

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0303

Thank you. Under Republican leadership, the Judiciary Committee has absolutely neglected its duty to hold the Trump Administration accountable for the massive, unprecedented abuses it is unleashing across the entire country.

As Donald Trump carries out his indiscriminate war on immigrants and American communities, it is essential that we conduct thorough Congressional Oversight for what's happening in detention centers like Eloy, a facility very near my district in Phoenix.

What I have encountered in Eloy was sickening—so many of the detainees shared that they do not have reliable access to basic necessities like adequate food and water or essential medical care when they are in crisis.

This includes women who do not have access to proper healthcare or feminine products.

Detainees described to me firsthand the overcrowded, moldy cells, being forced to participate in dehumanizing marches outside in the Arizona heat, the AC turned off and then blasted on high periodically, and constant berating from guards. Conditions worse than prison.

They described having to drink water with chlorine in it and being given used underwear that gave them UTIs.

Right now, so many of my constituents are scared that they or their family members may be unjustly detained and denied their basic rights, sent to one of these internment camps without due process. This is unconstitutional and unacceptable.

And yes, constituents include citizens, green card holders, DACA recipients, asylum seekers, refugees— including people – human beings – held in ICE detention. Members of Congress shouldn't pick and choose who matters or who deserves help.

Some of the people I have spoken with in detention are asylum seekers. Some are refugees from some of the most dangerous places in the world who believed in the United States as a place of refuge.

I have written repeatedly to Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem and the Acting Director of ICE Todd Lyons detailing my deep concerns about the inhumane conditions of the Eloy ICE

Detention Center and demanding answers. Their responses have been completely unsatisfactory.

I want to tell you the story of one of my constituents, Yari Rodríguez Márquez, who has been held for the better part of a year in ICE detention.

Yari was a green card holder. Someone here in this country legally, following the exact legal process we have.

I have spent hours on end with Yari in detention. She's suffering from cancer and extremely sick.

She told me she vomits blood several times a week—and I witnessed it myself.

Watching her suffer like that, without answers or a plan, is unbearable and unnecessary. She still hasn't been given her full test results or medical records. That's not a mistake. It's a bureaucracy designed to deny care and hide what's happening inside these ICE detention centers.

I made clear I wouldn't leave until next steps were set: full records, another oncology visit, and a real treatment plan.

Due to the persistence of Yari, her family and friends, and my office, she was finally able to see a doctor.

But that should never have been the case – and thousands of other detainees are being silently treated the same way.

We must fight back this part of Trump's racist and authoritarian playbook.

That is why I am planning on introducing a package of immigration bills to ensure that these abuses are permanently ended.

I urge the Judiciary Committee to do everything in your power to do so. It is imperative for the communities and families we all represent.

Thank you, and I yield back.