

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 23, 2025

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

Dear Secretary Noem:

We write to demand a full and immediate investigation into the use of the 10th floor at 26 Federal Plaza in New York City as a detention facility operated by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Recent reports and credible accounts, including from our own constituents, have brought to light deeply troubling conditions, raising serious concerns about the treatment of individuals being held in this space and whether the use of this location aligns with federal law and DHS standards. This is further alarming as we were denied access and entry to the 10th floor twice, once on June 8, 2025 and again on July 14, 2025, to conduct our lawful congressional oversight duties.

According to reports and video evidence, the 10th floor is being used to detain individuals under conditions that are opaque, unregulated, and potentially unsafe. There have been troubling allegations regarding lack of access to legal counsel, inadequate sanitation, prolonged confinement, and the absence of transparency surrounding these operations. The use of a federal office building as a detention facility without notice to the public or Congress is unacceptable and undermines public trust in DHS and ICE.

We demand that DHS immediately:

1. Launch a full investigation into ICE's operations on the 10th floor at 26 Federal Plaza, including a review of the facility's compliance with detention standards and constitutional protections.
2. Provide a detailed report to Congress on the scope, purpose, and oversight of detention activities at this location, including the number of individuals detained, length of detention, and conditions of confinement.
3. Suspend the use of this facility as a detention site until the investigation is complete and all findings have been reviewed by relevant congressional committees.
4. Guarantee that all individuals currently in ICE custody at this location have immediate access to legal representation, medical care, and humane treatment in accordance with federal law and international human rights standards.

The use of 26 Federal Plaza as a detention center, without proper transparency, oversight, or compliance with DHS regulations, is unacceptable and must be addressed with urgency. DHS has a legal and moral obligation to ensure that individuals in its custody are treated with dignity, humanity, and fairness.

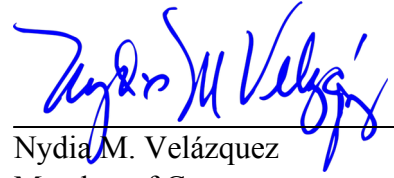
We request that you provide a response and an initial report of your findings to our offices no later than August 6, 2025.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Adriano Espaillat
Chair
Congressional Hispanic Caucus



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress