



Eliminate the Detention Bed Quota for Immigrants & Implement Alternatives to Detention

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ASK--*In the House, Representatives Ted Deutch (D-FL) and Bill Foster (D-IL) will introduce an amendment to strike the quota language in the appropriations bill. Consider asking your U.S. Representatives to:*

- Vote in favor of the Deutch-Foster amendment.
- Contact other offices to gain support for the elimination of the quota.
- Also, express your opposition to the bed quota in public statements.

BACKGROUND--*The United States has the largest immigration detention infrastructure in the world. The expansion of this system in recent years is partly due to the immigration detention bed quota, policy passed by Congress under which 34,000 immigrants are held in ICE detention at any given time: “. . . funding made available under this heading shall maintain a level of not less than 34,000 detention beds.” This policy is unprecedented; no other law enforcement agency operates on a quota system. Many detained people are seeking protection from persecution, sexual assault, trafficking, and violence.*

TALKING POINTS--*The bed quota is a particularly egregious element of the immigrant detention system.*

- Immigrants are held in facilities in which innumerable human rights abuses and dozens of deaths have occurred. Immigrants are often held with no access to outdoor space, served rotten food, and subjected to wholly inadequate medical and mental health care.
- Most immigrants are held in facilities hundreds of miles from their families and without access to counsel.
- The quota feeds into a larger system characterized by mass deportation and lack of due process. It incentivizes targeting immigrants for deportation in order to fill jail cells to the profit of corporations and localities.
- Immigrant detention can be replaced by other proven and effective methods—including parole, release under supervision, and bond. All of these alternatives, when needed, can help ensure people participate in their court proceedings, are more humane and cost taxpayers far less than detention.
- Detention is expensive – there is a human cost to our communities and a monetary cost to taxpayers. The Administration’s rampant detention and deportation policies mean each year nearly half a million people are torn apart from their families and communities. The most recent budget request for ICE’s Custody Operations is just over \$2 billion. During a time of fiscal challenge, it is unacceptable to be spending billions of taxpayer dollars to needlessly detain immigrants. Private prison corporations lobby for policies like the bed quota which keep immigrants in detention.
- Nearly 60% of detention beds are in facilities run by private prison corporations, which rake in profits from the incarceration of immigrants.

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