

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

August 5, 2026

David Venturella

Acting Director ICE
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
500 12th St. SW
Washington, D.C. 20536

The Honorable Markwayne Mullin

Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr Ave SE
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dr. Sean Conley

Acting Director and Chief Medical Officer
Office of Health Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr Ave SE
Washington, D.C. 20528

**RE: Congressional Oversight Findings at Moshannon Valley Processing Center:
Demanding Accountability in Advance of GEO Group's Second Quarter 2026 Earnings
Call**

I write to address the alarming findings from my congressional oversight visit to the Moshannon Valley Processing Center ("MVPC") in Philipsburg, Pennsylvania on June 17, 2026. MVPC is owned and operated by the publicly traded, for-profit prison corporation, The GEO Group, Inc. ("GEO"), under an intergovernmental contractual agreement with Clearfield County and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE").¹ As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, it is my constitutional duty to ensure that federal contractors honor their legal obligations and that taxpayer dollars do not fund systemic neglect or cruelty. What I uncovered at MVPC did not reassure me; rather, it confirmed serious reports of medical neglect, safety violations, and explicit contract violations.

I submit this letter ahead of GEO Group's Second Quarter 2026 Earnings Call on August 6, 2026, which I plan to attend. While GEO publicly asserts "total compliance with contractual requirements,"² and boasts of "proudly operat[ing] in accordance with the

¹ ICE, Detention Facility Contracts, 70CDCR21DIG000012: Moshannon Valley Processing Center - Philipsburg, PA, https://www.ice.gov/doclib/foia/detFacContracts/70CDCR21DIG000012_org_MoshannonValleyPC_PA.pdf

² GEO Group, Respecting Human Rights Through Oversight and Contract Compliance,

Performance-Based National Detention Standards (PBNDS),”³ the conditions I uncovered inside MVPC directly contradict these claims. **There shouldn’t be earnings calls for human detention.**

Obstruction of Congressional Oversight

During my June 17 visit, facility administrators engaged in deliberate obstruction to shield MVPC from oversight. While staff permitted a surface-level tour of the building, I was explicitly blocked from speaking with the people detained inside.

MVPC staff manufactured procedural excuses to prevent me from interviewing detainees—barriers that were not applied to my colleagues, Rep. Chris Deluzio and Rep. Summer Lee, when they visited weeks prior.

A staged walk-through without the ability to speak with the people detained inside is not true oversight; it is obstruction designed to hinder congressional fact-checking and prevent corroboration of facility conditions. Yet even this interference could not conceal the systemic contract violations taking place.

Inadequate Medical Care and Staffing – Breach of Contract

My visit confirmed a dangerous shortage in medical staffing at MVPC, resulting in a direct, ongoing breach of GEO’s contract with the federal government.

Federal law mandates all detention facilities housing ICE detainees to comply with ICE’s National Detention Standards.⁴ GEO’s contract for MVPC requires this facility to comply, at a minimum, with ICE’s 2011 Performance-Based National Detention Standards [2016 Rev.],⁵ which mandates that **all incoming detainees receive a comprehensive medical screening within 12 hours upon arrival.**⁶ This 12-hour initial medical screening requirement is so critical that it is explicitly set forth in bold text within GEO’s contract.⁷ The 2026 updates to these standards also include this 12-hour requirement.⁸

<https://www.geogroup.com/our-commitments/exceeding-quality-compliance/dedicated-compliance-team/>

³ GEO Group, GEO’s Commitment to Corporate Responsibility, <https://www.geogroup.com/corporate-responsibility/>

⁴ ICE, “Detention Management,” <https://www.ice.gov/detain/detention-management> (last accessed 8/03/2026): “Regardless of whether detention facilities are owned and operated by ICE, a state or local entity, or a contractor, all facilities housing ICE detainees must comply with one of several sets of detention standards which describe a facility’s immigration detention responsibilities, explain what detainee services a facility must provide, and identify what a facility must do to ensure a safe and secure detention environment for staff and aliens in detention.”

⁵ Detention Facility Contracts, Moshannon Valley Processing Center - Philipsburg, PA (p. 10), https://www.ice.gov/doclib/foia/detFacContracts/70CDCR21DIG000012_org_MoshannonValleyPC_PA.pdf

⁶ PBNDS 2011, Rev. 2016 (p. 258), <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/detention-standards/2011/4-3.pdf>

⁷ Detention Facility Contracts, Moshannon Valley Processing Center - Philipsburg, PA (p. 12), “Onsite health care personnel shall perform **initial medical screening** within (12) hours of arrival to the Facility.”

https://www.ice.gov/doclib/foia/detFacContracts/70CDCR21DIG000012_org_MoshannonValleyPC_PA.pdf

⁸ ICE, 2026 National Detention Standards, p. 120, available at <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/detention-standards/2026/nds2026.pdf>.

Despite these clear federal mandates, senior MVPC leadership, including the GEO Warden and Health Services Administrator, repeatedly admitted to me that initial medical screenings at MVPC occur **24 to 72 hours** upon arrival. Facility leadership subsequently confirmed this delay during a follow-up meeting with my staff, even after we formally flagged it as a contractual breach.

Delaying initial medical screenings for up to three days in a facility housing nearly 1,900 people leaves acute illnesses, psychiatric distress, and contagious diseases completely unmonitored. This is not merely an administrative failure; it is a material breach of contract that poses an immediate danger to the people detained at MVPC, facility staff, and the surrounding community.

These contractual breaches provide critical context for the severe pattern of medical neglect and deaths documented at MVPC since GEO began operating it as an ICE facility in 2021.

In August 2025, 32-year-old **Chaofeng Ge** died by suicide at MVPC.⁹ Reports indicate he entered the facility in severe mental distress and spent five days without receiving adequate mental health treatment or a Mandarin translator, ultimately dying by suicide in a shower stall.¹⁰ His family has since filed a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuit over ICE's refusal to release key records and evidence surrounding his death.¹¹

In 2023, 37-year-old **Frankline Okpu** died in custody at MVPC. Mr. Okpu had successfully obtained a deferral of removal under the Convention Against Torture but was held in solitary confinement after ICE appealed the decision. His family subsequently brought legal action with the ACLU over withheld records.¹²

In December 2025, 46-year-old **Fouad Saeed Abdulkadir** died in custody after complaining of severe chest pains while held for 215 days at MVPC.¹³ I have chosen to bold the names of the dead to bring to your attention.

The systemic failures at MVPC were further exposed when Representatives Chris Deluzio and Summer Lee spoke directly with women detained in the facility during their visit. My colleagues interviewed a pregnant woman who was denied essential prenatal care and left completely uninformed about the status and health of her pregnancy after seeking medical help for bleeding. Another woman disclosed that she had been sexually assaulted inside the facility.

⁹ ICE, Detainee Death Report: GE, Chaofeng, <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/foia/reports/ddrChaofengGe.pdf>

¹⁰ Inquirer, "Brother of Chinese immigrant found dead at a Pennsylvania ICE detention facility sues for answers," Nov. 12, 2025, <https://www.inquirer.com/news/pennsylvania/moshannon-valley-processing-center-death-ice-detention-20251112.html#loaded>

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² ACLU, ACLU-PA v. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, <https://www.aclupa.org/cases/aclu-pa-v-immigration-and-customs-enforcement/#documents>

¹³ Penn Live, second man dies in custody at Pa. ICE detention center since August, Dec. 19, 2025, <https://www.pennlive.com/news/2025/12/second-man-dies-in-custody-at-pa-ice-detention-center-since-august.html>

Tellingly, immediately after these accounts were shared, MVPC staff rushed my colleagues away. The obstruction I faced weeks later makes clear that facility leadership sought to prevent further exposure of these complaints, concerns, and conditions.

Concerns over inadequate staffing and inhumane conditions at MVPC were further exposed during Representative Scanlon's unannounced oversight visit to MVPC on Wednesday, July 29, 2026, in which MVPC staff revealed that GEO employs only two full-time janitors at MVPC—a facility with a capacity to detain more than 1,800 people. Representative Scanlon uncovered that the GEO instead relies on detainee labor for sanitation, food, and laundry services at MVPC.

GEO's Profits and Stock Buybacks

These failures are not accidental; they are the predictable result of a privatized, for-profit detention business model. As a publicly traded entity, GEO has a strict legal obligation, a *fiduciary duty*, to act in the *best interest of its shareholders*. GEO's focus on maximizing shareholder value drives aggressive cost cutting across medical personnel, nutritional quality, and translation services.

While medical units remain understaffed and mandatory intake protocols are ignored, GEO continues to generate substantial profits and divert capital toward corporate stock buybacks, as evidenced by GEO's First Quarter Earnings Call:

"Our first quarter 2026 results reflect significant revenue growth.... Operating Expenses were favorably impacted by lower-than-expected labor costs compared to our prior financial guidance...."

"During the first quarter of 2026, we repurchased approximately 3.6 million shares of GEO common stock at an aggregate cost of approximately \$50 million."

"We remain focused on pursuing new growth opportunities and allocating capital to enhance long-term value for our shareholders."— GEO Group Q1 2026 Financial Report.¹⁴

Spending \$50 million in three months on stock buybacks—while failing to meet mandatory medical screening requirements—is a deliberate choice to prioritize investor returns over federal contract compliance and human safety.

Acting ICE Director Venturella's Apparent Conflicts of Interest

GEO's failure to meet basic contractual obligations is further compounded by serious conflict of interest concerns surrounding ICE leadership.

¹⁴ GEO Group, The GEO Group Reports First Quarter Results and Increases Full Year 2026 Guidance, <https://investors.geogroup.com/news-releases/news-release-details/geo-group-reports-first-quarter-results-and-increases-full-year>

Acting ICE Director David Venturella spent more than a decade as a senior executive at GEO Group, serving as Senior Vice President of Client Relations¹⁵ and subsequently as a consultant receiving \$10,000 per month through January 2025.¹⁶ Furthermore, Mr. Venturella's GEO consulting agreement contains a non-compete clause that prohibits him from engaging with any entity that competes with GEO through 2027.¹⁷ Also of note, **nearly half of GEO's revenue flows from its federal contracts with ICE.**¹⁸

Having a former high-ranking GEO executive with an active non-compete clause serving as Acting Director of ICE raises profound questions of self-dealing, regulatory capture, and whether ICE will ever hold GEO to account for its material contractual breaches. **There shouldn't be earnings calls for human detention.**

As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, I am committed to ensuring that taxpayer dollars are not allocated to private detention facilities that breach federal contracts and violate basic human standards. To that end, we request your full, written responses to the following inquiries—with specificity not euphemism—within 14 days:

1. Provide a detailed plan outlining how ICE will immediately enforce full compliance with the mandatory 12-hour initial medical screening requirement at MVPC. Include a staffing plan detailing the number of new employees that will be hired at MVPC, their job titles, and expected timeline for onboarding to reach full compliance at MVPC.
2. Detail the mechanisms, procedures, and protocols ICE currently implements to monitor federal contract compliance with private detention facilities like MVPC.
3. When did ICE become aware of GEO's failure to comply with the National Detention Standards? What steps did ICE take to cure this breach of contract at MVPC?
4. Detail all corrective steps taken since my office formally flagged GEO's material breach of contract at MVPC for ICE and DHS staff during a meeting DHS requested on June 24, 2026.
5. Provide month-by-month medical staffing logs for MVPC from November 1, 2021, to the present for physicians, nurses, mental health professionals, and other medical personnel. Include all vacancies and the length of each vacancy.

¹⁵ GEO Group, Form 8-K, January 31, 2023, <https://investors.geogroup.com/static-files/15aea0e3-2f9c-41ec-9b7a-81012810d81d>

¹⁶ GEO Group, Form 8-K, January 31, 2023, <https://investors.geogroup.com/static-files/15aea0e3-2f9c-41ec-9b7a-81012810d81d>

¹⁷ GEO Group, Form 8-K, January 31, 2023, <https://investors.geogroup.com/static-files/15aea0e3-2f9c-41ec-9b7a-81012810d81d>

¹⁸ GEO Group, "2025 Annual Report," p.1, <https://investors.geogroup.com/static-files/1f07849f-9af5-4d49-9b1d-484eda283140>

6. Detail all recusal agreements, ethics waivers, and guidance for David Venturella related to his prior employment and consulting work with GEO Group.
7. Disclose all communications between anyone affiliated with GEO and David Venturella regarding ICE operations or GEO from February 1, 2025, to the present.
8. Provide a detailed report of all financial compensation GEO paid to David Venturella for each year he was employed by or consulted for GEO Group, including salary, bonuses, equity (vested and unvested), and deferred benefits. Specifically, detail what GEO stock David Venturella currently owns and the related vesting schedule.
9. Provide a detailed report of all financial compensation GEO pays to MVPC employees, including salary, bonuses, equity (vested and unvested), deferred benefits, and any other financial incentive.
10. Clarify how ICE interprets the following two-year non-compete clause in David Venturella's consulting agreement through January 31, 2027, and explain how ICE ensures this agreement does not create ethical conflicts or regulatory capture in federal contracting decisions:

*"[David Venturella] shall not engage in any activity, directly or indirectly, alone or in association with any other person, company, firm, corporation or entity, which competes with or assists another, to compete with **GEO** in the provision of contracted detention, correctional, residential re-entry, transportation and/or youth services for two years following the termination of this Agreement."*¹⁹

- a. Provide all legal, ethics, or any other type of guidance David Venturella has received regarding this clause.
- b. Has David Venturella interacted directly or indirectly with CoreCivic or any other GEO competitor from February 1, 2025, to present? This includes, but is not limited to meeting with, communicating indirectly, or approving or denying contracts.
 - i. List all contracts ICE has given to CoreCivic and any entity that competes with GEO from June 1, 2026, to present.
- c. Has David Venturella interacted directly or indirectly with GEO Group from February 1, 2025, to present? This includes, but is not limited to meeting, communicating, or approving or denying contracts.
 - i. List all contracts ICE has given to GEO from June 1, 2026, to present.

¹⁹ GEO Group, Form 8-K, January 31, 2023, <https://investors.geogroup.com/static-files/15aea0e3-2f9c-41ec-9b7a-81012810d81d>

Sincerely,



Madeleine Dean

Member of Congress



Chris Deluzio

Member of Congress



Summer L. Lee

Member of Congress