PRAMILA JAYAPAL
7TH DISTRICT, WASHINGTON

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August 1, 2026

Mr. David Venturella
Acting Director
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
500 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Acting Director Venturella:

Last week, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detained my constituent, Eduardo Aguirre Esparza, in West Seattle. As the result of conversations Mr. Aguirre Esparza has had with his attorney and wife, disturbing allegations have been brought to my attention that require immediate action by ICE.

Mr. Aguirre Esparza has lived in the United States since 2002, has no criminal record, and is married to a U.S. citizen. According to his wife, after being apprehended Mr. Aguirre Esparza was taken to Tukwila, Washington, where he was held in a room for 10 hours and surrounded by approximately 20 ICE agents who pressured him to sign a voluntary departure order. According to Mr. Aguirre Esparza, the agents pushed him physically and threatened him with physical violence if he did not sign the voluntary departure order.

When Mr. Aguirre Esparza refused to sign the voluntary departure order, ICE sent him over a thousand miles from his wife and attorney to Camp East Montana, an ICE detention facility in Texas where even ICE has "identified serious problems at the facility."[1] Members of Congress have repeatedly raised concerns about the same facility. In February, I along with Representative Escobar and 22 other Members of Congress, sent a letter demanding Camp East Montana be closed.[2] Despite only being open less than a year, 3 people have died at that facility and detainees have complained of constant and consistent problems.[3] Just last month, Human Rights Watch and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) published an 84-page report detailing serious violations and concerns with that facility including that detainees have experienced indiscriminate beatings, life-threatening medical neglect, coercive removals to

[1] Gov't Accountability Office, *Immigration Detention: Waste and Performance Issues at Camp East Montana Provide Valuable Lessons for Future Facilities* (Jun. 2026) https://files.gao.gov/reports/GAO-26-108886/index.html.
[2] *Escobar, Jayapal, Members of Congress Call on Camp East Montana to be Shut Down*, JAYAPAL PRESS (Feb. 26, 2026), https://jayapal.house.gov/2026/02/26/escobar-jayapal-members-of-congress-call-on-camp-east-montana-to-be-shut-down/.
[3] *Id.*

unfamiliar "third countries," and, in some cases, experienced conditions of confinement that may amount to enforced disappearance.[4]

In addition, ICE has also reportedly alleged that Mr. Aguirre Esparza has a DUI conviction from Kansas, but his wife has stated that he has never lived in Kansas nor does his background check reflect that.

These allegations are deeply concerning. According to Mr. Aguirre Esparza and his attorney, there were cameras in the room so there should be video. As a result, I am requesting that ICE immediately transfer Mr. Aguirre Esparza out of Camp East Montana to the Northwest ICE Processing Center in Tacoma so he is closer his family and attorney and that ICE preserve and provide the video and all related materials to this incident in Tukwila to my office by August 14, 2026. Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

PRAMILA JAYAPAL
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Immigration Integrity, Security, and Enforcement

[4] *You're Only Getting out Deported Or Dead: Abuse U.S. Immigration Detention at Ft. Bliss,* Human Rights Watch, American Civil Liberties Union (July 16, 2026), https://www.aclu.org/documents/youre-only-getting-out-deported-or-dead-abusive-us-immigration-detention-at-ft-bliss.