

February 23, 2026

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

Dear Secretary Noem:

We write to express our grave concern and opposition to Immigration and Customs Enforcements (ICE) potential expansion of immigration detention in the Pacific Northwest. Under the Trump Administration, the number of people in ICE detention centers has skyrocketed to record levels. Just last month, it was reported that there were 73,000 people in ICE detention centers.¹ All of this has happened using funds from the One Big Beautiful Bill Act which provided \$45 billion for ICE detention with no accountability or transparency.

According to the Presolicitation Notice posted in December 2025, ICE is looking to double its detention capacity in the greater Seattle Area.² ICE's Northwest Processing Center in Tacoma, Washington, already has capacity for 1,600 detention beds and is one of the largest facilities in the country.

That facility has been plagued by ongoing concerns related to substandard conditions. Just last month, multiple members of the Washington delegation noted deteriorating conditions, specifically mounting concerns about access to legal counsel and medical care.³ The letter cites reports from local service providers and advocates with access to the facility, including reports of at least three pregnant women in detention who claim they have not been able to receive appropriate medical care.⁴ It also references two suicide attempts in April and challenges for access to behavioral care.⁵ These concerns are consistent with ongoing concerns about poor conditions in detention facilities nationwide and ICE's ability to ensure safe conditions for the people in its custody.

We are deeply concerned that ICE is seeking to double its capacity in the Pacific Northwest. We request that you and the Department establish clear lines of communication with our offices and local officials as soon as possible to ensure our delegation's concerns are considered. We also request detailed information on plans or communications regarding the development of immigration detention facilities in the Seattle Area of Responsibility.

¹ Camilo Montaya-Galvez, *ICE's Detainee Population Reaches New Record High of 73,000 as Crackdown Widens*, CBS NEWS (Jan. 16, 2026), <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/ices-detainee-population-record-high-of-73000/>

² Department of Homeland Security, *Detention Facility Support for Seattle*, WA Area of Responsibility, (Dec. 19, 2025), <https://sam.gov/workspace/contract/opp/ed3dc0b591074f3f91dc457621f7229a/view>

³ *WA Democratic Members Demand Answers From ICE on Deteriorating Conditions and Inadequate Food, Medical Care, and Access to Legal Counsel at NWIPC*, PRAMILA JAYAPAL NEWS (Dec. 17, 2025) <https://jayapal.house.gov/2025/12/17/wa-democratic-members-demand-answers-from-ice-on-deteriorating-conditions-and-inadequate-food-medical-care-and-access-to-legal-counsel-at-nwipc/>

⁴ *Id.*

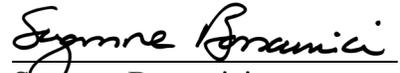
⁵ *Id.*

We appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to your response and to meaningful engagement with the Department.

Sincerely,



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



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Emily Randall
Member of Congress



Maxine Dexter
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Val Hoyle
Member of Congress



Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress



Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress



Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



Andrea Salinas
Member of Congress



Janelle S. Bynum
Member of Congress



Marie Gluesenkamp Perez
Member of Congress