

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

May 1, 2025

Damon Hininger
Chief Executive Officer
CoreCivic
5501 Virginia Way
Brentwood, TN 37027

Dear Mr. Hininger:

I write to request information regarding CoreCivic'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

As of September 30, 2024, CoreCivic was operating 42 facilities with a capacity of approximately 62,000 beds.⁵ Earlier this year, the company announced it was restarting operations at a previously closed facility⁶ and finalized contract modifications to provide ICE with additional capacity at four other facilities.⁷ These operations have far-reaching influence

¹ See e.g., Russell Contreras, *Corecivic Signs Deal With ICE to Expand Immigrant Detention Capacity*, AXIOS (Feb. 27, 2025), <https://www.axios.com/2025/02/27/private-prison-corecivic-ice-detention-immigrants>; and Russell Contreras, *Controversial Immigrant Family Detention Center in Texas to Reopen*, AXIOS (Mar. 5, 2025), <https://www.axios.com/2025/03/06/corecivic-immigrant-family-detention-center-texas>.

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 See CoreCivic, Inc., Annual Report Form 10-K for the Fiscal Year Ended Dec. 31, 2023, at F-13 (Feb. 20, 2024), <https://ir.corecivic.com/static-files/d1c47b4a-b39d-41d6-9552-60a09b0f6c1d> ("ICE accounted for 30%, 29%, and 30% of total revenue for 2023, 2022, and 2021, respectively.").

⁵ CoreCivic, Inc., Quarterly Report Form 10-Q for the Period Ended Sept. 30, 2024 (Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements), at 6 (Nov. 7, 2024), <https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1070985/000095017024122939/cxw-20240930.htm> (total number includes correctional and immigration detention facilities).

⁶ See CoreCivic, Inc., Press Release, *CoreCivic Announces Resumption of Operations at South Texas Family Residential Center in Dilley, Texas* (Mar. 5, 2025), <https://ir.corecivic.com/news-releases/news-release-details/corecivic-announces-resumption-operations-south-texas-family>; 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 CoreCivic, Inc., Press Release, *CoreCivic Announces Four New Contract Modifications to Add Capacity for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement* (Feb. 27, 2025), <https://ir.corecivic.com/news-releases/news-release->

over the lives of detained individuals. This expansion is particularly concerning because CoreCivic has been the subject of numerous reports and lawsuits alleging labor violations, inadequate health care, and detainee mistreatment.⁸

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 care⁹—as the Administration implements an enforcement strategy that has been widely criticized for its disregard of due process.¹⁰

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.¹¹ 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.¹² Acting ICE Director Todd Lyons recently underscored this approach, stating that “[w]e need to get better at treating this like a business,” where deportations function “like [Amazon] Prime, but with human beings.”¹³ 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 “[l]et the badge and guns do the badge and gun stuff, everything else, let’s contract out.”¹⁴

[details/corecivic-announces-four-new-contract-modifications-add-capacity](#).

⁸ See e.g., Gustavo Solis, *Lawsuit Against ICE Detention Center Highlights Medical Neglect Complaints*, KPBS (Apr. 16, 2024), <https://www.kpbs.org/news/border-immigration/2024/04/16/lawsuit-against-ice-detention-center-highlights-medical-neglect-complaints>; *Settlement in Forced Labor Case Against Private Prison Company Operating Immigration Detention Center*, SPLC CENTER (Oct. 19, 2023), <https://www.splcenter.org/presscenter/settlement-forced-labor-case-against-private-prison-company-operating-immigration/>; Esmie T, *We Cannot Trust CoreCivic to Keep Anyone Safe — in Leavenworth or Anywhere Else*, ACLU KANSAS (Feb. 24, 2025), <https://www.aclukansas.org/en/publications/we-cannot-trust-corecivic-keep-anyone-safe-leavenworth-or-anywhere-else>.

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ 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>.

¹¹ *Emergency Detention and Related Services Strategic Sourcing Vehicle (Notice ID 70CDCR25R00000005)*, U.S. IMMIGR. AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT (Apr. 7, 2025), <https://sam.gov/opp/d4fd9c87246542b3ac413465befe9ad/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>.

¹² 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 (Jan. 20, 2025) (“Protecting the American People Against Invasion”).

¹³ 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/>.

¹⁴ *Id.*

Treating immigration enforcement as a business ignores the devastating human cost of this system: preventable deaths, medical neglect, and long-term trauma inflicted on individuals and families.¹⁵ 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 financing, which then “could have a material adverse effect on [your] business, financial condition, and results of operations.”¹⁶ The Administration’s hardline stance on immigration could have a significant impact on your bottom line, which is reflected in the private detention industry’s support for the President’s 2016 and 2024 campaigns, as well as his inaugural committee.¹⁷ 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 CoreCivic’s role in developing this Administration’s cruel and ineffective immigration policies.¹⁸

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 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 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

¹⁵ See e.g., ACLU, American Oversight, & Physicians for Human Rights, *Deadly Failures: Preventable Deaths in U.S. Immigration Detention* (June 25, 2024), <https://phr.org/our-work/resources/deadly-failures-preventable-deaths-in-u-s-immigration-detention/>; Altaf Saadi, MD et al., *Duration in Immigration Detention and Health Harms*, JAMA (Jan. 25 2025), <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2829506>.

¹⁶ CoreCivic, Inc., Annual Report Form 10-K for the Fiscal Year Ended Dec. 31, 2023, at 6 (Feb. 20, 2024), <https://ir.corecivic.com/static-files/d1c47b4a-b39d-41d6-9552-60a09b0f6c1d>

¹⁷ 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.cnn.com/2016/11/23/trump-republican-sweep-is-a-game-changer-for-private-prison-industry.html>.

¹⁸ See e.g., 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/>.

- 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 condition, and the results of operations.
- 3. Records reflecting or relating to communications between CoreCivic and Trump-Vance transition team, White House, or 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 CoreCivic 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 CoreCivic and White House 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 CoreCivic and White House 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 CoreCivic and White House 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Dick Durbin", is positioned above a horizontal line.

Richard J. Durbin
Ranking Member

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