



CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS

116th Congress

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July 10, 2020

Damon T. Hininger
President and Chief Executive
Officer
CoreCivic
5501 Virginia Way, Suite 110
Brentwood, TN 37027

George C. Zoley
Chairman of the Board, Chief
Executive Officer and Founder
The GEO Group, Inc.
621 NW 53rd Street, Suite 700
Boca Raton, FL 33487

Dear Mr. Damon T. Hininger and Mr. George C. Zoley,

As the COVID-19 pandemic spreads across the country, the men and women currently held and working in Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention centers remain at great risk of exposure. It has been nearly three months since the Trump Administration declared a national emergency concerning COVID-19. Since then, we have seen the number of coronavirus cases in ICE detention exponentially increase every week and multiple outbreaks have been reported in detention facilities. Since both CoreCivic and GEO Group are ICE's top operators of detention centers, we would like to request a virtual meeting with you and Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC) Members at your earliest availability.

As many public health experts have already pointed out, congregate settings like detention conditions do not allow individuals to observe safe social distancing guidelines, which, especially during a global health pandemic, increase the risk of accelerating transmission of the virus among detainees and facility staff. Further, we are alarmed by reports that individuals held in detention with symptoms of COVID-19 have reported being denied necessary medical care; some have complained of being placed in solitary confinement; other have been ignored outright.

It is critical that we meet with you to discuss how you are operating ICE detention centers amid this pandemic and your efforts to protect those being held and working at detention centers. Given the current public health crisis, your participation as a major government contractor is essential to properly inform legislators.

We hope you will consider our invitation to come speak to the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. To schedule this meeting, please contact CHC Executive Director Alma Acosta at alma.acosta@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

Joaquin Castro
CHC Chair

Juan Vargas
Member of Congress

Ruben Gallego
CHC First Vice-Chair

Nanette Diaz Barragán
CHC Second Vice-Chair

Adriano Espaillat
CHC Whip

Veronica Escobar
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Albio Sires
Member of Congress

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
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