



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

February 11, 2026

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

Dear Secretary Noem,

I am writing to request a meeting with you, along with local law enforcement personnel and area elected officials, regarding the opposition to the proposed immigration detention center in Kansas City, MO before the end of the month.

Over the past few months, I, along with hundreds of thousands of 5th District residents, have witnessed television reports and newspaper accounts of the chaos that has followed ICE into urban centers around the country. Understandably, there is a great amount of anxiety throughout my congressional district in response to these reports. During my years of public service, I have never been approached and stopped by random citizens on the streets, at events, and in the airport more than I have been about the ICE detention center reportedly headed to our community.

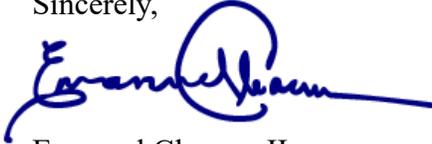
The chaos this administration brought to the streets of Minneapolis has no place in Kansas City. If there is any confusion, look to the actions of our local government. Without hesitation, the city council passed a resolution that implemented a five-year moratorium on non-municipal detention facilities¹. For an administration that often flexes their 'mandate' and perception of the voters' will, it would be a disrespectful miscalculation to ignore the Kansas City community.

On January 13, 2026, I sent you and Immigration Customs and Enforcement (ICE) Acting Director Tom Lyons a letter strongly exhorting answers to the following questions raised by my constituency:

1. Has the administration briefed Congress on the plans and locations of these [immigration detention] 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?

Given that these concerns are urgent and your office has not provided a response before the January 23, 2026 deadline, I now respectfully request that you meet with me and local officials, provide additional information to those who would be tasked with overseeing any potential facility in our jurisdiction, and allow us to share our serious concerns. The 770,000 people who call Missouri's Fifth Congressional District home deserve an explanation, and please know that silence would be an uncivil response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Emanuel Cleaver, II". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress