



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

May 8th, 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

The Honorable Todd Lyons
Senior Official Performing the Duties of Director
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
500 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Secretary Mullin and Senior Official Lyons,

As a mother, a physician, and a member of Congress, I am writing with grave concern about the rights, due process, health, and well-being of children and families detained at the South Texas Family Residential Center in Dilley Texas. Reports that health care providers contracted with ICE have not been able to submit reimbursements since October are particularly troubling as are the implications for detainee access to care. While the ICE Health Service Corps website states that payments to third party health providers were set to resume on April 30th, 2026 the new provider portal Acentra Health provides a timeline of April to June 2026. Transparency around contracted care and ensuring detainee's access to care is immediate and uninterrupted is of the utmost importance.

On April 25th, I travelled to the South Texas Family Residential Center to conduct oversight. During the tour I asked a series of questions about the conditions of the facility and healthcare resource access. As I indicated, I am following up with oversight questions that did not receive sufficient answers or ones that I'd like to confirm.

To ensure the health and well-being of vulnerable children and their families is safeguarded, I request timely response by May 15th, 2026 to the following questions regarding health contracts and detainees housed in the family residential center at Dilley:

- 1) Have health care contractors at the South Texas Family Residential Center (Dilley) experienced any disruption in their ability to be reimbursed by your agency?
 - a) If so, has the process for reimbursement been reinstated?
 - a) If so, for how long were contractors unable to be reimbursed?
 - a) If so, how has this impacted access to care? How many detainees been denied care or experienced delays in care due to this lapse in reimbursements?
- 2) What is the current status of reimbursement processes for all health care providers contracted by ICE or third-party contractors like CoreCivic?
- 3) What is the estimated number of reimbursements your agency owes/owed to health care contractors during any lapse in reimbursement procedures? What is the total amount of billing owed?

- 4) How has this lapse impacted care for detainees across the country?

Length of Detention

- 5) What is the current mean and median length of stay for families in the South Texas Family Residential Center (Dilley)?
 - a) What is the mean and median length of stay at the facility over the last 2 months, 6 months, and 12 months?
 - a) What is the longest length of stay for a child currently at the facility? Why has that child not been released?
 - a) For any child who has currently been detained at Dilley for more than 20 days, what is the rationale for their prolonged detention? How does Dilley “make and record prompt and continuous efforts” toward the release of children at Dilley, as required by the *Flores* Settlement?
 - a) Describe ICE’s protocol for considering family units for conditional release as they near their 20th day in custody. What factors are considered? How is this consideration documented, and how are families informed of the outcome? Is this process automatic for all detainees, or are families required to request consideration?
 - a) Are any families not considered for release? If so, why not?
- 6) Please provide a census of the releases of family units from the facility since January 2025. Include the number of detainees who were released to the community, the number who were deported/returned to their country of origin, the number deported/removed to a 3rd-party country, and the number who were transferred to another federal facility. Please identify which facilities have received transfers since January 1, 2025.

Medical Care

- 7) Who decides when a child or adult needs to be referred outside of Dilley for heightened or specialized medical care? What is the protocol for making that decision, and what is the licensure of the medical staff consulted throughout the process?
- 8) Since January 2025, how many total calls has the facility made to emergency medical services? How many of these were initiated by detainees? How many by staff? How many transfers to a hospital occurred as a result of a 911 call? How many visits have been initiated to urgent or emergent care by staff and transported by facility vehicles to emergency medical care since January 2025?
- 9) What processes are in place for detainees to request medical care for themselves and their children, and how are those requests handled?

Mental Health

- 10) What suicide risk screening tool is used for adults at the facility?
 - a) What suicide risk screening tool is used for minors at the facility?
 - a) Please provide copies of any and all internal policies that direct staff on how to handle mental health emergencies including hunger strikes, suicide risk and psychotic breaks.
- 11) How many detainees have received a positive screen for suicide risk since January 2025?
- 12) Please provide your suicide precaution orders both for minors and adults.

Staff Treatment and Grievances

- 13) There have been reports of staff mocking or retaliating against individuals who raise health concerns. What is your protocol for ensuring dignified treatment and medical information protection for detainees seeking care?
- 14) Have any staff received warnings, further trainings, or discipline for inappropriate treatment of detainees?
- 15) Are staff allowed to threaten children or parents at Dilley with separation from each other? If so, under what circumstances?
- 16) Please provide the number of grievances submitted by families at Dilley each month since Dilley opened. Please indicate the grievance type, the primary language of the family submitting the grievance, a de-identified summary of the grievance, and how the grievance was reviewed and rectified.

Conditions

- 17) What are the protocols for the lights during sleeping?
 - a) Have you received complaints about how lights pose a challenge to sleeping?
 - a) How do you respond to those complaints?
- 18) Why do families have to pay for bottled water?
- 19) Can parents or children ever obtain bottled water free of charge at Dilley? If so, what is the process for obtaining free bottled water?
- 20) Please provide the full commissary price list.
- 21) What is the reason detainees are being denied access to video calls?
 - a) When can we expect the access to video calls to be restored?
- 22) Why is internet restricted to one hour per day per family?
 - a) How are families expected to coordinate with their family and friends and legal teams?
- 23) What tools and procedures are employed for language interpretation and translation for families whose preferred language is not English?
 - a) How do staff communicate with families that speak indigenous languages?
- 24) Does the facility offer Know-Your-Rights sessions to families, as required by the ICE Family Residential Standards? If not, why not? When does ICE plan to start offering Know-Your-Rights sessions?
 - a) Please provide the history of nonprofit applications to provide Know-Your-Rights sessions at Dilley since January 2025, as well as ICE's decisions and reasoning whether to approve or deny those applications.
- 25) If a child turns 18 while at Dilley, what is the protocol for how ICE decides where to detain that individual? How does ICE facilitate contact between the 18-year-old and the rest of their family unit?

Sincerely,



Maxine Dexter, M.D.
Member of Congress