

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

February 17, 2026

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

Mr. Todd M. Lyons  
Acting Director  
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement  
500 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW, Mail Stop 5902  
Washington, D.C. 20536

Dear Secretary Noem and Acting Director Lyons:

We write to express grave concern regarding the detention of Rodney Taylor. Mr. Taylor is a double amputee with only one functional hand who has been detained for over a year in an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) for-profit detention facility. He has experienced extreme hardship in detention and his health is continuing to deteriorate. We ask that full and fair consideration be given to Mr. Taylor's request for release from the Stewart Detention Center in Lumpkin, Georgia.

Mr. Taylor came to the United States at the age of 2 from Liberia on a medical visa. He sought medical attention for a cubed left foot, missing right foot, and three fingers missing on the right hand. Mr. Taylor has had 16 different operations and has been a double amputee since the age of 10 years old.<sup>1</sup>

Since entering ICE detention on January 15, 2025, his health has deteriorated. According to Mr. Taylor, when he was detained in January of 2025, "he was only days away from picking up new prosthetic legs; the ones he was using were too tight. Then the detention center gave him shoes that didn't fit the legs and trying to walk 'felt like walking on concrete on my knees.'"<sup>2</sup> In addition, Mr. Taylor stated in an interview that the "prosthetic legs have batteries that require eight hours of charging a day. But after being locked up at Stewart, he didn't even see a doctor for three days, and in the ensuing months, the facility has never been able to arrange for eight hours of charging, allowing only several hours at a time. The result: the batteries die and the legs don't bend, creating more pain in Taylor's hips."<sup>3</sup>

In addition to the problems with his prosthetic legs, Mr. Taylor has been diagnosed with bone spurs in his back and neuropathy, causing severe pain. He is also experiencing high blood pressure, which is deeply concerning, given the history of heart disease in his family. The severity of his high blood pressure could be life threatening.

Mr. Taylor sought medical care multiple times and was rejected.<sup>4</sup> This has created a situation where merely getting around the facility for meals is very difficult. He is unable to use a wheelchair because his right hand only has one full finger, a thumb, making it impossible for him to push it. Other detained individuals who have attempted to help Mr. Taylor, including by

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<sup>1</sup> Timothy Pratt, *Health of double amputee detained in Georgia ICE jail worsens*, THE GUARDIAN (Nov. 21, 2025), <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/nov/21/georgia-ice-rodney-taylor>

<sup>2</sup> Timothy Pratt, *Disabled people detained by Ice sound alarm over overcrowded jails*, THE GUARDIAN (Apr. 25, 2025), <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/apr/25/ice-immigration-detention>

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

bringing him food, have been instructed not to by facility staff. Further, Mr. Taylor's mobility issues in detention have made it challenging for him to access shower facilities. Mr. Taylor went 6 days without a shower because the facility did not have appropriate medical equipment, such as a shower stool. When he did receive a shower stool, the showers were moldy, covered in feces, and bodily fluids. Mr. Taylor has to crawl through these conditions on his amputation sites and hands to shower. In May, Mr. Taylor fell on his knees and landed on his only functioning hand. The right prosthesis broke at the knee and screws scattered. Other detained people helped carry Mr. Taylor to the medical unit where they gave him tape to tape up the broken prosthetic. Recently, we have learned that Stewart is no longer providing Mr. Taylor accommodation for meals and he will be required to get his meals three times a day by himself. These conditions and his treatment are totally unacceptable.

We are deeply concerned about Mr. Taylor's treatment in detention, including the denial of medical care and now the denial of accommodations to ensure he is fed. We urge you to immediately give full and fair consideration to his request to be released from detention and his contention that he is neither a flight risk nor a danger to the community.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



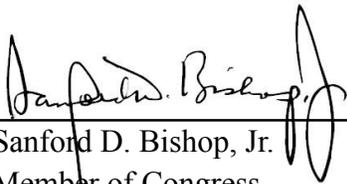
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Pramila Jayapal  
Ranking Member  
Immigration Integrity,  
Security, and Enforcement  
House Judiciary Committee



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Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress



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Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.  
Member of Congress



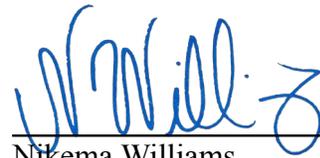
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Lucy McBath  
Member of Congress



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Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress



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Nikema Williams  
Member of Congress

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Yvette D. Clarke  
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Yassamin Ansari  
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Rashida Tlaib  
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*Maxine Dexter*

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Maxine Dexter  
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*James P. McGovern*

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Member of Congress

*Jesús G. García*

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Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress

*Veronica Escobar*

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Member of Congress

*Melanie A. Stansbury*

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Member of Congress

*Sylvia R. Garcia*

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*Judy Chu*

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Judy Chu  
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*Robin L. Kelly*

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Member of Congress



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Becca Balint  
Member of Congress



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Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Adelita S. Grijalva  
Member of Congress