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November 28, 2017

The Honorable Jefferson Sessions
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Sessions:

Recent troubling reports about the treatment of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detainees at the West County Detention Facility in Richmond, California have come to my attention. I request that you immediately investigate the allegations being made.

In interviews with ICE detainees, the *San Francisco Chronicle* has learned that female detainees have been denied access to adequate medical treatment. The circumstances outlined in the report detail a woman being denied an x-ray for an injury and another with a fist-sized abdominal growth who says that the medical staff has not identified what is wrong with her.

Further concerning is that inmates are also alleging that they are denied access to restrooms. According to one inmate, detainees are locked up for 23 hours a day in their cells, which have no toilets in them, resulting in women resorting to using trash bags as toilets. Access to restrooms is supposed to happen when the inmates are not locked in. According to the jailers, the doors are "rarely" locked, but according to the inmates they "often" are. One inmate also shared that the hour of "free time" inmates get each day to bathe is frequently cancelled, leading this woman to say she had to wait days to shower.

In light of these serious allegations, and given that these acts took place in a detention facility that houses non-ICE detainees, I request that your office investigate these claims by using all tools available to you to determine if inmates have access to restrooms or if medical treatment has been denied. If so, that constitutes a violation of their rights that must be addressed.

Sincerely,



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress