

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 20, 2025

Chairman Jim Jordan
House Committee on the Judiciary
2138 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ranking Member Jamie Raskin
House Committee on the Judiciary
2141 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Chairmen Jordan and Ranking Member Raskin,

We write in strong support of our New Jersey colleagues – Representatives Bonnie Watson Coleman, Rob Menendez, and LaMonica McIver – for the critical oversight they provided at the Delaney Hall Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention facility in Newark, New Jersey on May 9, 2025. We also strongly condemn efforts by the Departments of Homeland Security (DHS) and Justice (DOJ) to politicize and suppress lawful Congressional oversight through acts of intimidation and threats of legal action against our colleagues.¹

Members of Congress have explicit statutory authority to conduct unannounced visits and inspections of DHS detention facilities, which was affirmed by ICE Acting Director Todd Lyons during a May 14 Congressional hearing.² These visits provide Members with crucial oversight into the physical condition of facilities, the treatment of those being detained, and the overall operations of ICE in a particular region.

As Members of Congress, we have a duty to ensure the DHS is utilizing taxpayer dollars effectively, and that every person held in U.S. custody, no matter their legal status, is treated humanely and afforded due process. Any attempt to block, delay, or prevent a Member from performing their lawful oversight duties or threatening to arrest them for those purposes is explicitly unlawful.

We reiterate our support for Representatives Watson Coleman, Menendez, and McIver for upholding their oversight duties as duly elected Members of Congress. We commend their efforts to hold DHS and ICE accountable. And we strongly condemn any efforts by the current Administration to block or intimidate Members of Congress from performing this lawful role.

We hope this letter clarifies the important oversight role every Member of Congress must serve, regardless of which political party holds the White House. The New Jersey delegation will not bow in the face of unlawful threats by this Administration.

¹Solender, A. (2025) *Trump admin eyes arrests for House Dems over ICE incident* – Axios, Axios.

² Santana, R. (2025) *ICE head recognizes Congress' role in visiting detention facilities, even unannounced* – ABC News, ABC.

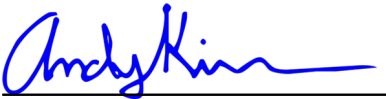
Sincerely,



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Andy Kim
United States Senator



Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



Mikie Sherrill
Member of Congress



Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



Nellie Pou
Member of Congress



Herbert C. Conaway, Jr.
Member of Congress

Cc: Oversight Subcommittee Chairman Jefferson Van Drew and Ranking Member Jasmine Crockett