



**One Hundred Sixteenth Congress
Committee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515**

April 29, 2020

George C. Zoley
Chairman and CEO
The GEO Group
One Park Place, Suite 700,
621 Northwest 53rd St
Boca Raton, FL 33487

Dear Mr. Zoley:

On March 24, 2020, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) reported a detainee at the Bergen County Jail in Hackensack, New Jersey, had tested positive for the novel coronavirus, which causes COVID-19. This was the first positive test in an ICE detention facility. Following that COVID diagnosis, ICE has reported that hundreds of detainees in its custody have tested positive for the virus, including 32 ICE detainees in five immigration detention facilities owned or operated by Geo Group as of April 28, 2020.

Detainees held in close quarters where the consistent maintenance of social distance is difficult or impossible are particularly vulnerable to COVID-19. The Committee seeks information on the actions undertaken by ICE detention facility contractors to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 within their immigration detention facilities, including information on their compliance with COVID-19 control measures recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The Committee requests that your company provide by May 13, 2020, documents sufficient to show:

- The total number of beds available to ICE at each of Geo Group's immigration detention facilities and the current ICE detainee population at each detention facility, including a breakdown of the detainees' risk classifications with criteria for each risk category;
- The number of Geo Group personnel at each immigration detention facility who have tested positive for COVID-19, including the name and location of the detention facility to which these personnel are assigned, the date of each positive test, and the current status of each employee (such as on leave, hospitalized, returned to work, etc.);
- The measures undertaken by Geo Group at each immigration detention facility to prevent the spread of the virus among detainees and personnel after an individual in a Geo Group

detention facility tests positive for COVID-19, as well as any steps taken to mitigate the spread of the virus when detainees are transferred among facilities;

- Guidance Geo Group has provided to personnel and detainees explaining how the virus spreads and how to try to protect against acquiring the virus, including the date on which the guidance was provided to detainees;
- Any policies implemented by Geo Group from January 1, 2020, to the present regarding detainee access to personal protective equipment and hygiene supplies such as masks, hand sanitizer, soap, etc. at each of Geo Group's immigration detention facilities;
- Any forms issued by Geo Group from January 1, 2020, to the present to detainees or employees prior to their receipt and/or use of personal protective equipment and hygiene supplies provided by Geo Group; and
- Copies of all reports submitted to ICE regarding confirmed or suspected COVID-19 cases at each of Geo Group's immigration detention facilities.

Thank you for your timely attention to this matter. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact my staff at (202) 226-2616.

Sincerely,



Bennie G. Thompson
Chairman