



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

June 2, 2026

The Honorable Markwayne Mullin  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Mullin:

We write regarding the deplorable conditions at the Delaney Hall detention center, as well as your appalling scheme to ban international travel at major U.S. airports. If your mishandling of these matters is indicative of the chaos we can expect from your tenure as Secretary, the security of our homeland is at risk.

**Delaney Hall**

Detainees, their loved ones, and Members of Congress have been raising concerns about Delaney Hall since its re-opening in 2025. The recent protests are the direct result of problems going unaddressed. Detainees have consistently reported unsanitary conditions, inedible and moldy food, limited access to necessary medical care, and a lack of due process. One detainee, Jean Wilson-Brutus, died in custody at Delaney Hall and another four detainees have escaped. Over the Memorial Day weekend, detainees resorted to a hunger and labor strike to raise awareness of the deplorable conditions at the facility.

Instead of addressing these conditions, DHS has repeatedly denied all allegations – even denying that a hunger strike is occurring – while refusing to let the New Jersey Department of Health conduct a full investigation of conditions at Delaney Hall. Meanwhile, ICE has escalated tensions by using pepper spray, armored vehicles, and batons against protestors.

Given DHS's and GEO Group's unwillingness to address these deplorable conditions and treat persons detained there humanely, we demand that you close Delaney Hall immediately.

**International Travel at U.S. Airports**

Soon after becoming Secretary of Homeland Security, you started floating a plan to remove Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers from major U.S. airports in jurisdictions that refuse to deploy law enforcement officers in support of the Trump administration's violent,

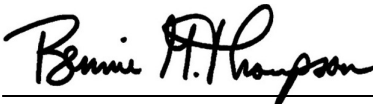
unpopular immigration crackdown. More recently, you threatened to target Newark-Liberty International Airport (EWR), apparently as retribution for protests occurring at Delaney Hall.

Removing CBP officers from several major U.S. airports—or even just one such airport—would have cascading effects throughout the U.S. economy. Airports and air carriers rely on CBP to process international passenger and cargo flights. Such flights cannot easily be rerouted to other airports; if CBP officers were removed from an airport, international arrivals of both passengers and cargo would likely be canceled. Each day, the airports in relevant jurisdictions collectively process thousands of passenger and cargo flights that provide billions of dollars in revenue and far-reaching secondary benefits of international tourism and trade. As Americans struggle to afford basic goods, the compounding impacts of a disruption to international air traffic would be devastating on our economy and the traveling public.

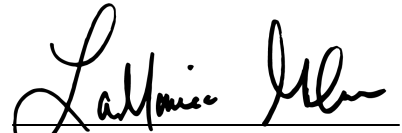
Your scheme to bully Democrats into submission by threatening to hold the U.S. transportation system and our Nation's economy hostage is a shocking abuse of your authorities as Secretary. We demand that you commit to carrying out the Department's mission to facilitate secure international travel and trade, without removing or reducing DHS resources at certain airports based on politics.

We look forward to fulsome responses to our questions during your appearance before the Committee tomorrow. Democrats are committed to holding you accountable for your oath of office, which requires you to support and defend the Constitution and faithfully discharge your duties—not to prioritize political goals above the welfare of the people you are meant to serve.

Sincerely,



Bennie G. Thompson  
Ranking Member



LaMonica McIver  
Member of Congress



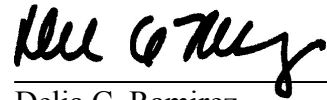
J. Luis Correa  
Member of Congress



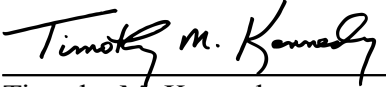
Shri Thanedar  
Member of Congress



Dan Goldman  
Member of Congress



Delia C. Ramirez  
Member of Congress



Timothy M. Kennedy  
Member of Congress



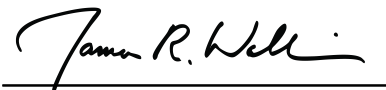
Julie Johnson  
Member of Congress



Pablo José Hernández  
Member of Congress



Nellie Pou  
Member of Congress



James R. Walkinshaw  
Member of Congress



Analilia Mejia  
Member of Congress



Troy A. Carter, Sr.  
Member of Congress



Al Green  
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Andrew R. Garbarino, Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security