

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

September 01, 2026

The Honorable David J. Venturella
Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Director
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Washington, D.C. 20536

Dear Mr. Venturella:

I am concerned about the non-payment of medical service provider invoices for care rendered to individuals in the custody of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and I demand that ICE immediately pay these bills. This inaction is creating economic hardship for medical service providers across rural Pennsylvania. Refusal to pay for these services hurts our communities and breaks financial obligations.

For more than two decades, ICE paid the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to process reimbursement claims for medical services related to immigration detention. This agreement, which came at no cost to the VA, allowed for timely and efficient payment of medical providers and ensured a responsible level of care for detainees and detention center staff. On October 3, 2025, the Veterans Affairs Administration (VA) and ICE abruptly terminated this decades-long contract. This action left ICE with no mechanism to process invoices and pay medical providers serving ICE facilities and detainees.¹

On January 13, 2026, ICE Health Service Corps announced it would begin processing claims through a new electronic provider portal. It was the expectation of the Department of Homeland Security and ICE that this portal would launch on April 30, 2026.² It is now September and providers are still unable to submit reimbursement claims for 911 call-initiated responses and other care provided to individuals in the custody of or physically located at an ICE facility. This raises serious concerns about access to emergency treatment for detainees, guards, custodians, and administrators.

ICE recognizes the danger this lapse in payments to providers creates. In contracting documents signed in October 2025 and made publicly available via the Systems Award Management website in November 2025, ICE states, "It is an absolute emergency for ICE to immediately

¹ IHSC - Managed Care Important Notifications, U.S. IMMIGRATION & CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT (Oct. 3, 2025), <https://www.ice.gov/detain/ice-health-service-corps/ihs-managed-care>.

² *Id.* (Jan. 13, 2026).

procure claims processing support because lack of this support will delay critical medical care for [illegal aliens] such as dialysis, prenatal care, oncology, chemotherapy, etc.”³

While payment delays adversely affect all providers, they are especially harmful to rural health and emergency care providers with limited staff, equipment, and financial reserves. Moshannon Valley Emergency Medical Services (MVEMS) is a rural EMS provider in Philipsburg, PA. MVEMS operates over an almost 800 square mile area and provides EMS service to 41,000 Pennsylvanians. They accomplish this every day with only 10 full-time employees, 35 part-time staff, and five ambulances. They also provide EMS services to the Moshannon Valley Processing Center, which is capable of holding nearly 1,900 detainees. As of August 20, 2025, ICE owes MVEMS \$236,124.91 in overdue payments, because of the reimbursement freeze.

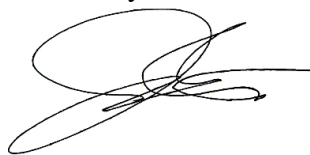
As MVEMS and medical service providers from across the Commonwealth continue to show up for their communities, ICE must also be a good neighbor. ICE should not and cannot rely on medical service providers like MVEMS to shoulder the financial and operational burden of federal immigration detention operations.

I request ICE promptly provide my office with the following information:

1. A detailed accounting of the total amount currently owed by ICE to medical service providers, EMS providers, hospitals, and other health care entities for care provided to individuals in ICE custody.
 - a. If unavailable, please provide a detailed estimate of the total amount currently owed based on historical averages adjusted for recent increases in ICE’s enforcement and detention activities.
2. A statistical impact report addressing how these payment delays have affected detainee medical care and medical and EMS providers.
3. A detailed update on the status of ICE’s new payment system, including when it will be fully operational, when outstanding claims will be paid, and what steps ICE is taking to prevent future payment disruptions.

I appreciate your attention to this matter, and I hope to receive your response no later than September 15, 2026.

Sincerely,



John Fetterman
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Border Management, Federal
Workforce, and Regulatory Affairs

³ U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement, *Justification for Other Than Full and Open Competition*, at 3, SYSTEMS ACQUISITION MANAGEMENT (Oct. 17, 2025), <https://sam.gov/workspace/contract/opp/53e8295e32044da2884589ad1bf37183/view>.

cc: Hon. Markwayne Mullin
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security