



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

August 20, 2018

The Honorable John V. Kelly
Deputy Inspector General
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Office of the Inspector General
Washington, D.C. 20528-0305

The Honorable Daniel R. Levinson
Inspector General
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Office of the Inspector General
Washington, D.C. 20026

Dear Inspector General Kelly and Inspector General Levinson:

We write to express great concern over reported physical and sexual abuse of detainees by guards and staff at Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Health and Human Services (HHS) facilities.

Complaints dating back as far as 2010 suggest that sexual and physical assault in federal immigration detention centers is not only widespread, but may be systemic. Moreover, it appears too many of the complaints have not been properly investigated. These allegations are extremely disturbing and must be addressed. Immigrant families and children kept in federal custody deserve to be treated with basic human dignity and respect, and should never be subjected to these forms of abuse.

Reviewing past claims could help prevent future problems by ensuring migrants currently placed in facilities are protected against all forms of physical, emotional, and sexual assault. These allegations demonstrate a long-term pattern of abuse warranting a thorough investigation into the claims, including the process and procedure by which any guards or contracted staff are hired, trained, and vetted. We call on you to immediately begin an investigation into these allegations, or make public the results of any previously conducted investigation involving these allegations.

Additionally, on June 26, 2018, DHS OIG issued a report, "ICE's Inspections and Monitoring of Detention Facilities Do Not Lead to Sustained Compliance or Systemic Improvements," which concluded, "ICE needs to comprehensively examine and assess its inspection process, improve its follow-up procedures for corrective actions, and ensure ERO field offices more consistently engage in overseeing detention operations." Accordingly, we implore you to recommend improved policies and procedures ICE and HHS may put in place specifically to prevent and deter the abuse of detainees and children placed at its facilities.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. We look forward to your response.

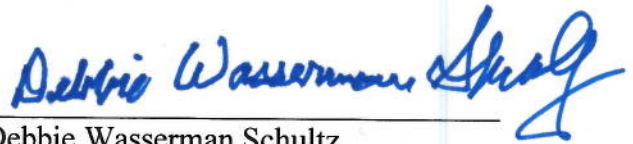
Sincerely,

Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress

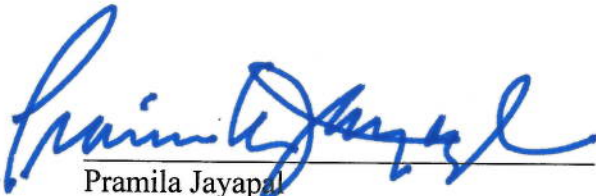
Ryan Costello
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
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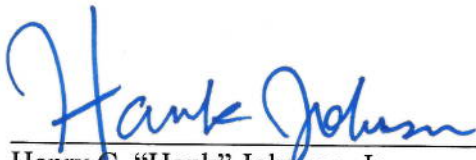
Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal
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Member of Congress



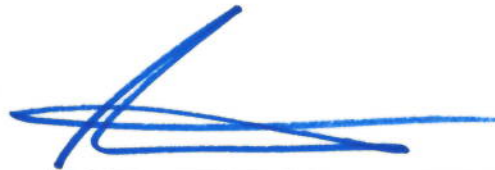
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
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Frederica Wilson
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Alcee L. Hastings
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Adriano Espaillat
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Matthew Cartwright
Member of Congress



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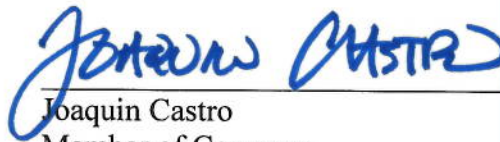
Gene Green
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley
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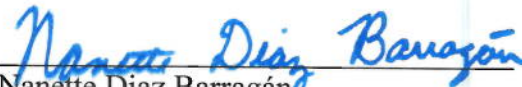
Steve Cohen
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Joaquin Castro
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Suzanne Bonamici
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Nanette Diaz Barragán
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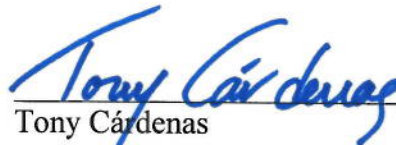
Linda T. Sánchez
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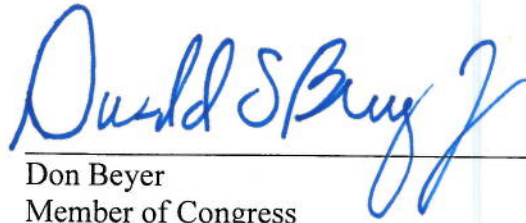
Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



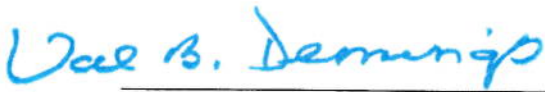
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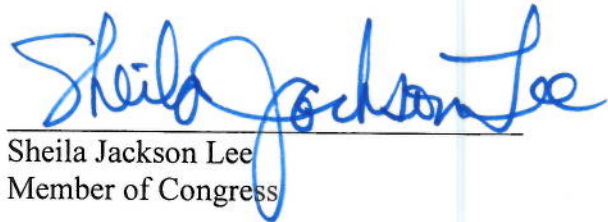
Sean Patrick Maloney
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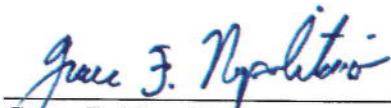
Sheila Jackson Lee
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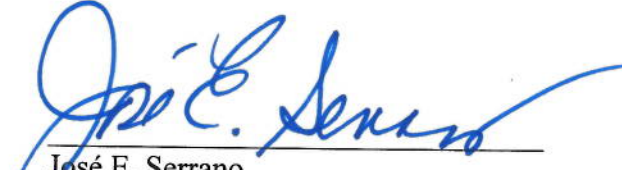
Robert A. Brady
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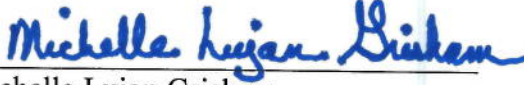


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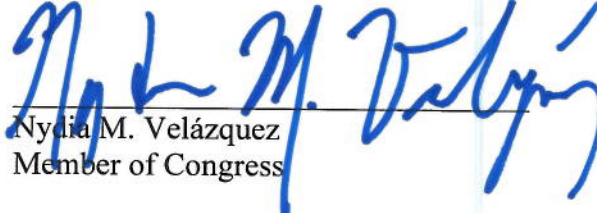

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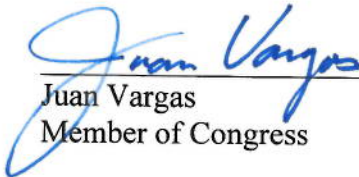
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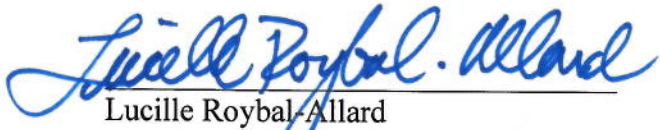
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