

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

August 27, 2026

David Venturella
Acting Director
Immigration and Customs Enforcement
500 12th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20536

Dr. Joseph V. Cuffari
Inspector General
Department of Homeland Security
245 Murray Lane SW
Washington, DC 20528-0305

George C. Zoley
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
The GEO Group, Inc.
4955 Technology Way
Boca Raton, FL 33431

Dear Acting Director Venturella, Inspector General Cuffari, and Mr. Zoley,

As Members of the U.S. House of Representatives, we are writing to express our grave concerns regarding conditions at the Northwest ICE Processing Center (NWIPC) in Tacoma, Washington, operated under contract by the for-profit prison contractor the GEO Group. We were appalled by our recent visit to the NWIPC on August 15, 2026. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and GEO Group are failing to meet their obligation to provide access to timely medical services, adequate food, visitation, and other basic services.

As Members of Congress, we have the responsibility to conduct oversight and ensure our constituents at NWIPC are being treated humanely and with dignity. We are concerned that the increase in the detainee population during the Trump Administration is placing additional strain on staffing and the timely provision of basic services.¹ The reports we received warrant a thorough assessment of whether the facility is meeting applicable standards and fulfilling its responsibility to provide individuals in its custody with adequate food, sanitation, and medical care.

We remain deeply concerned about reports of inadequate and delayed access to medical care. Since our first visits in early 2025, numerous constituents have reported having medical issues dismissed and access to care delayed or denied, and this was echoed again during our visit. Additionally, we were alarmed to hear about alleged sexual assault occurring within the facility. We were also unable to exercise our congressional oversight authority to inspect the medical area of the facility because no Public Health Service staff were available. In addition, we were informed that access continues to be denied to state health inspectors of Washington's Department of Health.

During our visit to NWIPC, detained individuals described meals as inadequate in quality, nutritional standards, and portion size and reported significant delays in meal service, including lunch being served

¹ Talbot, Peter. "Detained Population at Tacoma ICE Center Nearing Capacity as Immigration Arrests Increase." The News Tribune, 27 Mar. 2025, www.thenewstribune.com/news/local/article302888164.html.

as late as approximately 3:00 p.m. and dinner as late as approximately 9:00 p.m. We also heard allegations that food contained hair and rodent feces. Food is not a luxury or a privilege; it is a fundamental human right.

Additionally, visitation was suspended during our oversight tour, leaving family and friends waiting hours to speak with their loved ones. Individuals in the waiting area of the facility were told that visitation had been paused because of a Congressional tour. We were subsequently informed that the actual reason for the suspension was a fight at the facility. These conflicting explanations raise concerns about the accuracy and transparency of communications with detained individuals and their families and legal teams by ICE and GEO.

Given these concerns, we request complete responses to the following:

To ICE and DHS

- 1) Provide data on nutritional standards followed by this facility since January 2026. What are the minimum required portion sizes, nutritional standards, and quality standards for meals at NWIPC, and what process do you use to ensure those standards are being met?
- 2) What is the protocol for administering pregnancy tests at the facility? Have there been documented incidences of individuals becoming pregnant while detained at NWIPC in the past year?
- 3) What is the protocol for timing of visits for ICE Health Service Corps? Why is it that calls occur between 5:00-6:00 am?
- 4) Were medical personnel deployed to units to assess people who were refusing meals, if so, how many times?
- 5) Provide contracts for medical providers outside of ICE Health Service Corps, such as physical therapists for NWIPC.
- 6) What is the protocol for daily glucose monitoring and insulin provision for detained individuals with diabetes?

To the GEO Group

- 1) Describe in detail GEO policy for pausing visitations during a congressional oversight visit.
- 2) What are GEO's procedures at NWIPC used to ensure that detained individuals have regular access to clean undergarments, bedding, showers, and other basic hygiene supplies including menstrual products?
- 3) How many food-service positions at NWIPC are currently authorized, filled, and vacant, and has the increase in detained population contributed to staffing shortages or delays in meal service?
 - a. Provide in writing the menu and times when meals were distributed for the week of August 9th – August 15th, 2026, at NWIPC.
- 4) Provide data on the average and maximum amount of time detained individuals wait for a community-standard response to a medical request. Identify and report how many medical requests went without a medical evaluation for more than 24, 48, or 72 hours during the past 90 days at NWIPC.

- a. Provide the protocol for detained individuals making medical requests and the protocol for responding to such requests.

To the DHS Office of Inspector General

- 1) Immediately investigate the allegations of violence against detained immigrants and conduct a comprehensive review of the use of delayed or denied medical care at the NWIPC. Ensure that NWIPC is complying with applicable laws, ICE detention standards, and contractual requirements, including by reviewing relevant medical, staffing, food service, grievance, inspection, and incident records.

We are paying close attention to the conditions lacking humanity, dignity, and respect at NWIPC by GEO Group and ICE. Violations of the law or any abuse of human rights will not go unnoticed. We request your prompt response to these questions by September 3, 2026.

Sincerely,



Emily Randall
Member of Congress



Maxine Dexter
Member of Congress

CC: Secretary Markwayne Mullin, Department of Homeland Security