



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

January 22, 2026

The Honorable Kristi Noem
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Noem:

We are outraged that 53 people have died in the custody of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or Customs and Border Protection (CBP) on your watch. Every death is a tragedy. We write to demand that you ensure ICE and CBP avoid preventable deaths of people in their custody.

The Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) callous disregard for human life was made apparent by the heinous killing of Renee Good in Minneapolis by an ICE officer. Two days after Ms. Good's death, ICE notified Congress that Geraldo Lunas Campos, an ICE detainee at a makeshift detention camp in Texas had died in custody after "staff observed him in distress and contacted on-site medical personnel for assistance [who] responded, initiated lifesaving measures, and requested emergency medical services." That statement to Congress turned out to be a lie. According to reports, Mr. Campos likely died from being choked to death at the hands of detention staff—a homicide.¹ To cover up ICE's lie, DHS this weekend attempted to deport two detainees who witnessed the death of Mr. Campos, even though Mr. Campos's death "is still an active investigation," according to DHS.²

It is obvious yet tragic that ICE is unwilling or unable to provide basic care for detainees. ICE stopped paying its third-party medical providers for detainee care in October of last year.³ At the same time, DHS has not demonstrated that its attempts to hire more medical personnel to fill critical shortages have been fruitful. Despite the fact that a lack of medical personnel at detention facilities "may increase the risk of inadequate medical care"⁴ and evidence that low medical

¹ Douglas MacMillan, *Medical Examiner Likely to Classify Death of ICE Detainee as Homicide*, *Recorded Call Says*, WASH. POST (Jan. 15, 2026), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/immigration/2026/01/15/ice-detention-death-homicide/>.

² Douglas MacMillan, *DHS Seeking to Deport Two Men Who Said Fellow ICE Detainee Was Killed*, WASH. POST (Jan. 17, 2026), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/immigration/2026/01/17/detainee-death-witnesses-deported-dhsa/>.

³ Judd Legum, *ICE Has Stopped Paying for Detainee Medical Treatment*, *POPULAR INFO.* (Jan. 20, 2026), <https://popular.info/p/ice-has-stopped-paying-for-detainee>.

⁴ U.S. DEP'T OF HOMELAND SEC. OFF. OF THE INSPECTOR GEN., *OIG-22-03, MANY FACTORS HINDER ICE'S ABILITY TO MAINTAIN ADEQUATE MEDICAL STAFFING AT DETENTION FACILITIES* 16 (2021).

staffing levels lead to preventable deaths,⁵ the Trump administration has spent the year terrorizing American communities by conducting indiscriminate roundups of immigrants who will be sent to facilities that are incapable of providing proper medical care. DHS also has gutted its internal detention oversight offices,⁶ and ICE is evading congressional oversight by barring Members of Congress from conducting unannounced inspections of detention facilities.⁷

Sadly and predictably, more people died in ICE custody last year than in any of the past twenty years,⁸ including a 75-year-old Cuban parolee who had been in the United States since 1966 and a 34-year-old man who died from an apparent suicide only one day after being detained. In just the past week, two men died from suicide in ICE detention facilities.⁹

In addition to the 36 deaths in ICE custody reported since President Trump took office for his second term, CBP has reported to Congress 17 deaths in custody. In March of 2025, for example, a woman who had multiple medical issues committed suicide in her CBP cell despite contact with contract medical personnel only hours before her death. CBP then discovered its personnel had falsified her welfare check records. This is unacceptable.

The Trump administration's deployment of out-of-control ICE and CBP personnel to round up immigrants in American communities has proven to be dangerous and even deadly. Given that the Trump administration plans to further increase immigrant detention while still being unable to hire sufficient personnel to ensure the health and safety of those in its custody, please provide or respond to the following requests no later than February 5, 2026:

1. The number of people held at each ICE and CBP facility, including Field Offices, as of the date of this letter.
2. For each ICE and CBP facility in which people are detained, the average length of detention and longest detention as of the date of this letter.
3. Updates on the circumstances and causes of death, including a copy of autopsy and Office of Professional Responsibility reports, for each death in ICE and CBP custody from January 20, 2025, to the present.
4. The number of medical professionals currently employed or contracted at each ICE and CBP facility, broken out by profession, licensure, and facility location.
5. The staffing requirements for medical professionals at each ICE and CBP facility.

⁵ EUNICE HYUNHYE, ET AL., DEADLY FAILURES: PREVENTABLE DEATHS IN U.S. IMMIGRATION DETENTION 7, 49-50.

⁶ Sean Michael Newhouse, *DHS Says It Won't Eliminate Oversight Offices But Is Still Pursuing Layoffs*, GOV. EXEC. (May 27, 2025), <https://www.govexec.com/workforce/2025/05/dhs-says-it-wont-eliminate-oversight-offices-still-pursuing-layoffs/405612/>.

⁷ Camilo Montoya-Galvez, *Trump Administration Again Restricts When Members of Congress Can Inspect ICE Facilities*, CBS NEWS (Jan. 11, 2026), <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/ice-facilities-homeland-security-lawmakers-visit-inspections/>; David Janovsky, *ICE Barring Congress From Detention Facilities Is Illegal*, PROJECT ON GOV'T OVERSIGHT (Aug. 11, 2025), <https://www.pogo.org/analysis/ice-barring-congress-from-detention-facilities-is-illegal>.

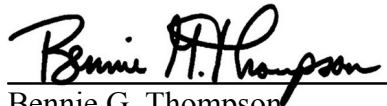
⁸ Ximena Bustillo & Rahul Mukerjee, *It's the Deadliest Year for People in ICE Custody in Decades; Next Year Could Be Worse*, NPR (Oct. 23, 2025), <https://www.npr.org/2025/10/23/nx-s1-5538090/ice-detention-custody-immigration-arrest-enforcement-dhs-trump>.


⁹ Jozsef Papp, *Mexican National Dies While in ICE Custody in Clayton County*, ATLANTA J.-CONST. (Jan. 17, 2026), <https://www.ajc.com/news/2026/01/mexican-national-dies-while-in-ice-custody-in-clayton-county/>; Meredith Deliso, *ICE Detainee Dies of 'Presumed Suicide' at Texas Detention Facility, Agency Says*, ABC NEWS (Jan. 20, 2026), <https://abcnews.go.com/US/ice-detainee-dies-presumed-suicide-texas-detention-facility/story?id=129364093>.

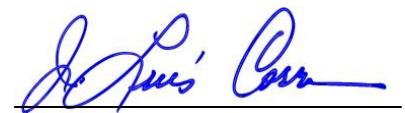
6. Have ICE and CBP increased medical personnel at detention facilities and other locations where ICE and CBP are detaining people, and are such increases, if they have occurred, proportional to the increase in detainee numbers this year?
7. Any planning documents related to hiring or contracting of medical personnel in 2025 and 2026.
8. How do ICE and CBP monitor detainee health during transport?
9. How do ICE and CBP conduct mental health screenings during intake, and how often does ICE conduct such screenings during detention? Are such screening conducted by a medical professional with a recognized mental health specialization?
10. What steps are ICE and CBP taking to prevent further deaths by suicide in custody?
11. What disciplinary steps has CBP taken against the personnel who falsified welfare check logs related to the death by suicide on March 29, 2025, at Yuma Station?
12. Which entities are investigating the death in custody of Geraldo Lunas Campos?
13. All records relating to any investigations into the death of Geraldo Lunas Campos, including records of any use of force investigation.
14. Copy of any video footage or images showing Geraldo Lunas Campos during the time period beginning one hour from the time of his death and ending one hour after the time of his death.
15. All records relating to the creation and distribution of an email sent to Congress from CongresstoICE@ice.dhs.gov on January 9, 2026, titled "Congressional Notification: ICE reports aggravated felon and convicted child sex offender's death at Camp East Montana in Texas," including any records discussing the contents of such notification and death of Geraldo Lunas Campos.


We look forward to your timely response.


Sincerely,



Bennie G. Thompson
Ranking Member



Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress

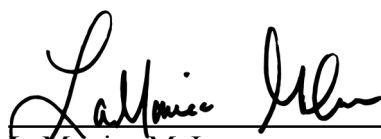

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