



Take Action: Accountability in Immigration Detention

On May 14, 2015, Rep. Adam Smith reintroduced the [Accountability in Immigration Detention](#) bill to Congress in response to the courageous acts of women and men detained at the Northwest Detention Center (NWDC) in Tacoma, demanding that private corporations which run these facilities - like the GEO Group - treat detainees humanely and respect basic human rights. The bill also puts an end to the "bed quota," an unwarranted mandate to maintain an arbitrary number of men and women in detention at all times, currently set at 34,000 people per night.

This is the time for us to act:

We invite you to email your Representative and Senators to encourage them to support H.R. 2314. A sample letter and contact information is below. **Please thank Representative Adam Smith for introducing the bill and Representatives Rick Larsen, Suzan DelBene, and Jim McDermott for co-sponsoring the bill.** We also invite you to sign onto and share this petition: <http://bit.ly/AccountabilityInImmigrationDetention>

Please join us in faithful advocacy in solidarity with our brothers and sisters. Thank you!

Date

Dear Honorable Senator/Representative (Name):

As a member of a community of faith and spirit, I raise my voice to urge immediate implementation of policies that allow families to stay together without the fear of detention and deportation.

I ask you to support measures to do the following:

1. Close the recently opened family detention centers;
2. Cease the maintenance of a quota system for filling detention beds; and
3. Enact alternatives to the massive detention and deportation of people.

Unnecessary immigrant detention and massive deportation are destroying the fabric of our communities and neighborhoods across the nation. These practices are damaging to the healthy development of our children, ruining the financial health of many households, and excluding families from opportunities for a sufficient, sustainable livelihood.

Specifically we call on you to support the bill that has been reintroduced by Congressman Adam Smith, H.R. 2314 (Accountability in Immigration Detention Act of 2015), that directs the Secretary of Homeland Security (DHS) to ensure that persons detained pursuant to the Immigration and Nationality Act are treated in compliance with specified requirements regarding: (1) fair and humane treatment, (2) detention facility standards, (3) limitations of solitary confinement, (4) investigation of grievances, (5) access to telephones, (6) location of facilities, (7) procedures governing transfer of detainees, (8) interpretation and translation capabilities, (9) recreational programs and activities, (10) vulnerable populations (11) quality of medical care, (12) voluntary work, (13) legal orientation programs, (14) legal access, and (15) food quality.

Furthermore, H.R. 2314 ends the requirement for an arbitrary number of detention beds to be filled, probably the most damaging element of the current appropriations package.

The implementation of H.R. 2314 will help humanize the situation for people who have been detained without warrant for far too long.

I also urge you to work to maximize the exercise of prosecutorial discretion and relief from deportation. These actions will protect the dignity and integrity of immigrant families by affording them the security to pursue work and education that will enhance our economy and the fabric of our communities.

Sincerely,

[Your Name Below Signature]

[Your Address]

[Your City, State, Zip]

[Your Email]

[Your Phone]

Contact Info:

U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell

E-mail Form: <http://www.cantwell.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/email-maria>

Phone: (202) 224-3441 Fax: (202) 228-0514

511 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

U.S. Senator Patty Murray

E-mail Form: <http://www.murray.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contactme>

Phone:(202) 224-2621 Fax: (202) 224-0238

154 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

Find your Representative at <http://www.house.gov/representatives/find>

U.S. Representative Suzan DelBene (District 1) – Thank for Co-sponsoring the bill

E-mail Form: <http://delbene.house.gov/contact-me> Phone: (202) 225-6311 Fax: (202) 226-1606

318 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515

U.S. Representative Rick Larsen (District 2) – Thank for Co-sponsoring the bill

E-mail Form: <http://larsen.house.gov/contact-rick> Phone: (202) 225-2605 Fax: (202) 225-4420

2113 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515

U.S. Representative Jim McDermott (District 7) – Thank for Co-sponsoring the bill

E-mail: <https://forms.house.gov/mcdermott/webforms/new/contact.shtml>

Phone: (202) 225-3106 Fax: (202) 225-6197

1035 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515

U.S. Representative Dave Reichert (District 8) – Encourage to support the bill

E-mail Form: <https://reichert.house.gov/contact-me> Phone: (202) 225-7761 Fax: (202) 225-4282

1127 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515

U.S. Representative Adam Smith (District 9) – Thank for Sponsoring the bill

E-mail Form: <https://adamsmith.house.gov/contact/email-me> Phone: (202) 225-8901 Fax: (202) 225-5893

1164 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515

U.S. Representative Denny Heck (District 10) – Encourage to support the bill

E-mail Form: <http://dennyheck.house.gov/contact> Phone: (202) 225-9740 Fax: (202) 225-0129

425 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515