

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

August 6, 2026

The Honorable Markwayne Mullin
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave SE
Washington, DC 20032

Mr. David J. Venturella
Senior Official Performing the Duties of
Director
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Department of Homeland Security
500 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20536

Dear Secretary Mullin and Acting Director Venturella,

As Members of the New Jersey Delegation, we write with profound outrage following the latest death connected to Delaney Hall Immigration Detention Facility (Delaney Hall) in Newark, New Jersey operated by GEO Group, a for-profit prison contractor.

In less than one year, three individuals held at Delaney Hall have died.¹ Two died while detained at Delaney Hall, while the other individual died shortly after being released from ICE custody following a medical emergency that reportedly began while detained. Public reporting has raised serious questions regarding whether his death may have been linked to medical issues that occurred while he was in ICE custody.²

Three deaths connected to a single detention facility are not isolated incidents. **They are a red, flashing warning light that ICE continues to ignore. We are demanding immediate answers and accountability for this negligence by GEO Group and ICE.**

For months, Members of Congress, New Jersey Officials, medical advocates, attorneys, and former detainees documented disturbing allegations of delayed emergency care, a failure to follow medication protocols as prescribed, including denying, delaying, or reducing medications, untreated chronic illnesses, infectious disease outbreaks, and inadequate care for medically vulnerable detainees.³ During our Congressional oversight visit in June, we sought to determine whether these reports reflected isolated incidents or system-wide failures. Instead of

¹ New York Times, *Detainee Dies After Medical Emergency at Delaney Hall ICE Detention Center*. August 3, 2026. <https://abcnews.com/US/man-detained-new-jersey-immigration-facility-dies-after/story?id=135338815>

² The Honorable Robert Menendez [@ repmenendez.] *We just got back from Delaney Hall* [Video]. Instagram. https://www.instagram.com/reel/DbI8O4bqxwY/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=MzRIODBiNWF1ZA==

³ House Committee on Homeland Security – Democrats, *The Human Cost of Immigration Enforcement and Detention: Conditions and Oversight at Delaney Hall*. June 17, 2026. <https://democrats-homeland.house.gov/news/videos/watch/the-human-cost-of-immigration-enforcement-and-detention-conditions-and-oversight-at-delaney-hall>

demonstrating meaningful reform, GEO Group's intransigence has led to another death at Delaney Hall.

Equally disturbing, ICE rescinded a long-standing policy requiring public reporting and congressional notification when an individual died within 30 days of being released from ICE custody.⁴ That policy existed for a reason: our government's responsibility does not end at the detention center gate. If a medical crisis begins in federal custody and ends in death after release, the government's responsibility is not negated simply because the paperwork says the individual was no longer detained. Eliminating that transparency does not change the facts, but can serve to hide information from the American public purposefully.

Meanwhile, GEO Group continues to operate Delaney Hall despite repeated allegations of medical neglect while limiting independent oversight. The State of New Jersey sued after health inspectors were denied full access to the facility, while ICE's own inspection identified multiple deficiencies involving detainee care and safety.⁵⁶ Yet despite mounting evidence, ICE continues to defend GEO Group's operations rather than conduct the independent investigation these circumstances plainly demand and hold those responsible to account.

Three deaths, repeated allegations of medical neglect, restricted oversight, and less public transparency are a terrible track record of care for individuals in your custody. At this point, the question is no longer whether ICE knows what is happening inside Delaney Hall. **It is, "why does ICE continue to allow the GEO Group to put lives at risk?"**

Medical neglect in government custody is not simply poor management – it provokes profound constitutional, civil rights, and human rights concerns. When people are denied lifesaving medication, timely emergency treatment, or care for serious medical conditions while entirely dependent on the federal government, that is not an administrative failure. It is a failure to uphold the government's most basic obligation to preserve human life.

At some point, inaction becomes complicity. ICE cannot continue serving as GEO Group's regulator on paper while functioning as its defender in practice. Every day, Delaney Hall remains open without meaningful intervention sends the unmistakable message that repeated deaths, repeated allegations of medical neglect, and repeated failures of oversight are acceptable collateral damage. **They are not.**

⁴ Immigration and Customs Enforcement, *ICE Directive 11003.7: Notification, Review, and Reporting Requirements for Detainee Deaths*. June 2, 2026. <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/foia/policy/11003.7.pdf>

⁵ The Hill, *New Jersey sues Delaney Hall operator for access to immigration detention facility*. June 2, 2026. <https://thehill.com/regulation/court-battles/5906219-new-jersey-delaney-hall-lawsuit-access-facility/>

⁶ Immigration and Customs Enforcement, *Office of Professional Responsibility: Delaney Hall Detention Facility Inspection 2025-001-073*. August 26-28, 2025. https://www.ice.gov/doclib/foia/odo-compliance-inspections/DelaneyHallDetFac_NewarkNJ_08262025.pdf

As such, we request responses to the following no later than **August 12, 2026**:

- Provide a complete accounting of all deaths connected to Delaney Hall since GEO Group assumed operations, including the chronology of events, medical care provided, mortality reviews, and any corrective actions taken as a result of these instances.
- Explain ICE's current policy governing detainee death reporting, including when a death is no longer considered a death in ICE custody, and identify any deaths connected to Delaney Hall that were excluded from public reporting under that policy.
- Produce all inspections, mortality reviews, audits, staffing assessments, corrective action plans, and internal communications concerning medical care at Delaney Hall since GEO Group assumed operations.
- Describe every contractual, financial, or administrative action ICE has taken against GEO Group in response to repeated allegations of inadequate medical care and the three deaths connected to Delaney Hall.
- Commit to providing Members of Congress and New Jersey health officials full and unencumbered access to Delaney Hall, including housing units, medical facilities, records, surveillance footage, and relevant personnel.

Whether these deaths occurred inside the facility or shortly after release, Congress has a responsibility to determine whether they stem from system-wide failures in medical care and oversight. If people are dying because they were denied medication, timely treatment, or emergency care, the American people deserve to know. And if ICE has adopted policies that make those deaths less visible, Congress has an obligation to scrutinize them and bring them to a halt.

Geo Group may operate Delaney Hall, but ICE oversees it, DHS authorized funding for it, and the federal government is ultimately responsible for every life entrusted to its custody. Three people connected to this facility have died after months of warnings about medical neglect. Those warnings were not hidden from you. They were delivered directly to you by Members of Congress, state officials, advocates, and your own inspectors. Your failure to act is why we are demanding accountability today.

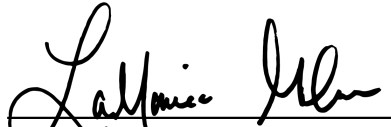
The repeated deaths and documented failures at Delaney Hall make clear that the facility is fundamentally unsafe. Delaney Hall should be closed immediately.

We expect your immediate response.

Sincerely,


Analilia Mejia
Member of Congress


Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



LaMonica McIver
Member of Congress



Robert J. Menendez
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



Nellie Pou
Member of Congress



Herbert C. Conaway, Jr.
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress