

February 9, 2026

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Chairman
Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on the Judiciary
147 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rand Paul
Chairman
Senate Committee on Homeland Security
and Governmental Affairs
340 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Gary Peters
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Homeland Security
and Governmental Affairs
442 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jim Jordan
Chairman
House Committee on the Judiciary
2138 Rayburn House Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jamie Raskin
Ranking Member
House Committee on the Judiciary
2142 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Andrew Garbarino
Chairman
House Committee on Homeland Security
H2-176 Ford House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bennie G. Thompson
Ranking Member
House Committee on Homeland Security
H2-117 Ford House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Grassley, Ranking Member Durbin, Chairman Paul, Ranking Member Peters, Chairman Jordan, Ranking Member Raskin, Chairman Garbarino, and Ranking Member Thompson,

The undersigned organizations, representing health care clinicians and public health professionals, write to urge you to promptly conduct robust oversight of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) family detention facilities to ensure that those detained have timely, adequate access to medical care. We are deeply concerned about mounting reports detailing how those detained, including childrenⁱ and pregnant women,ⁱⁱ have been denied necessary medical care for both acute emergencies and chronic conditions,ⁱⁱⁱ and in some cases, with fatal consequences.^{iv} These reports raise serious questions about whether ICE and its contracted operators are complying with the agency's own National Detention Standards published in 2025.^v

As stated in the National Detention Standards, "[a]ll detainees shall have access to appropriate medical, dental, and mental health care, including emergency services." The standards further require initial screenings within twelve hours of arrival, "[c]omprehensive, routine and preventive health care, as medically indicated," emergency care, specialty care, and "[t]imely responses to medical complaints."

Women in detention are specifically entitled to “routine, age-appropriate gynecological and obstetrical health care, consistent with recognized community and clinical guidelines for women’s health services.” For postpartum women, disruption to the breastfeeding dyad due to separation from their child (dozens of which such cases have been reported)^{vi} can have negative health implications for both mom and baby.

Reports of medical neglect and avoidable fatalities are at odds with the National Detention Standards. We urge you to exercise your oversight authority to ensure agency compliance with its own policies.

Failure to adhere to the National Detention Standards is especially alarming amid reports that several detainees in Dilley, Texas, tested positive for measles late last month.^{vii} Outbreaks of highly infectious diseases pose a grave threat to those being detained and living in crowded conditions without consistent access to clean water, sanitation, and ready access to medical personnel, as well as employees who may have been exposed. **We urge you to take necessary action to ensure that outbreaks of deadly diseases, including but not limited to measles, are prevented and appropriately managed within ICE detention facilities, including coordination with state and local public health departments for the safety of detainees, employees, and the public at large.**

Thank you for your attention to this important issue affecting many of the patients and families our members serve. Many of our organizations have recommended an end to family detention because of the known harms to children and pregnant women of detention. If our physician member experts or we can be helpful to your oversight of these facilities, please do not hesitate to call on us.

Sincerely,

American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists
Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Pediatrics
American College of Osteopathic Emergency Physicians
American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians
American College of Osteopathic Internists
American College of Osteopathic Neurologists and Psychiatrists
American College of Osteopathic Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American College of Osteopathic Pediatricians
American College of Physicians
American Osteopathic Association
American Psychiatric Association
American Society for Reproductive Medicine
Infectious Diseases Society of America
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine
Society for Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility

ⁱ <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2026/01/29/immigrant-families-conditions-detention-sick-kids/88405597007/>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.aclu.org/documents/aclu-partners-demand-ice-release-pregnant-and-postpartum-people-from-ice-detention>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.recordonline.com/story/news/local/2025/10/15/report-claims-inadequate-medical-treatment-at-orange-county-jail-ice/86688284007/>

^{iv} <https://www.reuters.com/legal/government/four-migrants-die-us-ice-custody-over-first-10-days-2026-2026-01-12/>

^v <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/detention-standards/2025/nds2025.pdf>

^{vi} <https://lailluminator.com/2025/12/02/ice-nicu/>

^{vii} <https://www.washingtonpost.com/immigration/2026/02/03/ice-immigration-measles-texas-children/>