

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 13, 2026

The Honorable Kristi Noem
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave SE
Washington, DC 20032

Mr. Tom M. Lyons
Acting Director
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
500 12th St. SW
Washington, D.C. 20536

Dear Secretary Noem and Mr. Lyons,

I write with grave concern regarding the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) reported plan to open an immigration detention center in Kansas City, MO¹. This comes as the administration is ballooning its detention center capacities to meet its goal of 1 million deportations a year. Just weeks ago, the administration awarded a \$29.9 million no-bid contract, just shy of the \$30 million threshold to justify its reason for forgoing a competitive contract, to Kpb Services LLC, for "DUE DILIGENCE SERVICES AND CONCEPT DESIGN FOR PROCESSING CENTERS AND MEGA CENTERS THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES²." Prior to this award, Kpb Services LLC had no history of government contracts, raising several concerns over this project's transparency and the awardee's ability to meet the legal requirements and safety standards necessary for a large-scale government contract.

Since day one, this administration has fractured communities with ICE raids and severed families with hundreds of thousands of deportations, sweeping up legal residents and American citizens in the process³. While we believe strongly in an orderly immigration system, Kansas Citians and I do not want to see the stench of these extreme mass deportation policies centralized in Kansas City. As the administration continues to threaten the due process, civil liberties, and human rights of immigrants and American citizens, it is critical that ICE act transparently.

Over the past year, news outlets have documented allegations of sexual abuse, medical neglect, physical abuse⁴, and solitary confinement⁵ inside ICE detention centers, leading to legal orders to close the most egregious detention centers⁶. No human deserves to be rounded up as cattle, shipped across the country, imprisoned in warehouses, and stripped of their dignity. The

¹ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2025/12/24/ice-immigrants-detention-warehouses-deportation-trump/>

² https://www.usaspending.gov/award/CONT_AWD_70CMSW26FR0000001_7012_70CMSW26D00000001_7012

³ <https://www.propublica.org/article/immigration-dhs-american-citizens-arrested-detained-against-will>

⁴ <https://www.aclu.org/news/immigrants-rights/detained-immigrants-detail-physical-abuse-and-inhumane-conditions-at-largest-immigration-detention-center-in-the-u-s>

⁵ <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2025/09/16/trump-ice-mexico-louisiana-detention>

⁶ <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c5y3lwze2njo>

proposed plan will degrade our society, divide our communities, waste taxpayer dollars, and stress the civility of our institutions to the point of fracture.

Before the administration proceeds, I request a response to the following questions **by January 23, 2026.**

1. Has the administration briefed Congress on the plans and locations of these facilities?
2. Why did the administration pursue a no-bid contract, as opposed to a competitive, transparent application process?
3. Will the administration provide Congress and the general public with the locations of the proposed facilities?
4. How has the administration coordinated with local governments? Will the administration honor the local zoning policies and processes?

Kansas Citians do not want this administration's reckless, deadly, and incompetent deportation policies in our back yards. The administration vowed to target known criminals, yet even the Cato Institute acknowledged that 73% of people in ICE custody have no criminal convictions, saying "[Trump's] agenda does not match the campaign promises that he made nor the rhetoric from his officials."⁷ Instead of focusing on the root causes of mass migration and the growing costs of living for Americans, this administration is wasting taxpayer money on no-bid contracts with unqualified LLCs.

America's immigration system is far from perfect, and border security is a key component. But those millions of dollars for detention centers would be better spent on finding criminals rather than attacking families and those with no criminal history.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Emanuel Cleaver, II". The signature is stylized with a large, circular flourish at the end.

Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress

⁷ <https://www.cato.org/blog/5-ice-detainees-have-violent-convictions-73-no-convictions>