



RICARDO LARA
CALIFORNIA INSURANCE COMMISSIONER

February 20, 2024

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security
245 Murray Lane, SW
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Mayorkas,

I respectfully urge you to end the existing contract with the GEO Group in order to close the Adelanto ICE Processing Center in California immediately and permanently.

Multiple independent, media, and government investigations have detailed the on-going horrific and abusive treatment of people detained in private, for-profit prisons and detention facilities, including the Adelanto ICE Processing Center. This particular Adelanto facility has had a long and well-documented history of violating detained immigrants' human rights and turning a blind eye to their physical safety and mental well-being. It has been reported that at least eight individuals have died as a result of the deplorable conditions at this facility, and ICE's own investigation deemed each death preventable.

In 2021, among other legislative efforts on this front, I partnered with the California Immigrant Policy Center and the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA) to proudly co-sponsor California Senate Bill 334, known as the "Detention Facility Accountability Act", authored by California State Senator María Elena Durazo. This law requires minimum health, safety, and human rights standards to be maintained at private for-profit prisons and detention facilities. It imposes insurance requirements to leverage the insurance marketplace in order to help minimize the risks faced daily by our most vulnerable populations housed in these detention centers. Despite this law, however, conditions at the Adelanto facility remain deplorable and harmful, and my concerns about the uninsured liability at this facility have only increased.

Given the longstanding and continued human rights violations at this Adelanto detention center, we can no longer allow this facility to remain open while better, more humane approaches are possible and needed.

Earlier this year, on January 17, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) announced plans to issue a 120-day task order beyond the current 60-day task order, continuing operations at a facility that should already be closed. As ICE endeavors to

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modernize the immigration system and realize cost efficiencies across the operational landscape, I respectfully urge you to take immediate action to permanently close the Adelanto ICE Processing Center.

Thank you for your consideration of my immediate request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ricardo Lara". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent horizontal stroke across the middle.

RICARDO LARA
California Insurance Commissioner