

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

May 1, 2025

Rodney Cooper
Executive Director
LaSalle Corrections
192 Bastille Lane Ste 200
Ruston, LA 71270

Dear Mr. Cooper:

I write to request information regarding LaSalle Corrections' (LaSalle) operations under current and recent contracts with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). LaSalle Corrections has been identified as a key partner in ICE's detention system, with the agency itself describing the company as "an important part" of its detention operations.¹ With the Trump Administration's goal of deporting one million individuals in one year, the scale of private companies' involvement and willingness to detain vulnerable populations, such as families,² warrants congressional scrutiny.³ Given LaSalle's role in carrying out federal immigration detention functions, it is essential that Congress has a thorough understanding of how these taxpayer-funded operations are managed.

LaSalle operates 18 facilities with a capacity to hold over 13,000 individuals.⁴ These operations have far-reaching influence over the lives of those detained. LaSalle has been the subject of numerous reports and lawsuits alleging inadequate health care and detainee mistreatment.⁵

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 care⁶

¹ See e.g., *Readout of US Immigration and Customs Enforcement Meeting with LaSalle Corrections*, ICE (Jan. 24, 2025), <https://www.ice.gov/news/releases/readout-us-immigration-and-customs-enforcement-meeting-lasalle-corrections-0>.

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*, WASH. POST (Apr. 12, 2025), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/immigration/2025/04/12/one-million-deportations-goal/>.

⁴ LaSalle Corrections, <https://lasallecorrections.com/> (total number includes correctional and immigration detention facilities).

⁵ See e.g., Rachel Treisman, *Whistleblower Alleges 'Medical Neglect,' Questionable Hysterectomies Of ICE Detainees*, NPR (Sept. 16, 2020), <https://www.npr.org/2020/09/16/913398383/whistleblower-alleges-medical-neglect-questionable-hysterectomies-of-ice-detainee>; Daniella Silva, *Detainees And Advocates Decry 'Horrific' Conditions at Louisiana ICE Detention Center*, NBC NEWS (July 17, 2023), <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/detainees-advocates-decry-horrific-conditions-louisiana-ice-detention-rcna92339>; and Bobbi-Jean Misick, *Guards at Louisiana ICE Facility Accused of Illegally Pepper-Spraying Detainees*, LA. ILLUMINATOR (Mar. 28, 2024), <https://lailluminator.com/2024/03/28/ice-pepper-spray/>.

⁶ 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>.

—as the Administration implements an enforcement strategy that has been widely criticized for its disregard of due process.⁷

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.⁸ 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.⁹ 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.”¹⁰ 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.”¹¹

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.¹² This profit-driven model has repeatedly prioritized cost-cutting and efficiency over adequate care and respect for the dignity of detained individuals. The Administration’s hardline stance on immigration could have a significant impact on your bottom line,¹³ 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.¹⁴ Further, former federal officials who managed immigration detention have gone on to take top roles at the very companies

⁷ 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>.

⁸ *Emergency Detention and Related Services Strategic Sourcing Vehicle* (Notice ID 70CDCR25R00000005), U.S. IMMIGR. AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT (Apr. 7, 2025), <https://sam.gov/opp/d4fd9c87246542b3ac413465befe9fad/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>.

⁹ 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”).

¹⁰ 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/>.

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² 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/>; Altaf Saadi, MD et al, *Duration in Immigration Detention and Health Harms*, JAMA (Jan. 25, 2025), <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2829506>.

¹³ See Amanda Hernandez, *For-Profit Immigration Detention Expands as Trump Accelerates His Deportation Plans*, STATELINE (Apr. 11, 2025), <https://stateline.org/2025/04/11/for-profit-immigration-detention-expands-as-trump-accelerates-his-deportation-plans/>; and The Marshall Project, Shannon Heffernan, *‘Perverse’ Incentives: How Local Governments Might Cash In on Trump’s Migrant Detention* (Jan. 4, 2025), <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2025/01/04/donald-trump-police-immigration-deportation>.

receiving lucrative government contracts, raising additional concerns about conflicts of interest and LaSalle's role in developing this Administration's cruel and ineffective immigration policies.¹⁵

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
 - 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, company's financial conditions, and the results of operations.
3. Records reflecting or relating to communications between LaSalle 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 LaSalle operates, including:

¹⁴ 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>; 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>.

¹⁵ 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/>.

- 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 LaSalle 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 LaSalle 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 LaSalle 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,



Richard J. Durbin
Ranking Member

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