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December 29, 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

Todd M. Lyons
Acting Director
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
500 12th Street SW, Mail Stop 5902
Washington, D.C. 20536

Dear Secretary Noem and Acting Director Lyons:

I write to express my serious concerns regarding reported conditions inside Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) holding rooms at the Alfonse M. D'Amato U.S. Courthouse in Central Islip, New York. Recent court findings and investigative reporting describe prolonged detention in spaces intended only for brief, single-occupancy use, with individuals held overnight or longer in overcrowded rooms lacking basic sanitation, adequate heat, privacy, medical access, or the ability to sleep in humane conditions.

In a detailed opinion issued this month, U.S. District Judge Gary R. Brown described the use of these holding rooms as conduct that "shocks the conscience" and raised questions about whether the conditions violate constitutional requirements. The court also cited failures to comply with its orders, the submission of demonstrably false statements, and the apparent disregard of ICE's own detention standards.

An independent analysis by Newsday further documents a pattern of extended confinement in these holding rooms, including individuals sleeping on concrete floors near open toilets, continuous lighting, overcrowding, lack of hygiene supplies, and limited access to medical care. According to the article, ICE expanded its use of these facilities while simultaneously granting itself waivers to extend detention times, even as evidence suggests those limits were exceeded both before and after the waivers were issued.

Taken together, the judge's findings and the investigative reporting raise serious and credible allegations of mistreatment. Detention under such conditions is inconsistent with our nation's laws, our constitutional obligations, and the basic standards of human dignity that should govern the exercise of government authority. Immigration enforcement does not excuse unlawful or

degrading treatment, nor does operational strain justify practices that courts have described as abhorrent and likely unlawful.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Department of Homeland Security immediately launch a full and independent investigation into the conditions of ICE holding rooms at the Central Islip federal courthouse. This review should include compliance with ICE detention standards, adherence to court orders, accuracy of sworn statements submitted to the judiciary, and accountability for any violations that are identified. The findings of this investigation should be made public, along with a clear plan to remedy any deficiencies and prevent their recurrence.

Trust in our federal institutions, including federal law enforcement, depends on transparency, lawful conduct, and respect for the public they serve. When members of the federal judiciary raise questions about whether those tenets are being upheld, and those concerns are supported by independent journalism, a full review is warranted. Anything less defies our values and the laws you are charged with protecting.

Sincerely,



Monica R. Martinez
New York State Senator
Fourth Senatorial District

cc: Hon. Charles E. Schumer, Senate Minority Leader
Hon. Kirsten Gillibrand, Senator
Hon. Andrew R. Garbarino, Member of Congress