

Subject: No More Blank Checks for ICE – Fence Every Dollar

Dear **Representative/Senator [Last Name]**,

As a committed Democratic voter, I urge you to use the DHS appropriations bill to *truly* rein in ICE. At minimum, no Democrat should support a bill that expands ICE's enforcement and detention capacity or funds it without strong, enforceable guardrails.

Specifically, I ask you to:

- **Fence and condition ICE funds**

- Bar obligation of Enforcement and Removal Operations and detention funds until DHS certifies that all ICE and contractor facilities meet binding standards on medical care, use of force, access to counsel, and protection from sexual abuse.
- “Fence” a meaningful share of ICE funding so it is only released after public, facility-by-facility compliance reporting and corrective action plans, including ending contracts with repeat abusers.

- **Cap detention and block expansion**

- Reduce the statutory cap on detention beds and prohibit new facilities or expanded capacity.
- Ban new or renewed contracts with jails, prisons, or private contractors with histories of deaths, medical neglect, or serious abuse, and shift funds into community-based alternatives and case management.

- **Guarantee transparency and oversight**

- Require quarterly public reports on who is detained (including length of detention, deaths, hospitalizations, solitary, use of force, sexual assault allegations, and wrongful detention of U.S. citizens and LPRs).
- Explicitly protect unannounced visits by Members and staff to all ICE facilities and mandate truly independent inspections with publicly released reports.

- **Enforce accountability and end impunity**

- Require automatic referral of deaths, serious injuries, and credible abuse allegations to the DHS Inspector General and the Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, with reporting to Congress.

- Condition a portion of ICE funding on proof of meaningful discipline for substantiated misconduct and the termination or penalizing of abusive facilities, and prohibit use of funds to retaliate against whistleblowers, detainees, or advocates.
- **Reject more money and slush-fund flexibility**
 - Oppose any increase in ICE's enforcement and detention budget.
 - Oppose broad transfer/reprogramming authority and severely limit any emergency or contingency funds, subjecting them to all the same guardrails and reporting.

Democrats say that no one is above the law and that this country must live up to its human rights obligations. Those values must be reflected in how we fund ICE. Please do not vote for any DHS bill that gives ICE more money, more beds, or more flexibility without these protections.

I would appreciate a response describing which specific guardrails you will insist on before supporting any DHS appropriations package.

Sincerely,
[Your Name]