

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

May 1, 2025

David Donahue
Chief Executive Officer
The GEO Group, Inc.
4955 Technology Way
Boca Raton, FL 33431

Dear Mr. Donahue:

I write to request information regarding the GEO Group's operations under current and recent contracts with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), including multiple multimillion-dollar agreements that have positioned your company as a central player in the federal immigration detention system.¹ With the Trump Administration's goal of deporting one million individuals in one year, the scale of your company's involvement in this effort and willingness to detain vulnerable populations, such as families,² warrants congressional scrutiny.³ Public reporting illustrates that ICE represents a significant portion of your total revenue, underscoring the need for public transparency regarding how these taxpayer-funded operations are managed.⁴

The GEO Group operates 50 facilities with a capacity of over 60,000 beds across the United States.⁵ These operations have far-reaching influence over the lives of detained individuals. Earlier this year, the company announced it was restarting operations at a previously

¹ See e.g., *The GEO Group Announces Contract for Company-Owned 1,800-Bed North Lake Facility in Michigan*, BUSINESS WIRE (Mar. 20, 2025), <https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20250319968696/en/The-GEO-Group-Announces-Contract-for-Company-Owned-1800-Bed-North-Lake-Facility-in-Michigan>; The GEO Group, Press Release, *The GEO Group Announces Contract Modification for Company-Owned, 1,328-Bed Karnes ICE Processing Center*, (Mar. 10, 2025), <https://investors.geogroup.com/news-releases/news-release-details/geo-group-announces-contract-modification-company-owned-1328-bed>; The GEO Group, Press Release, *The GEO Group Awarded 15-Year Contract by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement for Company-Owned, 1,000-Bed Delaney Hall Facility in New Jersey* (Feb. 27, 2025), <https://investors.geogroup.com/news-releases/news-release-details/geo-group-awarded-15-year-contract-us-immigration-and-customs>.

² See Valerie Gonzalez, *Trump Administration Resumes Detention of Immigrant Families After Biden-Era Pause*, AP NEWS (Mar. 12, 2025), <https://apnews.com/article/immigration-detention-texas-border-c008c78469d85a7c1962a6b36ac29330>.

³ See Maria Sacchetti and Jacob Bogage, *'One Million.' The Private Goal Driving Trump's Push for Mass Deportations*, WASHINGTON POST (Apr. 12, 2025), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/immigration/2025/04/12/one-million-deportations-goal/>.

⁴ The GEO Group, 2024 Annual Report, at 1 (Dec. 31, 2024), <https://investors.geogroup.com/static-files/0e302371-9812-435b-8560-bfe62d4949da>.

⁵ The GEO Group, *Our Locations*, <https://www.geogroup.com/LOCATIONS> (total number includes correctional and immigration detention facilities).

closed facility,⁶ finalized contract modifications to provide ICE with additional family housing,⁷ and entered into a new contract with ICE for an 1,800 bed facility in Michigan.⁸ This expansion is concerning because the GEO Group has been the subject of numerous reports and lawsuits alleging labor violations, inadequate health care, and detainee mistreatment.⁹

The Trump Administration requires significant expansion of immigration detention to carry out its mass deportation agenda. This has created a boon for detention contractors—even allowing for the reopening of facilities that were previously closed for poor conditions and care¹⁰—as the Administration implements an enforcement strategy that has been widely criticized for its disregard of due process.¹¹

Recently, ICE listed a request for proposals (RFPs) for contractors to submit plans for new detention facilities, security guards, medical support, and other related services worth \$45 billion over the course of two years.¹² ICE claims this solicitation and heavy reliance on private contractors, such as your company, are necessary to successfully carry out President Trump’s immigration enforcement executive orders.¹³ Acting ICE Director Todd Lyons recently

⁶ See The GEO Group, Press Release, The GEO Group Awarded 15-Year Contract by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement for Company-Owned, 1,000-Bed Delaney Hall Facility in New Jersey (Feb. 27, 2025), <https://investors.geogroup.com/news-releases/news-release-details/geo-group-awarded-15-year-contract-us-immigration-and-customs>; and Sophie Hurwitz, *Private Prison Companies Set to Make Billions Reopening Jails for ICE*, Mother Jones (Mar. 6, 2025), <https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2025/03/private-prison-mass-deportation-trump-billions-geogroup-corecivic-ice/>.

⁷ See The GEO Group, Press Release, The GEO Group Announces Contract Modification for Company-Owned, 1,328-Bed Karnes ICE Processing Center, (Mar. 10, 2025), <https://investors.geogroup.com/news-releases/news-release-details/geo-group-announces-contract-modification-company-owned-1328-bed>.

⁸ See The GEO Group, Press Release, The GEO Group Announces Contract for Company-Owned 1,800-Bed North Lake Facility in Michigan (Mar. 20, 2025), <https://investors.geogroup.com/news-releases/news-release-details/geo-group-announces-contract-company-owned-1800-bed-north-lake>.

⁹ See e.g., McKenzie Funk, *An ICE Contractor Is Worth Billions. It’s Still Fighting to Pay Detainees as Little as \$1 a Day to Work.*, PROPUBLICA (Mar. 19, 2025), <https://www.propublica.org/article/geo-group-ice-detainees-wage>; Tom Dreisbach, *Government’s own experts found ‘barbaric’ and ‘negligent’ conditions in ICE detention*, NPR (Aug. 16, 2023), <https://www.npr.org/2023/08/16/1190767610/ice-detention-immigration-government-inspectors-barbaric-negligent-conditions>; and *Human Rights and Immigrants’ Rights Organizations Sue ICE And GEO Group For Physically Assaulting and Abusing Immigrant While Detained*, ROBERT F. KENNEDY HUMAN RIGHTS (Apr. 29, 2024), <https://rfkhumanrights.org/press/human-rights-and-immigrants-rights-organizations-sue-ice-and-geo-group-for-physically-assaulting-and-abusing-immigrant-while-detained/>.

¹⁰ Marianne Levine et al., *Private Prison Firms Prepare to Reopen Closed Facilities to Hold Immigrants*, WASH. POST (Feb. 28, 2025), https://www.washingtonpost.com/immigration/2025/02/28/ice-detention-private-prison-newark/?_pml=1.

¹¹ See Alexandra Villarreal, *Trump’s Attacks on Immigrants Threaten the Fundamental Right to Due Process*, THE GUARDIAN (Apr. 13, 2025), <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/apr/13/trump-immigration-due-process-legal-rights>.

¹² *Emergency Detention and Related Services Strategic Sourcing Vehicle (Notice ID 70CDCR25R00000005)*, U.S. IMMIGR. AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT (Apr. 7, 2025), <https://sam.gov/opp/d4fd9c87246542b3ac413465befeffd/view>; see Allison McCann, Alexandra Berzon, & Hamed Aleaziz, *Trump Administration Aims to Spend \$45 Billion to Expand Immigrant Detention*, N.Y. TIMES (Apr. 7, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/04/07/us/politics/trump-administration-immigrant-detention-facilities-services.html>.

¹³ See Allison McCann, Alexandra Berzon, & Hamed Aleaziz, *Trump Administration Aims to Spend \$45 Billion to Expand Immigrant Detention*, N.Y. TIMES (Apr. 7, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/04/07/us/politics/trump-administration-immigrant-detention-facilities-services.html>; see e.g., Proclamation No. 10886, 90 Fed. Reg. 8327 (Jan. 20, 2025) (“Declaration of a National Emergency at the Southern Border of the United States”); Exec. Order No. 14165, 90 Fed. Reg. 8467 (Jan. 20, 2025) (“Securing Our Borders”); Exec. Order No. 14159, 90 Fed. Reg. 8443

underscored this approach, stating “[w]e need to get better at treating this like a business,” where deportations function “like [Amazon] Prime, but with human beings.”¹⁴ Tom Homan, President Trump’s Executive Associate Director of Enforcement and Removal Operations, also reinforced the Administration’s dependence on the private sector to meet its mass deportation goals, saying “[I]et the badge and guns do the badge and gun stuff, everything else, let’s contract out.”¹⁵

Treating immigration enforcement as a business ignores the devastating human cost of this system: preventable deaths, medical neglect, and the long-term trauma inflicted on individuals and families.¹⁶ This profit-driven model has repeatedly prioritized cost-cutting and efficiency over adequate care and respect for the dignity of detained individuals. Your company has admitted in its annual report to shareholders that resistance to the use of private detention facilities could impact your ability to obtain new contracts or financing, which then “could have a material adverse effect on [your] business, financial condition, results of operations and the market price of [your] securities.”¹⁷ The Administration’s hardline stance on immigration could have a significant impact on your bottom line, which is reflected in the broader private detention industry’s support for the President’s 2016 and 2024 campaigns, as well as his inaugural committee.¹⁸ Further, former federal officials who managed immigration detention have gone on to take top roles at the very companies receiving lucrative government contracts, raising additional concerns about conflicts of interest and the GEO Group’s role in developing this Administration’s cruel immigration and ineffective policies.¹⁹

Given the human and financial stakes involved, it is imperative that the Senate Judiciary Committee thoroughly understands how you operate your facilities, how public funds are allocated, what oversight mechanisms are in place to ensure accountability, how the rights of

(Jan. 20, 2025) (“Protecting the American People Against Invasion”).

¹⁴ Jerod MacDonald-Evoy, *ICE Director Envisions Amazon-Like Mass Deportation System: ‘Prime, But With Human Beings’*, AZ MIRROR (Apr. 8, 2025), <https://azmirror.com/2025/04/08/ice-director-envisions-amazon-like-mass-deportation-system-prime-but-with-human-beings/>.

¹⁵ *Id.*

¹⁶ See e.g., ACLU, American Oversight, & Physicians for Human Rights, *Deadly Failures: Preventable Deaths in U.S. Immigration Detention* (Jun. 25, 2024), <https://phr.org/our-work/resources/deadly-failures-preventable-deaths-in-u-s-immigration-detention/>; and Altaf Saadi, MD et al, *Duration in Immigration Detention and Health Harms*, JAMA (Jan. 25, 2025), <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2829506>.

¹⁷ The GEO Group, 2024 Annual Report, at 19 (Dec. 31, 2024),

<https://investors.geogroup.com/static-files/0e302371-9812-435b-8560-bfe62d4949da>.

¹⁸ See e.g., Laura Romero, Peter Charalambous, & Soo Rin Kim, *Private Prison Firm Corecivic Gave \$500K to Trump’s Inauguration, Highlighting Industry’s Support*, ABC NEWS (Jan. 29, 2025),

<https://abcnews.go.com/US/private-prison-firm-corecivic-gave-500k-trumps-inauguration/story?id=118218707>;

Peter Charalambous & Laura Romero, *Private Prison Firms Contributed More than \$1M to Trump’s Reelection. Now They Expect a Business Boom*, ABC NEWS (Nov. 20, 2024), <https://abcnews.go.com/US/private-prison-firms-contributed-1m-trumps-reelection-now/story?id=116046776>;

and Robert Ferris, *Trump, Republican Sweep is a ‘Game Changer’ for Private Prison Industry*, CNBC (Nov. 23, 2016), <https://www.cnbc.com/2016/11/23/trump-republican-sweep-is-a-game-changer-for-private-prison-industry.html>.

¹⁹ See e.g., Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Press Release, Pam Bondi’s Extensive Lobbying for Wealthy Special Interests and Foreign Government Poses Serious Conflict of Interest (Jan. 15, 2025),

<https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/press/dem/releases/pam-bondis-extensive-lobbying-for-wealthy-special-interests-and-foreign-government-poses-serious-conflict-of-interest>;

Nick Schwellenbach & Rene Kladzyk, *Private Prison Giant Hired ICE Detention Chief*, POGO (Jan. 17, 2025), <https://www.pogo.org/investigations/private-prison-giant-hired-ice-detention-chief>;

and Noah Lanard, *ICE’s Revolving Door: Top Official Goes to Work for Private Prison Company*, MOTHER JONES (Nov. 25, 2019), <https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2019/11/ices-revolving-door-top-official-goes-to-work-for-private-prison-company/>.

those in your custody are protected, what changes your company made in your policies and practices to accommodate the needs of the current Administration, and the company's role in influencing detention standards conditions. In order to inform the Committee's oversight work, I ask that you provide the following records by May 15, 2025:

1. All active contracts with ICE, including the total value, duration, type, and associated facilities.
 - a. For each contract, if applicable, provide the following information:
 - i. The guaranteed bed count;
 - ii. The facility name and location;
 - iii. The average daily population during the last three fiscal years;
 - iv. Detention capacity;
 - v. The number of times in the last three fiscal years that the facility was over capacity; and
 - vi. The name and title of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) contracting officer(s) you worked with to negotiate the contract.
 - b. Subcontractors or vendors involved in service delivery, including medical care.
2. Assessments or guidance on the impact of President Trump's immigration policies on detention standards, the company's financial conditions, and the results of operations.
3. Records reflecting or relating to communications between the GEO Group and Trump-Vance transition team, White House, Pam Bondi, DHS officials concerning the development of Proclamation No. 10886, 90 Fed. Reg. 8327 (Jan. 20, 2025) ("Declaration of a National Emergency at the Southern Border of the United States"); Exec. Order No. 14165, 90 Fed. Reg. 8467 (Jan. 20, 2025) ("Securing Our Borders"); and Exec. Order No. 14159, 90 Fed. Reg. 8443 (Jan. 20, 2025) ("Protecting the American People Against Invasion").
4. The detention standards governing each facility the GEO Group operates, including:
 - a. Policies and guidance related to compliance with detention standards and the individuals responsible for monitoring compliance.
 - b. Records reflecting or relating to communications between the GEO Group and White House, the Attorney General's Office, or DHS officials concerning federal or state detention standards and compliance with these standards.
5. Policies and guidance related to detention standards and compliance at existing facilities that were not previously contracted for ICE detention but are being modified to add capacity or support future ICE detention needs, including records reflecting or relating to communications between the GEO Group and White House, the Attorney General's Office, or DHS officials concerning detention standards and contract modifications for these facilities to add capacity for ICE detainees.
6. Policies and guidance related to detention standards and compliance at previously closed or vacant facilities that are now contracted to reopen or are in consideration for reopening, including records reflecting or relating to communications between the GEO Group and White House, the Attorney General's Office, or DHS officials concerning the reopening of previously closed or vacant facilities.
7. Policies and guidance related to identifying and mitigating potential conflicts of interest arising from hiring former government officials.

8. Policies and guidance related to criminal and professional background checks your company requires for employees, particularly for those working directly with detained individuals or in contract management.

I look forward to your prompt attention to this important request.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Chairman, Senate Committee on the Judiciary