

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

April 2, 2015

The Honorable Jeh Johnson
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
3801 Nebraska Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20528

The Honorable Sarah R. Saldaña
Assistant Secretary
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
500 12th Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20536

Dear Secretary Johnson and Assistant Secretary Saldaña:

It has come to our attention that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) plans to release from its Florence, Arizona facility to the community an illegal immigrant with drug-resistant tuberculosis. Please find enclosed a letter from Thomas Schryer, Director of Public Health for Pinal County, Arizona which describes the situation.

This seems to be a change in ICE policy, and one that could put a financial burden on Pinal County. It is our understanding that, if released, Pinal County would be responsible for finishing the treatment of this individual in accordance with Arizona law and standard public health practices. According to the county, the housing and medical attention for the requisite 18-24 months of care is estimated to cost around \$200,000.

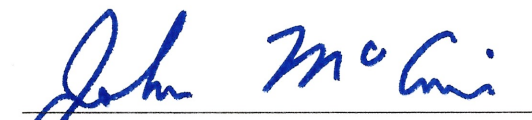
Therefore, we ask that you respond to the following questions, in writing, at the earliest possible date, but no later than April 8, 2015:

1. Why was this individual detained in the first place, and why does ICE believe it no longer has standing to hold the individual, despite holding him/her for the past seven months?
2. Under what laws, policies, executive orders, or memoranda does ICE cite its authority to release an individual with such a diagnosis into the general public?
 - a. Are cases of individuals with an infectious disease considered in a manner differently than those without any such disease?
3. Why is ICE not considering the option of deporting the individual to his/her country of origin?
4. If ICE does release this individual, does it plan to reimburse Pinal County for the medical treatment of the individual?
5. Should this release proceed, will the department honor the county's request to, at a minimum, have 10 days' notice prior to the release of this individual to ensure adequate preparations are arranged?

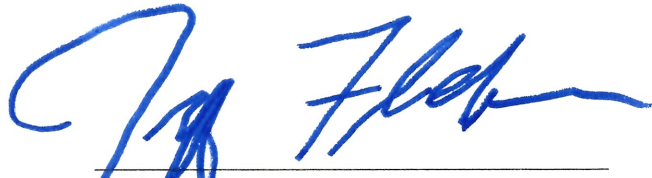
6. Is ICE required to notify, or have a policy in place to notify, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) when releasing undocumented immigrants with infectious disease into the United States? More specifically, has ICE notified CDC of the release or pending release of an undocumented alien from its custody into the United States in the past 60 days?
7. If ICE is unable to detain the individual, does the CDC have the authority to quarantine?

We are troubled by this situation and we hope that the Department of Homeland Security and ICE considers the public health implications of their decisions. We thank you for your review of these inquiries, and would appreciate a response in a timely matter. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact our offices, or the office of Director Schryer.

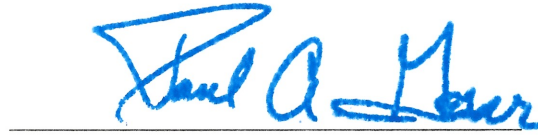
Sincerely,



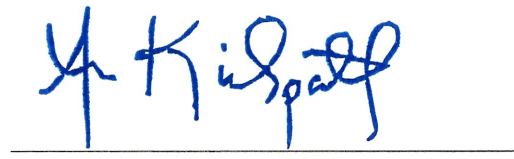
John McCain
United States Senator



Jeff Flake
United States Senator



Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
Member of Congress



Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress