

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 27, 2025

The Honorable Kristi Noem
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20528

The Honorable Todd Lyons
Acting Director
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
500 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Secretary Noem and Acting Director Vitello:

We write to request information regarding the troubling news that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is transferring immigrants detained in the Northwest ICE Processing Center (NWIPC) in Tacoma, Washington to the Anchorage Correctional Complex (ACC) in Anchorage, Alaska.¹ ICE informed congressional offices that at least 40 individuals were moved from NWIPC to ACC earlier this month.²

These individuals were moved thousands of miles away from their families, communities, and legal representatives to a prison with a deeply problematic history. Just last month, incarcerated Alaskans filed a lawsuit against the Alaska Department of Corrections (DOC), alleging that the care provided by the DOC has resulted in “needless suffering” and even death.³ Now, the administration is moving more people into this facility, and allegedly is moving existing inmates to another overcrowded facility to make room for people in ICE custody.

ICE confirmed that these individuals do *not* have final orders of removal and that the individuals will be transferred *back* to NWIPC for their court hearings. At a time when even House Republicans are questioning ICE's "egregious" spending levels, we are deeply concerned that ICE is wasting taxpayer dollars, flying dozens of people between detention centers thousands of miles apart, in efforts that do nothing to help protect Americans.⁴

To ensure accountability in the use of public funding, please provide answers to the following questions no later than July 18, 2025:

1. How many individuals have been transferred from NWIPC to ACC since June 2, 2025?
2. How many of those individuals have since been transferred back to NWIPC?

¹ Corinne Smith, Alaska detained 42 men arrested by ICE and flown in from out of state, amid federal crackdown, ALASKA BEACON (Jun. 11, 2025), <https://alaskabeacon.com/2025/06/11/alaska-detained-42-men-arrested-by-ice-and-flown-in-from-out-of-state-amid-federal-crackdown/>.

² *On file with House Committee on the Judiciary.*

³ Complaint, *Vail v. Dunleavy*, No. 3:25-cv-00086-HRH (D. Alaska May 1, 2025).

⁴ Jennifer Scholtes, *House Appropriators Decry ‘Egregious’ ICE Funding Mismanagement*, POLITICO (June 11, 2025), <https://www.politico.com/live-updates/2025/06/11/congress/house-appropriators-post-homeland-security-committee-report-00399652>.

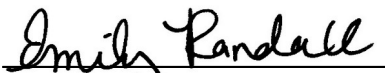
3. How many people were transferred out of ACC to make room for the individuals from NWIPC?
4. What is the cost of each transfer between NWIPC and ACC?
5. How much has been spent thus far transferring individuals between NWIPC and ACC?
6. Does ICE have a policy of notifying the attorney of record in the event of an upcoming transfer?
7. When detention facilities are at capacity, how does this impact enforcement decisions, including those targeting individuals in compliance with their immigration obligations (e.g. appearing in immigration court, attending ICE check-ins)?
8. What criteria does ICE use to identify individuals for transfer?
9. How is ICE ensuring that detained immigrants retain access to counsel following their transfer to ACC?

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



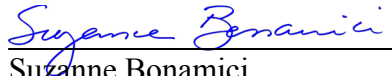
Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



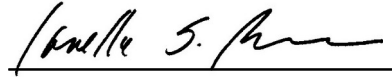
Emily Randall
Member of Congress



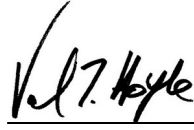
Maxine Dexter
Member of Congress
Ranking Member,
Subcommittee on Oversight
and Investigations



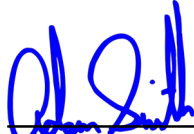
Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Janelle S. Bynum
Member of Congress



Val Hoyle
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress