

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 6, 2025

Mr. Todd M. Lyons  
Acting Director  
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement  
Department of Homeland Security  
500 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20536

Dear Acting Director Lyons:

On April 22, 2025, we visited the Central Louisiana ICE Processing Center (CLIPC) and the South Louisiana ICE Processing Center (SLIPC), to examine the detention conditions for immigrants detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Visits such as these are essential to Congress's power to oversee the executive branch<sup>1</sup> and ability to legislate "wisely [and] effectively."<sup>2</sup> We write to follow up on our observations at CLIPC and SLIPC and request responses to questions that went unanswered on site that day.

The CLIPC facility, which currently houses more than a thousand detainees, has long faced allegations of inhumane treatment and poor detention conditions.<sup>3</sup> Indeed, CLIPC has a history of improper medical response contributing to detainee deaths,<sup>4</sup> high rates of sexual assault complaints,<sup>5</sup> unsafe food,<sup>6</sup> and physical abuse.<sup>7</sup> SLIPC has faced similar allegations.<sup>8</sup>

During our oversight visit to the facilities, we observed troubling detention conditions and received significant allegations about mistreatment from detainees. We heard from women who felt lumps in their breasts but were not provided appropriate medical attention; witnessed a

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<sup>1</sup> See *Trump v. Mazars USA, LLP*, 591 U.S. \_\_ (2020).

<sup>2</sup> *McGrain v. Daugherty*, 275 U.S. 135, 175 (1927).

<sup>3</sup> See, e.g., ROBERT F. KENNEDY HUMAN RIGHTS, ET AL., INSIDE THE BLACK HOLE: SYSTEMIC HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES AGAINST IMMIGRANTS DETAINED & DISAPPEARED IN LOUISIANA 16 (2024), [https://rfkhumanrights.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Inside-the-Black-Hole\\_Systemic-Human-Rights-Abuses-Against-Immigrants-Detained.pdf](https://rfkhumanrights.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Inside-the-Black-Hole_Systemic-Human-Rights-Abuses-Against-Immigrants-Detained.pdf).

<sup>4</sup> Veronica Venture to Nathalie R. Asher, Memorandum, Sept. 21, 2018, [https://web.archive.org/web/20220617175824/https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/2022-06/2018.09.21%20CRCL%20Recommendations%20Memo%20to%20ICE%20%E2%80%93%20LaSalle\\_Redacted\\_508.pdf](https://web.archive.org/web/20220617175824/https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/2022-06/2018.09.21%20CRCL%20Recommendations%20Memo%20to%20ICE%20%E2%80%93%20LaSalle_Redacted_508.pdf).

<sup>5</sup> Rebecca Merton & Christina Fialho to Thomas D. Homan, et al., Letter, April 11, 2017, [https://web.archive.org/web/20250119192207/https://www.endisolation.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/CIVIC\\_SexualAssault\\_Complaint.pdf](https://web.archive.org/web/20250119192207/https://www.endisolation.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/CIVIC_SexualAssault_Complaint.pdf).

<sup>6</sup> See, e.g., OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL, DEP'T OF HOMELAND SECURITY, CONCERNS ABOUT ICE DETAINEE TREATMENT AND CARE AT FOUR DETENTION FACILITIES (2019), OIG-19-47, <https://www.oig.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/assets/2019-06/OIG-19-47-Jun19.pdf>.

<sup>7</sup> See, e.g., Noah Landard, *ICE Detainees Were Pepper-Sprayed During a Briefing on Coronavirus*, MOTHER JONES, Mar. 26, 2020, <https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2020/03/ice-detainees-were-pepper-sprayed-during-a-briefing-on-coronavirus/>.

<sup>8</sup> See ROBERT F. KENNEDY HUMAN RIGHTS, ET AL., *supra* note 3, at 33, 37-39, 42.

pregnant mother with medical risks and detention staff unprepared for the birth of a child; observed men and women suffering respiratory issues in unreasonably cold and humid dormitories; and saw young women shaking and crying in fear of retaliation if they were to speak to Members of Congress.

While at SLIPC, we received conflicting information from staff about detainees' allegations. For example, we received deeply troubling information alleging that multiple women at SLIPC suffered from miscarriages while in custody—allegations staff denied. Additionally, medical staff told us that during detainees' menstrual periods, the facility provided as many menstrual products as requested, yet detainees consistently reported that facility employees regularly withheld not just menstrual products but also toilet paper.

We appreciate the answers GEO Group employees and ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations New Orleans Field Office Director Mellissa Harper provided to us on the ground, and we take Director Harper at her word that ICE will provide timely answers to all our inquiries that were not answered during our visit. To aid us in our “inquiries concerning the administration of existing laws as well as proposed or possibly needed statutes”<sup>9</sup> and to help bring clarity to conflicting reports from the facilities, please respond to the following questions and requests:

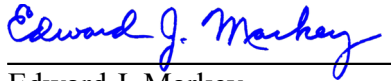
1. How does ICE identify pregnancy at CLIPC and SLIPC?
2. Are all female detainees tested for pregnancy upon arrival at each facility? Are they tested for pregnancy at intervals after arrival at each facility?
3. Has there ever been a miscarriage at either CLIPC or SLIPC? If so, how many, and when did they occur?
4. How does ICE protect women's reproductive health, including to ensure appropriate menstruation and prenatal care at CLIPC and SLIPC?
5. What policy is in place for the provision of feminine hygiene products to detainees at CLIPC and SLIPC? How does ICE monitor compliance with this policy?
6. Does either facility house any cancer patients? If so, how many patients, and what types of cancer? Please describe the care these patients are receiving.
7. How does ICE monitor for prior or current cancer diagnoses during intake at CLIPC and SLIPC?
8. Does ICE collect air quality samples within dormitories or other enclosed areas where detainees are held? If so, please provide copies of the most recent air quality test results.
9. Have any employees at either CLIPC or SLIPC disclosed they have been treated by a medical professional for breathing problems suspected to be related to mold exposure or mold allergy?
10. How many medical staff are on site at a time at CLIPC and SLIPC? How many total medical staff are there? What credentials do they hold (e.g., Licensed Practical Nurse, Registered Nurse, Nurse Practitioner, Physician Assistant, Medical Doctor, etc.)? Are they contractors, IHSC public health officers, or some other status?
11. Who determines whether a detainee at CLIPC or SLIPC will be referred to an outside medical facility for screening or treatment?
12. What is the average time from ICE's awareness of a detainee's medical condition to treatment at an outside medical facility? How does ICE ensure timely care?

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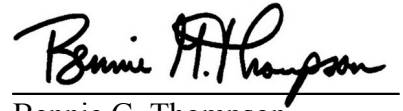
<sup>9</sup> *Watkins v. United States*, 354 U.S. 178, 187 (1957).

We look forward to working with you on our oversight of these matters and your expeditious response. Should you have any questions related to this request, please contact Committee on Homeland Security Democratic staff at (202) 226-2616. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



Bennie G. Thompson  
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



Ayanna Pressley  
Member of Congress



Troy A. Carter, Sr.  
Member of Congress