

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 10, 2026

Honorable Markwayne Mullin
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20528

David J. Venturella
Acting Director
U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement
500 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20536

Secretary Mullin and Acting Director Venturella:

We write following our May 26 congressional oversight visit to the Dilley Immigration Processing Center in Dilley, Texas. During our visit, we observed several matters that raise significant concerns regarding the treatment of detained families, the provision of services to children, and the protection of vulnerable individuals housed at the facility. We urge you to provide transparency on the collection and use of DNA from detained families, address serious deficiencies in educational services for detained children, and update protocols to ensure the anonymity of reporting of sexual assault.

Collection and Use of DNA from Detained Families:

During our visit, we learned that ICE collects DNA samples from individuals detained at the facility, including parents and children. Given the sensitive nature of biometric information, we seek greater transparency regarding these practices and assurance that these samples are being utilized responsibly and in accordance with applicable laws and policies.

No later than June 17, 2026, please provide:

1. A detailed description of ICE's policies and procedures regarding the collection of DNA from adults and minors detained at the Dilley facility.
2. A description of all databases, federal agencies, contractors, or third parties with whom DNA profiles or related information may be shared.
3. Information regarding how long DNA samples and resulting profiles are retained and the process, if any, for expungement or deletion.
4. Any guidance provided to families regarding their rights, the purpose of collection, and how their genetic information will be used.
5. Any assessments conducted regarding the privacy, civil rights, or civil liberties implications of collecting DNA from children and family units.

Educational Services for Detained Children:

We are also concerned by information provided during our visit indicating that the subcontractor responsible for educational programming at the facility had only two certified teachers on site despite a population of 97 children on the day of our visit. Children in immigration detention remain entitled to meaningful educational opportunities, and adequate staffing is essential to ensuring age-appropriate instruction and compliance with contractual and legal obligations. Consistent with the Flores Settlement Agreement, **we urge you to ensure that the children at Dilley have access to consistent and high-quality educational services from a sufficient number of qualified educators.**

Confidential Reporting of Sexual Assault:

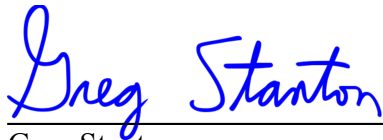
Finally, we are deeply troubled by our firsthand observation that individuals seeking to access the facility's anonymous rape hotline are required to enter personally identifying information before being permitted to place a call. Such a requirement is fundamentally inconsistent with the purpose of an anonymous reporting mechanism and may discourage survivors from reporting abuse or seeking assistance.

Given the vulnerability of the detained population and ICE's obligations under the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA), this issue warrants immediate attention. **We urge you to immediately take corrective action to ensure that calls to the hotline can be made anonymously.**

The issues identified during our visit directly affect the safety, wellbeing, privacy, and rights of families and children in ICE custody. We urge you to address these concerns immediately.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Greg Stanton
Member of Congress



Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress