

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 10, 2026

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

Todd Lyons
Acting Director
U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement
500 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20536

Secretary Mullin and Acting Director Lyons:

We write to follow up on our oversight visit on the evening of April 9, 2026, to the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Arizona Removal Operations Coordination Center in Mesa, Arizona. What we observed constitutes a failure to meet basic detention standards, raises serious legal and humanitarian concerns, and must be addressed immediately.

Upon entering the facility, we were shown the concrete cells where individuals are being held for 72 hours or more before their subsequent departure. Detainees were packed together tightly, with no access to beds and sleeping on a concrete floor. We observed rooms labeled for a capacity of 21 individuals holding approximately 40 to 50 people, crammed at densities that prevented individuals from sitting, lying down, or moving freely, forcing many to sleep on concrete floors without bedding. At a previous oversight visit in February, we were told that the intended capacity of the facility is 157 individuals. What we witnessed was a facility operating well beyond that limit, putting lives and safety at risk.

Given the conditions we noted in this facility, it is particularly appalling that individuals are being held well beyond the facility's intended short-term holding period of less than 12 hours. Holding individuals for multiple days in a facility designed for short-term processing raises serious concerns about systemic misuse of the facility.

We are particularly troubled by the lack of access to basic hygiene facilities, including showers and sufficient toilets, as well as insufficient access to medical care and supplies. For example, during our brief visit, detainees identified individuals who were ill and asked us for assistance in obtaining sanitary napkins. We are also deeply concerned about lack of access to drinking water for detainees, which is inhumane and dangerous, particularly during the upcoming summer season. The reported presence of visibly ill individuals without adequate isolation or care raises concerns about infectious disease risk within the facility.

We are gravely concerned that ICE is using this facility in a manner that is grossly in excess of its intended design and safeguards. These conditions appear inconsistent with ICE's own Performance-Based National Detention Standards (PBNDS) and raise concerns under federal detention requirements and constitutional protections. As Members of Congress exercising our oversight authority, we demand detailed responses to the following:

1. What is the average and maximum length of time individuals are currently being held at the Mesa facility? Please provide data for the last 12 months.

2. What steps are ICE taking to ensure detainees have access to adequate medical care, appropriate climate control, and basic hygiene supplies, including sanitary products?
3. What steps are ICE taking to quarantine ill individuals at the facility?
4. What steps are ICE taking to ensure that individuals are not held beyond the facility's intended short-term timeframe?
5. How do the appalling conditions at this detention facility fit within relevant medical, fire, and safety standards of local, state, and federal statutes? Examples that may potentially be implicated include ARS §36-601 which prohibits unsanitary risks to public health. Please provide all statutes and codes that ICE intends to comply with in this regard and in what ways it is doing so.
6. Please provide all internal inspections, audits, and incident reports related to this facility from the past 12 months.

Congress has a responsibility to ensure that all federal detention facilities operate in a manner consistent with the law and in accordance with basic human dignity. The conditions we observed are appallingly short of that standard and demand immediate remediation.

We request a written response no later than April 24, 2026. Thank you for your prompt attention to this urgent matter.

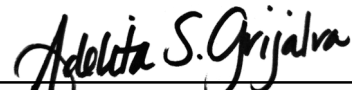
Sincerely,



Greg Stanton
Member of Congress



Yassamin Ansari
Member of Congress



Adelita S. Grijalva
Member of Congress