

Detention Watch Network: #FreeThemAll Toolkit MOC Demands

Target: Members of Congress

Members of Congress have the opportunity to play a significant role in how the country responds to COVID-19. Since Congress has oversight and budgetary power over federal agencies and oftentimes local agencies, they have plenty of options to both be the decision-makers and effectively pressure other targets. Therefore we need to make sure their statements and actions reflect our opposition and serve to amplify our asks. Members of Congress should be using their authority to expose ICE's inadequacies and abuse and to pressure the agency from the top down – from DHS Secretary Wolf and Acting Director Albence to field office directors and local officials in their states. Members of Congress, Congressional member delegations and Congressional staff delegations will continue to have access to the facility for the purpose of conducting oversight. This could include leveraging relationships with local elected officials in their district to halt enforcement actions or organizing their colleagues in Congress against approving any additional funding for the agency.

How to identify your Members of Congress:

- To identify your Member of Congress in the House of Representatives, enter your ZIP code at <https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>.
- To identify your Members of Congress in the Senate, enter your state at www.senate.gov/senators/contact
- You can also check out [this spreadsheet to see what your Members of Congress have said so far](#) about ICE's response to COVID-19.

Demands:

- Draft an individual letter to ICE
 - Your congressional member can write an individual letter to Acting Director Matthew T. Albence to indict how little prepared ICE is to manage an outbreak in a detention facility and demand he use his authority to release people from custody.
- Pressure local target
 - Federal, state, and local officials do not exist in their own worlds. Elected officials hold extensive relationships with each other, and their actions impact each other's work. If you have a local target you need help moving, see if your Member of Congress will leverage their relationship and authority to apply additional pressure.
 - ICE Field Office Directors have some of the greatest authority to release people from detention and operate regionally. If you have an ICE field office in your state, demand that your senator pressure the field office director to release everyone in detention in their area of responsibility.
- Make public statement demanding release of people
 - As members continue to amplify the impacts and potential solutions for COVID-19, request that they make a statement demanding the release of people from prisons and detention centers. The statement can be a press release, Twitter post, floor speech, or comment to the media.
- Direct ICE to release people from detention in emergency funding packages to address COVID-19, instead of giving the agency any supplemental funds