

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

December 7, 2018

The Honorable John V. Kelly  
Office of the Inspector General/MAIL STOP 0305  
Department of Homeland Security  
245 Murray Lane SW  
Washington, D.C. 20528-0305

Dear Acting Inspector General Kelly:

We respectfully request that your office conduct a review into the medical care provided by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Health Service Corps to Mariee Juarez, an 18-month old toddler that tragically died soon after being released from the South Texas Family Residential Center in Dilley, Texas. The death of a child is a serious occurrence and it is critical that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of the Inspector General factually determine if DHS was medically negligent and whether this negligence led to Mariee's death.

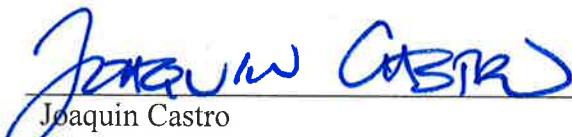
While in DHS custody, Mariee first became ill with a cold and developed a high fever. After a prolonged illness and infection, Mariee passed away on May 10th from pneumonitis shortly after her release from DHS care. Mariee's premature death has led the state of Texas to open two investigations. The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services and the Texas Health and Human Services Commission are examining whether abuse or neglect played a factor in Mariee's death.


Members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus wrote to DHS Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen in September requesting that she direct your office to open an investigation into Mariee's treatment in custody and whether, overall, ICE can improve the level of care provided to all detainees. Secretary Nielsen declined to respond to the letter. Instead, ICE Deputy Director Ronald Vitiello replied and directed the members of Congress to reach out to your office directly.

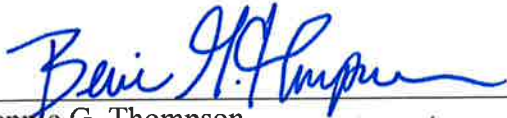
We believe that an investigation from your office will play a critical and complimentary role in this process and help Mariee's family get the answers they deserve. It will also help prevent future incidents and elevate the standard of care provided to all individuals in government custody.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your affirmative response.

Sincerely,

  
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Joaquin Castro  
Chairman Elect  
Congressional Hispanic Caucus

  
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Elijah E. Cummings  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Oversight and  
Government Reform



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Bennie G. Thompson  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Homeland Security



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Jerrold Nadler  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on the Judiciary