Congress



Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress



Chris Deluzio
Member of Congress