

# EXHIBIT 12

VERONICA ESCOBAR  
16TH DISTRICT, TEXAS  
  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON MILITARY CONSTRUCTION,  
VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY  
  
HOUSE BUDGET COMMITTEE



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

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<http://escobar.house.gov>

NEW DEMOCRAT COALITION  
CONGRESSIONAL PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS  
CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS  
DEMOCRATIC WOMEN'S CAUCUS

September 26, 2025

The Hon. Kristi Noem  
Secretary  
Department of Homeland Security

The Hon. Todd Lyons  
Acting Director  
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Secretary Noem and Acting Director Lyons:

I am writing to express serious concerns regarding a lack of transparency and communication with my office regarding attempts to conduct Congressional oversight at the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention facility known as Camp East Montana on Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas.

Most recently, on September 22, 2025, my office was abruptly informed that their planned visit to Camp East Montana scheduled for September 23, 2025 had been cancelled. ICE had approved my staff for a visit to the facility in two separate email confirmations on September 16<sup>th</sup> and September 18<sup>th</sup>; the visit was originally requested on September 10<sup>th</sup>. However, less than 24 hours before my staff's planned visit, ICE rescinded their confirmation without explanation. After failing to respond to emails asking for details on the cancellation, ICE eventually told my staff over the phone that their visit had been cancelled due to "operational tempos" at Camp East Montana. This is an unacceptable response from an agency that is currently in violation of Section 527 of Public Law 118-47 and illegally barring Members of Congress and their staff from their oversight duties <sup>1</sup>.

The cancellation of my staff's scheduled visit is the latest in a string of dishonest and opaque communication from ICE with my office since the opening of Camp East Montana. ICE originally denied a request from my office to tour Camp East Montana at the beginning of August, explaining the site was not safe due to ongoing construction. Despite these apparent safety concerns, ICE was already holding people at the site. My office was ultimately granted an opportunity to conduct oversight at Camp East Montana on August 18<sup>th</sup> and August 28<sup>th</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.congress.gov/118/plaws/publ47/PLAW-118publ47.pdf#page=161>

During both of our visits, my staff and I observed serious issues regarding insufficient staffing, lack of access to the facility for legal counsel, and unresponsive phones. Detainees we spoke to told us about being served rotten food and shared urgent concerns over the quality of the drinking water at the facility, which they reported had a bad smell and made them feel sick.

We observed many of the same disturbing issues detailed in the *Washington Post*'s troubling article about dangerous conditions at Camp East Montana. The article states that the first detainees transported to Camp East Montana arrived at the beginning of August, when the facility was still an active construction site full of machinery and unfinished structures and lacked coordinated safety plans for staff and detainees <sup>2</sup>.

According to the article, detainees have been subjected to at least 60 violations of standards for immigrant detention, including facility staff failing to properly monitor and treat detainees' medical conditions, not providing detainees with ways to contact their lawyers or receive updates on the status of their cases for prolonged periods, and insufficient telephones and tablets for detainees to make necessary calls <sup>3</sup>. Reporting further indicates that, because Camp East Montana remains actively under construction, some detainees have even been held at the facility without access to basic necessities like functioning toilets, sinks, and insufficient recreational space <sup>4</sup>.

Following our oversight visits to Camp East Montana, my staff followed up with our ICE liaisons with a list of questions on September 3<sup>rd</sup> to address remaining concerns that were not answered while we were on-site. As of the date of this letter, my team has yet to receive a formal response from ICE. Similarly, my office provided detainees at Camp East Montana with Privacy Release Forms (PRFs) so that our office can follow up on individuals' cases. Additionally, my team has 21 pending inquiries with staff at Camp East Montana, including multiple follow-up inquiries, that have also gone unanswered. This is highly unusual given my office's working relationship with local ICE officials and is totally unacceptable.

I have included the list of questions from my district office below and urge ICE and the Department of Homeland Security to provide my office with detailed responses by October 3, 2025.

1. When our office first visited, we were informed that Camp East Montana had "about" 300 support staff consisting of contractors and about 40 ICE staff on site, and that whenever the facility reaches a 3,000-bed capacity, the number of ICE staff "should" be 10 ICE supervisors and 40 Deportation officers.
  - a. What will the contractor staffing numbers be at 3,000 and 5,000 beds?
2. During our August 28<sup>th</sup> visit, our office discussed the list of the vendors at Camp East Montana with staff, including the food vendor that was local to El Paso and was in the process of phasing out, and the new food vendor that would replace them. Please provide the names of those vendors.

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<sup>2</sup> [ICE's new Fort Bliss detention center violated 60 federal standards - The Washington Post](#)

<sup>3</sup> [ICE's new Fort Bliss detention center violated 60 federal standards - The Washington Post](#)

<sup>4</sup> [ICE's new Fort Bliss detention center violated 60 federal standards - The Washington Post](#)

3. We were informed that ICE had re-hired retired staff and annuitants to bring them on in a supervisory role. With these new hires, how many supervisory staff are now on site?
4. What processes are in place to ensure that phones are being answered 24 hours a day, as is necessary, at Camp East Montana? Our office has heard from staff at a local legal service provider organization that it can be difficult to connect with staff at Camp East Montana over the phone. One legal service provider reportedly placed 25 calls to Camp East Montana before staff at the facility answered the phone.
5. What is the current status of construction on the walkway between the visitor area and the meeting space? Are there plans to ensure this walkway is enclosed and protected from the elements in the future?
6. My staff recommended that staff at Camp East Montana connect with the City of El Paso Public Health Department as a preventative public health measure against potential outbreaks of illnesses at Camp East Montana. My staff also provided contact information for the city's public health director. Please confirm if staff at Camp East Montana has made efforts to connect with the City of El Paso Public Health Department.
7. Multiple detainees spoke to me and my staff about the quality of the drinking water at Camp East Montana. Several people told us the water smelled bad and made them ill after drinking it. Please confirm where the water is being sourced and what tests are being conducted to ensure it meets all applicable standards for drinking water.
8. Our office shared several Privacy Release Forms (PRFs) with staff at Camp East Montana. What is a reasonable timeframe when we should expect responses on those inquiries?

Sincerely,



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Veronica Escobar  
Member of Congress

# EXHIBIT 13

VERONICA ESCOBAR  
16TH DISTRICT, TEXAS  
  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON MILITARY CONSTRUCTION,  
VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY  
  
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NEW DEMOCRAT COALITION  
CONGRESSIONAL PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS  
CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS  
DEMOCRATIC WOMEN'S CAUCUS

November 7, 2025

The Hon. Kristi Noem  
Secretary  
Department of Homeland Security

The Hon. Todd Lyons  
Acting Director  
U.S. Customs and Immigration Enforcement

Secretary Noem and Acting Director Lyons:

I am writing to follow up on my letter from September 26, 2025. In it, I expressed grave concerns regarding operations at Camp East Montana, the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention facility on Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas.

In my September letter, I detailed issues that my staff and I had observed at Camp East Montana during two separate oversight visits to the facility. These issues ranged widely, including insufficient staffing to keep both personnel and detainees safe, inadequate access to legal counsel for detained migrants, urgent concerns that detainees were being served rotten food and unsafe drinking water, and a persistent issue with unattended facility phones. I also highlighted alarming findings from a report in *The Washington Post*<sup>1</sup>, many of which were consistent with what my staff and I observed during our oversight visits. My letter also included a list of urgent questions regarding contractors and services at the facility.

As of the date of this follow-up letter, my office has yet to receive a response to our original letter. However, in the month since we reached out with concerns, my staff and I have continued to hear from detainees at Camp East Montana. We have learned that some of the issues I highlighted in my September letter have not been adequately resolved, and the site appears to have developed additional problems.

According to detainees that my staff and I have heard from, the drinking water at the facility continues to taste foul, the food quality for detainees has not improved, and some detainees are skipping meals altogether due to a lack of dietary accommodations. Detainees have shared that their dormitory pods are cleaned only once every eight days, despite pods housing up to 72 people at a time. Two separate detainees we spoke with shared that people are requesting brooms to keep their pods tidy between weekly cleanings. Laundry services are not consistent, and people are washing their clothes in the facility showers. I understand that both unreliable cleaning and laundry service are known issues to ICE leadership. Please provide the name of the

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<sup>1</sup> [ICE's new Fort Bliss detention center violated 60 federal standards - The Washington Post](#)

current contractors responsible for these services and the actions ICE has taken to ensure consistent cleaning and laundry services.

Additionally, we have been told that the facility frequently experiences flooding and sewage backups. This is unacceptable. Stagnant water and sewage are serious hazards that can lead to illness and disease. Please detail the steps ICE has taken to ensure that these issues are permanently resolved.

People have shared concerns regarding Camp East Montana's potentially inadequate medical care: only the most ill detainees are referred to the medical unit and there are inconsistencies as to how soon after arriving detainees are able to undergo initial medical screenings. Detainees have also shared that access to necessary medications has been inconsistent, with some people receiving their medication while others have not. My office is aware of a detainee who is living with HIV but has not been receiving his medication.

Furthermore, I am concerned that, due to the pace of population turnover, neither ICE nor staff at the facility have an accurate headcount of the population at Camp East Montana. Please provide my office with the most up-to-date population census numbers; including the amount of people with pending court dates; the average number of detainees who have volunteered to self-deport and are still at the facility; the average number of people who are in-processed and out-processed from the facility within a 24-hour period; and the average length of stay of detainees.

I demand that ICE and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) respond to these concerns and enumerate what steps, if any, are being taken to guarantee the safety and wellbeing of all the people currently detained at Camp East Montana, their families, and the staff there.

I am also including the list of questions from my original letter below. I urge ICE and DHS to provide my office with detailed responses by November 24, 2025.

1. When our office first visited, we were informed that Camp East Montana had "about" 300 support staff consisting of contractors and about 40 ICE staff on site, and that whenever the facility reaches a 3,000-bed capacity, the number of ICE staff "should" be 10 ICE supervisors and 40 Deportation officers.
  - a. What will the contractor staffing numbers be at 3,000 and 5,000 beds?
2. During our August 28<sup>th</sup> visit, our office discussed the list of the vendors at Camp East Montana with staff, including the food vendor that was local to El Paso and was in the process of phasing out, and the new food vendor that would replace them. Please provide the names of those vendors.
3. We were informed that ICE had re-hired retired staff and annuitants to bring them on in a supervisory role. With these new hires, how many supervisory staff are now on site?
4. What processes are in place to ensure that phones are being answered 24 hours a day, as is necessary, at Camp East Montana? Our office has heard from staff at a local legal service provider organization that it can be difficult to connect with staff at Camp East Montana over the phone. One legal service provider reportedly placed 25 calls to Camp East Montana before staff at the facility answered the phone.

5. What is the current status of construction on the walkway between the visitor area and the meeting space? Are there plans to ensure this walkway is enclosed and protected from the elements in the future?
6. My staff recommended that staff at Camp East Montana connect with the City of El Paso Public Health Department as a preventative public health measure against potential outbreaks of illnesses at Camp East Montana. My staff also provided contact information for the city's public health director. Please confirm if staff at Camp East Montana has made efforts to connect with the City of El Paso Public Health Department.
7. Multiple detainees spoke to me and my staff about the quality of the drinking water at Camp East Montana. Several people told us the water smelled bad and made them ill after drinking it. Please confirm where the water is being sourced and what tests are being conducted to ensure it meets all applicable standards for drinking water.

In addition to the questions from my original letter, I am including the additional questions below:

1. Please clarify the number of shifts per week that contracted staff are currently scheduled to work, the number of shifts per week contracted staff currently works, and the duration of each shift.
2. Please clarify how many detainees have escaped from Camp East Montana. Include details on if they were taken back into custody, how long they were outside of the facility, and what their current condition is.
3. Please clarify what protocols are in place to determine when a detainee requires medical attention beyond the capabilities of Camp East Montana and how quickly a detainee will be transferred to a local healthcare facility.
  - a. Which staff are responsible for ensuring the medical wellbeing of detainees at Camp East Montana?
  - b. What facility-specific training, if any, do these staff members receive before being able to interact with and make medical determinations for detainees at Camp East Montana?
  - c. Which staff are responsible for ensuring continuation of care for detainees at Camp East Montana once they are discharged from the local healthcare facility at which they received care?
  - d. Under what circumstances would a detainee with required follow-up care be unable to keep their appointments and meet with their healthcare team?
  - e. Under which circumstances would a detainee who has received necessary and invasive care at a local healthcare facility continue to be housed at Camp East Montana at all, especially if staff is unable or unwilling to ensure compliance with necessary continuation of care off-site?

Conditions at Camp East Montana are dangerous and inhumane; they have been since the facility opened at the beginning of August (when it was still an active construction site), and only seem to be deteriorating. It is increasingly clear that it is not a safe nor professionally managed facility. Continuing to detain people at Camp East Montana means continually exposing people to risks from bad water, unhygienic conditions, poorly built facilities, and a general lack of security and reliable management.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your responses by November 24, 2025.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Veronica Escobar". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. Below the signature is a horizontal line.

Veronica Escobar  
Member of Congress

# EXHIBIT 14

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 26, 2026

The Hon. Kristi Noem  
Secretary  
Department of Homeland Security

The Hon. Todd Lyons  
Acting Director  
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Secretary Noem and Acting Director Lyons:

We are urgently calling on the Department of Homeland Security (DHS or the Department) and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to shut down Camp East Montana in El Paso, Texas.

Camp East Montana has been operational for six months, and at least three people have died at the site since December 2025: Francisco Gaspar-Andres<sup>1</sup>, Geraldo Lunas Campos<sup>2</sup>, and Victor Manuel Diaz<sup>3</sup>. The El Paso County Medical Examiner has officially ruled Lunas Campos' death a homicide, citing "asphyxia due to neck and torso compression<sup>4</sup>."

Camp East Montana was constructed in a matter of weeks and opened before construction was complete and it does not have enough federal staff on-site to provide adequate oversight. Over the last several months, Congresswoman Veronica Escobar, in whose district this facility is located, has sent multiple letters to DHS and ICE regarding concerns about the conditions at Camp East Montana, and has received no responses.<sup>5</sup>

According to detainees, there have been constant and consistent problems at the facility since it opened, beginning with the facility's poor construction and poor ambient temperature control. Upon opening, the drinking water at Camp East Montana tasted foul and made some detainees sick. Detainees continue to be served inadequate meals, including food that is rotten or frozen; last fall, the facility was also consistently failing to make dietary accommodations for detainees. Detainees have shared that they have sporadic access to outside spaces and recreational areas, and that their dormitory pods are cleaned only once every eight days, despite pods housing up to 72 people at a time. Laundry services are not consistent, and people are washing their clothes in the facility showers. Additionally, the facility experiences flooding and sewage backups when it rains, leading to stagnant water.

One of the biggest concerns with the Camp East Montana facility is the inadequate medical care being provided to detainees. Our offices have heard that only the most ill detainees are referred to the medical unit and that there are inconsistencies as to how soon after arriving detainees are able to undergo initial medical screenings.

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<sup>1</sup>*Illegal alien from Guatemala in ICE custody dies at local hospital from suspected natural causes: liver, kidney failure*, U.S. IMMIGR. AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT (Dec. 5, 2025), <https://www.ice.gov/news/releases/illegal-alien-guatemala-ice-custody-dies-local-hospital-suspected-natural-causes>.

<sup>2</sup>*ICE reports aggravated felon and convicted child sex offender's death at Camp East Montana in Texas*, U.S. IMMIGR. AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT (Jan. 9, 2026), <https://www.ice.gov/news/releases/ice-reports-aggravated-felon-and-convicted-child-sex-offenders-death-camp-east>.

<sup>3</sup>*ICE reports death of illegal alien in custody in El Paso*, U.S. IMMIGR. AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT (Jan. 9, 2026), <https://www.ice.gov/news/releases/ice-reports-death-illegal-alien-custody-el-paso>.

<sup>4</sup>Natalie Venegas, *Medical examiner rules migrant's death at Camp East Montana a homicide*, KFOX14 (Jan. 21, 2026), <https://kfoxtv.com/news/local/medical-examiner-rules-migrants-death-at-camp-east-montana-a-homicide>.

<sup>5</sup>In December, Congresswoman Escobar laid these specific concerns out to ICE Director Todd Lyons in person, and though Director Lyons committed to responding, ICE has not yet responded to a single letter.

Detainees with chronic health issues who rely on regimented medications for their health have had difficulty accessing necessary medications, including blood pressure medication and insulin.

At least one of the deaths that occurred in ICE custody, the death of Francisco Gaspar-Andres, appears to partially be the result of poor medical care by staff at the facility. According to ICE's own account, Gaspar-Andres sought medical attention from facility staff for increasingly serious symptoms, but was only transferred to an area hospital once his condition had severely deteriorated.<sup>6</sup>

In addition to our concerns about poor medical care, we are also aware that detainees have experienced irregular access to their legal counsel, including instances of detainees having only two minutes allotted per phone call every 8 days, which is contrary to ICE's Detention Standards on access to counsel, and that the belatedly created law library lacks adequate resources for the amount of people currently held at the facility. In January 2026, ICE announced the on-site death of Geraldo Lunas Campos "after experiencing medical distress." ICE opened an investigation into the death, but did not provide a cause of death. However, *The Washington Post* later reported<sup>7</sup> that another man detained at Camp East Montana had witnessed guards choking Lunas Campos when he refused to enter a segregated housing unit. Weeks later, the El Paso County Medical Examiner ruled that Lunas Campos had experienced "asphyxia due to neck and torso compression" and ruled his death a homicide.

Lunas Campos is the first detainee to die at Camp East Montana as a result of a use-of-force incident, but we are strongly concerned that he will not be the last if ICE is allowed to continue operating Camp East Montana.

ICE was given \$45 billion taxpayer dollars in the reconciliation bill, \$1.2 billion of which were awarded to Acquisition Logistics, LLC, a company with no previous experience managing immigration detention facilities, to build and oversee Camp East Montana. However, in the wake of three deaths in custody so far, continued concerns about conditions at the facility, and ICE's apparent disinterest in responding to oversight letters from Congress, we do not believe Camp East Montana is being run professionally or responsibly.

Camp East Montana must be shut down. For the safety of everyone at the facility, for an end to abuses to detainees, and for fiscal responsibility to the American people, the site cannot continue to operate. We are calling on DHS and ICE to move to immediately close operations at Camp East Montana.

We look forward to hearing from the Department promptly on this matter.

Sincerely,

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<sup>6</sup> *Illegal alien from Guatemala in ICE custody dies at local hospital from suspected natural causes: liver, kidney failure*, supra note 1.

<sup>7</sup> Douglas MacMillan, *Medical examiner likely to classify death of ICE detainee as homicide, recorded call says*, WASH. POST (Jan. 15, 2026), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/immigration/2026/01/15/ice-detention-death-homicide/>.



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Veronica Escobar  
Member of Congress



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



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Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



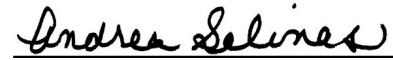
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SETH MOULTON  
Member of Congress



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



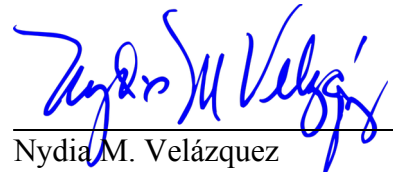
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Andrea Salinas  
Member of Congress



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Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress



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Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress



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Delia C. Ramirez  
Member of Congress



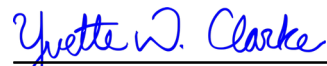
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Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress



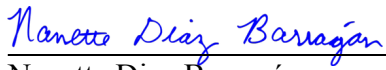
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Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress

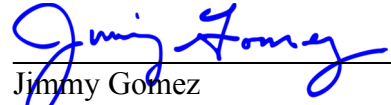


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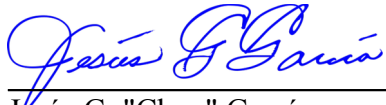
Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress



Jimmy Gomez  
Member of Congress



Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress



Paul Tonko  
Member of Congress



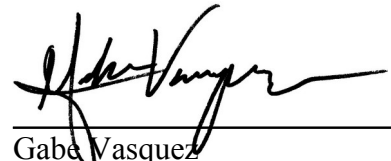
Lauren Underwood  
Member of Congress



Dan Goldman  
Member of Congress



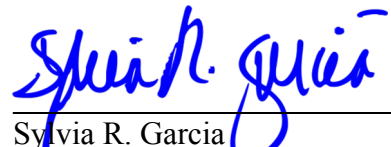
Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



Gabe Vasquez  
Member of Congress



Maxwell Alejandro Frost  
Member of Congress



Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress



Yassamin Ansari  
Member of Congress



Darren Soto  
Member of Congress

# EXHIBIT 15

**MARCH 25, 2026**

# **U.S. Rep. Kelly Morrison Conducts Oversight Of Nation's Largest Detention Facility In Texas Where Minnesotans Are Being Held**

**EL PASO, TX** – This week, U.S. Rep. Kelly Morrison (MN-03) conducted an unannounced oversight visit of the Camp East Montana immigration detention facility in El Paso, Texas.

Camp East Montana is currently the largest detention facility in the nation, holding 3,000 people a day on average in a makeshift tent encampment. The Trump Administration intends to hold up to 5,000 people at this location. Thousands of Minnesotans who were originally detained at the Whipple federal building in Minneapolis have been flown and held at Camp East Montana in Texas.

**"Taxpayer dollars should be used to make life better and more affordable for Americans – not for creating mass detention centers to house tens of thousands of people and violate human rights. I'm horrified by the cruelty, inhumanity, and inadequate care I've seen both at Whipple and Camp East Montana. The United States can and must be better than this. We cannot allow the Trump Administration to keep expanding these operations in our country.**

**"We all saw the horrors of ICE's abuses in Minnesota – and the power of calling it out. Exposing the truth of what is happening through transparency**

**is the only way we can get accountability from this administration. We must continue to speak out against these egregious and expensive operations,"** said Congresswoman Kelly Morrison.

### ***Rep. Morrison's Oversight Visit***

Rep. Kelly Morrison, a doctor for more than 20 years, made the trip to Texas after being notified that several of her constituents were being detained there, and having heard disturbing reports of inadequate medical care and human rights abuses.

Rep. Morrison has heard deeply concerning reports from Minnesotans, including from the family of a pregnant woman who couldn't get adequate prenatal care, a man with diabetes who is not receiving the medication he needs, and multiple constituents with similar concerns – not receiving the medication, medical attention, or even the basic necessities like food that they need.

When she arrived at Camp East Montana on Monday afternoon, Rep. Morrison was initially denied entry at the gate and forced to wait more than an hour before she was eventually allowed into the facility.

Once she was allowed in, the staff at the facility did not allow her to see any of her constituents or speak with anyone who was being detained there.

### ***Camp East Montana - The Nation's Largest Detention Facility***

The Trump Administration awarded a \$1.2 billion contract to build this massive tent encampment last year. The \$1.2 billion contract for the site was given to a private company that had never operated an ICE facility before and had no experience running a correction facility.

At least three people have died at Camp East Montana since December, including one ruled a homicide. There have been widely documented reports of overcrowding, medical neglect, malnutrition, and emotional distress. The facility was forced to close to visitors last month after a measles outbreak.

*[Aerial image of Camp East Montana. Photo Source: Brian Kanof, El Paso Times]*

### ***Additional Background***

Under federal law, Members of Congress have the right to conduct unannounced oversight of DHS facilities used for immigration detention, including facilities run by ICE and those operated by private companies. After being unlawfully denied entry into the Whipple detention facility earlier this year, [Rep. Morrison joined a lawsuit](#) with her colleagues suing the Trump Administration for blocking Congressional oversight of federal detention facilities. Since then, Rep. Morrison has performed congressional oversight of the Whipple detention facility in Minneapolis several times, visiting most recently [last month](#).

As a physician, Rep. Morrison has been especially concerned about the potentially life-threatening lack of medical equipment and care at these ICE detention facilities, including overcrowding, shackling, denial of medical care, and other inhumane conditions.

**Watch a video on Rep. Morrison's visit [here](#):**

**Read a transcript of the video [here](#):**

*I came to Camp East Montana this morning to meet with my constituents who are detained here.*

*I've heard from countless constituents about the conditions inside Camp East Montana.*

*I've heard about a pregnant woman in her third trimester who was not getting adequate prenatal care.*

*I heard from family members about a man who has diabetes who is not getting his diabetes medication.*

*What I saw here was horrific. It is a gigantic complex. There are five huge buildings that can hold up to 5000 detainees.*

*I was allowed to see one pod that would house between 64 and 72 people. It is full of metal bunk beds that are crammed together.*

*There are metal tables in the middle of this structure, and that is where people spend almost all day, every day. They eat and sleep there and there they sit.*

10/12/26, 10:26 AM

U.S. Rep. Kelly Morrison Conducts Oversight of Nation's Largest Detention Facility in Texas Where Minnesotans Are Being Held ...

*I went to the Whipple building in Minnesota when my constituents and Minnesotans were detained there.*

*Many of them were sent here.*

*I demanded to see my constituents here at Camp East Montana, and I was denied access to them.*

*I was not allowed to speak with any of my constituents or any detainees here.*

*I will continue to fight for them, just like I fought for my right to provide Congressional oversight at the Whipple building and here at Camp East Montana.*

*This cannot continue to happen in our country, and I am not going to quit fighting.*

*###*

# EXHIBIT 16



Select Language   
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 322 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515  [Email Me](#)  (202) 225-2365

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## REP. GABE VASQUEZ CONDUCTS CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT VISIT AT CAMP EAST MONTANA

April 6, 2026 | [Press Release](#)

**Congressman spoke with detainees about inhumane conditions, called for the closure of Camp East Montana, and noted that detainees reported 98% of the current population has no criminal record.**

**EL PASO, TX** – On April 6, 2026, **U.S. Representative Gabe Vasquez (NM-02)** conducted a Congressional oversight visit at Camp East Montana. The visit followed the release of [a new report from ICE last week](#), which identified dozens of failures to meet national detention standards at the facility, including use of force, use of restraints, and inadequate medical care.

"Today, I visited Camp East Montana as part of my Congressional oversight duties. ICE got a \$75 billion blank check from the Republican tax law, and it is my duty as a member of Congress to exercise oversight and make sure that DHS is spending our taxpayer money in a way that lives up to our American values, standards, and laws to truly keep our country safe," said **Vasquez**. "This camp is my community's backyard, and what happens here is incredibly relevant for my constituents in New Mexico's second district. I have heard reports from nonprofits and partners in New Mexico that people are being indiscriminately picked up by ICE in New Mexico and moved to this facility, and today I spoke with a current detainee from Albuquerque."

"The conditions I saw today are beneath our American values," **Vasquez** added. "I believe in law and order, and violent criminals who are in this country illegally and intend to harm others should of course be detained and deported per the letter of the law — just as any violent individual should have to face the full force of the law — but the reality is that the vast majority of detainees at Camp East Montana have no criminal record. This is not what Americans voted for, and it has got to stop. I am calling for the immediate closure of this camp."

During the visit, ICE failed to share data on what percent of detainees in the facility have criminal records. Detainees reported that they estimate the vast majority of individuals detained at the facility have no criminal records, saying **about 800 of the individuals currently detained at Camp East Montana — roughly 98% of the current population — have no criminal records.**

During the visit, detainees also reported limited access to health care (including the withholding of medications), insufficient food containing little to no protein, a lack of access to personal care products (like shampoo), forced sleep deprivation, poor sanitation, and verbal abuse from facility guards.

### During the visit, the Congressman gathered the following information:

- As of today, ICE reported there are 821 individuals detained at the facility. The peak number of individuals detained at the facility was over 4,000, and the facility has a maximum capacity of 5,000 individuals.
- ICE says it has no plans to expand the facility at this time.
- As of today, Acquisition Logistics is still operating the facility, with a change to a new contractor — Amentum Services Inc. — forthcoming, despite reports that the change in contractor was slated to take place in March, multiple deaths have taken place at the facility, and the recent ICE report that found the facility failed to meet national detention standards.
- ICE reported that the average detainee's stay at Camp East Montana is 60 days. However, many of the detainees the Congressman spoke to had contradictory experiences to ICE's claim, sharing that they had been detained at the facility for much longer than that — some up to as much as seven months.
- ICE officials reported that as of today, 101 individuals were quarantined due to the recent measles outbreak. Instances of tuberculosis and COVID-19 were also reported by ICE officials.

During his visit, the Congressman spoke with detainees who had been living in New Mexico at the time of their arrest by ICE. Many of the detainees the Congressman spoke with had lived and worked in the U.S. for decades prior to being detained by ICE. They reported working as mechanics, factory workers, and owning small cleaning and construction businesses prior to their detention.

### Today's Congressional oversight visit at Camp East Montana built upon Rep. Vasquez's long track record of calling for reform, accountability, and due process at the Department of Homeland Security:

- Last May, the Congressman introduced the [Humane Accountability Act](#), a bill that requires DHS to tell Congress and the public what it's doing with taxpayer money — including data on detentions, deportations, and deaths in custody — so families know where their loved ones are and the public knows what its government is doing with taxpayer funds.
- In February 2026, the Congressman sent a [letter](#) to DHS alongside Rep. Escobar **calling for the closure of the Camp East Montana facility** — a request DHS denied.
- Rep Vasquez has introduced the [New American Immigration Plan](#), a commonsense plan to secure our borders, boost local economies, and expand legal pathways — all in a humane, cost-effective way that lives up to our American values of fairness and law and order.

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