

**Baltazar Abel Sosa-Valenzuela**  
GEO/ICE A#090-709-068  
3130 N. Oakland St.  
Aurora, CO 80010

**Attachment F**

May 21, 2020

Colorado State Legislators:

My name is Baltazar Abel Sosa-Valenzuela. I have live in the Colorado since I was brought here as an infant in 1981 by my parents and grew up in Boulder. I have been detained at GEO Aurora since March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019 and I am writing in support of legislation that will give the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment the authority to inspect facilities that house immigrants, including GEO Aurora. I firmly believe that with oversight, transparency and accountability this facility can improve and be better for not only the detainees housed here but, staff as well.

I have previously been detained here at GEO Aurora three (3) other times and have never been deported. In 2006 I was detained here for 2 months before being transferred to Park County Jail for "over flow." I was housed there for over 8 months with regular jail inmates, issued urine stained sheets, had dismal health care and were basically ignored by the deputies, while ICE came by every other week to remind us that as soon as we signed out deportation papers or dropped our appeal we could be on a plane back to our countries.

The conditions here GEO Aurora could definitely be better and should consistently be improving to accommodate humanitarian and detainee needs. I believe that GEO Aurora and other facilities contracted to house detainees by the oversight that would be provided by Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. They could come in to the facility and witness for themselves the lack of soap, paper towels and running water in the medical holding area, the lack of sanitization after each group of detainees. All issues that I have previously addressed with Facility Administrator Choate and Captain Knight as one time he was walking by medical. Medical should be the cleanest place in any facility housing detainees and cleaned regularly after groups with potential communicable diseases are in there. Last year the unit I live in was quarantined two (2) separate times, once for the Mumps and once for Chickenpox.

I also believe that GEO Aurora was slow to react to the threat of COVID-19. Before the Governor's orders were issued and we voiced concerns, our dorm was filled to capacity and they had other dorms with low "over flow" numbers and one completely empty. Initially we were not even told about the Governor's orders, they locked us down for count and didn't let us out after count, slipped a piece of paper under our doors giving us an outline of how things would be done until further notice. At first they only let us out for 1 hour a day and we still had 3-8 people in our cells until it was decided that they would open up the empty dorm and send people to the "overflow dorm" to alleviate the number of detainees in the units. We currently come out 4 hours in the morning and 4 hours at night. Detainees do all of the cleaning and sanitizing. Social distancing is not occurring here, they like to say that it is but, it in fact is not happening. We had three (3) town hall meetings, one on a Tuesday, the other on a Friday of the same week and the other the following week, with roughly 40-50 people huddled together to hear what they had to say. Staff don't even adhere to the six foot social distancing rule.

Personally I find it very stressful to be detained in a facility that might keep me in medical isolation if I should be infected with COVID-19 when I should possibly be tested and at hospital being treated before the virus progresses too far. The anxiety is high and it is stressful for us who are detained here during this pandemic.

Thank you for your time and letting me share my opinion. We can only benefit from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment having the authority to inspect facilities that house immigrants.

Respectfully submitted,



05/20/2020

DAUD ALI MOAHMED  
GEO/ICE A#212115975  
3130 N. OAKLAND ST.  
AURORA, CO 80010

**Greeting**

Dear members of this meeting:

Colorado State Legislators:

My name is Daud Ali Mohamed, I am a refugee from Somalia. I have been detained in Aurora Immigration Processing Center / GEO since July 2019.

For example, health risk, denial access to medical, food crisis, abusive power, covered up by staff and its chain of command, retaliation against who spoke, cruelty and unusual and unprofessional mannerism.

There is a violation happening against humanity every day in this facility, that really needs some governmental power involve which may require for formal investigation.

If there are dignity, integrity, and characters still matter, there should be thrown thorough investigation against this private corporation (GEO) which may have been committed in human right violation which the United States promotes throughout the world.

Furthermore, if possible, Colorado State Legislative shall pass laws to regulate this facility to make sure this potential allegation won't happen again. Colorado State Legislation shall issue rule that requires a License to GEO that must follow all the rules and regulations which can forced its facility inspection annually by the Colorado Department of the public Health services.

I have underlining healthy condition, such as diabetes and severe mental illness. Unfortunately,

On Friday, May 17 2020. I visit the facility Psychiatrist, therefore, he refused to increase my psycho medication for sleeping Rampron, because they stopped to prescribe or increase or decrease.

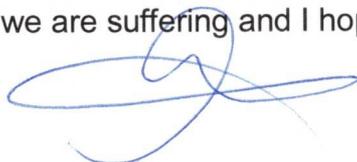
My diabetes they feed me carbohydrate. No protein, I am suffering week immune system because of bread and potatoes.

The food is inadequate because they provide small portion so they can save money. There is no disinfect or enough hygiene, soaps, that can kill the germs, the shower is scary and really stink.

Abusive of power, staff members abuses the detainee which they are not worried about sanctioning or disciplines.

If anyone grievance the grievance officer backed up with his colleagues. That is the condition we are suffering and I hope the Colorado Legislator will do the right thing.

Thanks you,



**Name: Alma Perez Aguirre**

**Email: [almaperez2610@gmail.com](mailto:almaperez2610@gmail.com)**

May 25, 2020

Dear Committee:

Committee members, thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony. My name is Alma Perez Aguirre, I am from Longmont Colorado. I ask for your support for proposal HB20-1409, which will give CDPHE the responsibility to inspect and report on conditions in immigration detention centers, including GEO where my brother contracted COVID19.

I would very much like this detention center to be regulated not only because of my brother but because I have heard about so many injustices with the immigrants that have to be there.

My brother Oscar Perez Aguirre was transferred to GEO by ICE on Friday, May 15. He had been in the Sterling jail where there was an uncontrolled COVID19 outbreak, and that day he was going to be released from that jail since he had tested negative for COVID19 there. I was outside waiting for him but he never came out. I did not hear from him until Monday the 18th when he called me in the afternoon and told me that he had been moved to GEO and that he had been ill since then with a fever that would not go away. He asked for fever medicine but they told him that they had run out and they never gave him anything. He told me that they were going to quarantine him and that they were probably not going to give me information about his well-being. I was very afraid of what could happen to my brother since he is 58 years old, has hypertension and an enlarged heart. I hired a lawyer that same day and for several days the lawyer was trying to communicate with my brother but they did not allow him to while my brother was in quarantine. A guard said my brother tested positive for COVID19, but ICE later said that was a mistake and that they still had not received their test results. For days they gave the lawyer incorrect information about who his Immigration Officer was, and they lost the application that my attorney's office submitted in person. We were desperate not to know what was going on with Oscar.

Finally Oscar spoke with the lawyer on Thursday, May 21 from the hospital and confirmed that he does have the virus. It was not until that moment that we realized that he had been moved to the hospital and had been here since Tuesday the 19th. It was also when we realized that his COVID19 test was positive because neither GEO nor ICE notified us. I spoke to my brother on the phone on Friday the 22nd and he tells me that he is not well. He cannot walk, he has no strength. We have worried a lot about him because we have not known what is happening. I think that out of basic humanity, Immigration should have told us "he has to go to the hospital." This is a serious disease, you don't play with it. They have me as an emergency contact. There is no excuse why they did not notify us.

Oscar says that the only fear he has, more than COVID, is to return to the GEO prison. He says "if they return me there I will never leave there alive." In the time he was in GEO, he saw a

fellow detainee rolling on the floor in pain and the guards did not even turn around to see him. That is unjust. Everyone has human rights, they deserve fair treatment.

So I ask the committee to vote to pass this legislative proposal. I hope this proposal will cause immigrants to be treated differently and fairly. Thank you for your time, please support HB20-1409.

\*\*\*Original Language below\*\*\*

Miembros del comité, gracias por la oportunidad de compartir mi testimonio. Mi nombre es Alma Perez Aguirre, soy de Longmont Colorado. Les pido su apoyo por la propuesta HB20-1409, que le dará a CDPHE la responsabilidad de inspeccionar y dar reportes sobre las condiciones en centros de detención de inmigrantes, incluido GEO donde mi hermano contrajo COVID19.

A mi me gustaria mucho que regularan este centro de detención no solo por mi hermano sino por que he escuchado tantas injusticias con los inmigrantes que tienen que llegar allí.

Mi hermano Oscar Perez Aguirre fue transferido a GEO por ICE el viernes 15 de Mayo. Él había estado en la cárcel de Sterling donde hay un brote de COVID19 descontrolado, y ese dia lo iban a liberar de esa cárcel ya que había dado negativo en una prueba de COVID19 allí. Yo estaba afuera esperándolo pero nunca salió. No escuche de él hasta el lunes 18 cuando me llamó en la tarde y me dijo que lo habían movido a GEO y que estaba enfermo desde entonces con fiebre que no se le quitaba. El pedia medicina para la fiebre pero le decían que se les había acabado y nunca le dieron nada. Me dijo que lo iban a poner en cuarentena y que probablemente no me iban a dar información de su bienestar. Me dio mucho miedo lo que le podía pasar a mi hermano ya que tiene 58 años, tiene hipertensión y el corazón agrandado. Contrate un abogado ese mismo dia y por varios días él abogado estuvo tratando de comunicarse con mi hermano pero no se lo permitían según porque mi hermano estaba en cuarentena. Un guardia dijo que mi hermano dio positivo por COVID19, pero despues ICE dijo que eso fue un error y que todavía no reciben los resultados de su prueba. Por días le dieron información incorrecta al abogado sobre quien era su Oficial de Inmigracion, y se les perdio la aplicación que sometió la oficina de mi abogado en persona. Estábamos desesperados por no saber lo que estaba pasando con Oscar.

Finalmente Oscar habló con el abogado el jueves 21 de mayo desde el hospital y nos confirmo que si tiene el virus. No fue hasta ese momento que nos dimos cuenta que lo habían movido al hospital desde el martes 19 ni que sí dio positivo su prueba de COVID19 porque ni GEO ni ICE nos avisaron. Yo hablé por teléfono con mi hermano el viernes 22 y me dice que no está bien. El no puede caminar, no tiene fuerzas. Nos hemos preocupados bastante por él porque no hemos sabido lo que está pasando. Pienso que Inmigración por humanidad nos hubiera dicho "tiene que ir al hospital." Esta es una enfermedad seria, no se juega con eso. Ellos me tienen a mi como contacto de emergencia no hay excusa por que no nos avisaron.

Oscar dice que el único miedo que tiene, más que COVID es regresar a la cárcel de GEO. Dice “si me regresan allí no vuelvo a salir de allí vivo.” En el tiempo que estuvo en GEO, miro un compañero que se revolcaba de dolor y no voltearon ni a verlo. Eso no es justo. Todos tienen derechos por humanidad, merecen un trato justo.

Por eso, le pido al comité que que voten para aprobar esta propuesta legislativa. Espero que esta propuesta haga que les den un trato diferente y justo a los inmigrantes. Gracias por su tiempo, por favor apoyen HB20-1409.

My name is Ana Banuelos, and I am submitting testimony in support of HB20-1409, to allow CDPHE Inspections of Penal Institutions.

This bill is important to me, because my husband was detained in the GEO Detention Facility in Aurora for 6 months, and was only released very recently. He endured so much unnecessary suffering to his health while he was there. My husband had a very difficult time getting the medical attention he needed, and they wouldn't give him the medications as directed by the doctor. If the medication was supposed to be given every 6 hours, he would go without it for 12 to 14 hours. This led to frequent infections on his leg, and things continued to get worse. Eventually, he couldn't even walk, so they gave him crutches but still had him on the second floor, struggling to get down the stairs to receive his medicine. He would request to be on the waiting list to see an actual doctor (not a nurse), and they would tell him to wait a week. He later found out that he wasn't even on the waitlist because they forgot to add him. My husband once told me that some of the detainees have complaints against the guards, and when they tried to report them, one guard responded, "what are they going to do to me? Half of the time the kites don't even go through, so no one knows what's happening."

My husband just barely was free from the facility while they were beginning to mismanage their COVID-19 response. Nearing his release, my husband told me that when the pandemic started, the guards weren't wearing gloves or masks and no one was sanitizing. I can't imagine how detainees still currently in the facility must feel, especially after the announcement on May 22 that 2 detainees tested positive for the virus because of the GEO's carelessness. The whole time he was in there, I was constantly having to advocate for my husband to the sergeants and lieutenants, with the help of my son. But I shouldn't have had to push so hard for them to treat my husband with basic respect. I shouldn't have had to worry about taking care of my family while also having to hold this corporation accountable for his basic needs during his detention. That facility, and all private immigrant detention facilities need accountability. Otherwise, they don't communicate with families, neglect the needs of detainees, and put lives like my husband's at risk. No family should have to endure what I went through just to make sure their loved one survives detention. It would make a world of difference for families like mine if this bill was passed, so that these private facilities are held accountable. State inspection of private detention facilities in Colorado is a crucial and needed measure to make sure they are meeting state guidelines, and to make sure detainees are being treated with basic respect.

**Name** Maricela Santos Hernandez

**Affiliation/Group:** Silicon Valley DeBug & COPA

**Email** flakisss05@yahoo.com

\*Translation below\*

5/23/2020

Querido Comite:

Gracias al comité por la oportunidad de compartir mi testimonio. Mi nombre es Maricela Santos Hernandez, yo vivo en el condado de San Mateo, en Silicon Valley California pero estoy representando a mi hijo Angel de Jesus Benito Santos quien ha estado en el centro de detención GEO en Aurora desde el 4 de noviembre 2017. Gracias al committee por discutir este tema importante. Estoy apoyando la propuesta HB20-1409, inspecciones de instituciones penales por el Departamento de Salud Pública y el Medio Ambiente de Colorado. Estas políticas son indispensables en asegurar la salud pública, y asegurar que haya transparencia. Por eso tambien apoye La Acta de la Verdad aqui en California que buscaba un fin similar.

Desafortunadamente, los dos años que ha estado mi hijo Ángel en GEO, él ha sido testigo de mucha negligencia, falta de atención médica, y lo ha vivido el mismo.

En una ocasión, él me llamó y me dijo “me siento inutil.” Una persona estaba pasando por un ataque de epilepsia. El y otro compañero tuvieron que correr a ayudarlo y darle los primeros auxilios porque los guardias no hicieron nada. El se asombró tanto que les dijo a los guardias “que esta pasando con ustedes? No son capaces de ayudar” y solo respondieron que no están preparados para esa situación. Se me hace ridiculo que los guardas no tengan el entrenamiento necesario para saber cómo responder en esta situación.

En abril, al principio de la pandemia, Ángel se enfermó con fiebre y dolor de cabeza. Tenía dificultad en hablar sin pausas, sonaba ronco, y tenía problemas en respirar. Esto me preocupo mucho ya que fue diagnosticado con asma desde la edad de 11 años y padece problemas respiratorio. Solo le dieron medicamento para la fiebre y para la alergia, no considero esto un chequeo médico. En esos días, movieron a una persona con síntomas a otra área y no les informaron a ellos si esa persona resulto positiva o no.

La respuesta del centro GEO a la pandemia no ha sido suficientemente estricto. Solo les checaron la temperatura a todos por una semana. El distanciamiento social parece que ya termino. Ya van a seguir al nivel normal ya que se ha habierto el estado.

HB20-1409 nos ayudaría asegurar que los centros de detencion de inmigracion tengan que seguir los mismos reglamentos básicos que cualquier otra instalación penal del estado - esto haría a mi hijo Ángel más seguro.

Es importante también reconocer, que no se puede confiar solo en los resultados de inspecciones planeadas. Hace unos meses, Ángel me dijo que hubo una inspección por alguien de un alto rango. Los del centro de detención les dijeron a Ángel y el resto del grupo que hace el trabajo de limpieza que querían que el lugar se viera impecable. Para esa inspección llevaron una pantalla de televisión grande a la área de recreo, pero esa pantalla estuvo solo el día que tuvieron la inspección. Al momento que terminó la inspección, levantaron el teatro que armaron.

Por eso es importante que el proceso que usa CDPHE para inspecciones también incluye manera que la gente impactada alerte a la agencia de los problemas que hay todos los días, no solo cuando hay día de inspección. Con HB20-1409 tendremos la oportunidad de notificar a la agencia cuando nuestros seres queridos estén viviendo negligencia o su salud médica esté en peligro.

Gracias por la oportunidad de compartir las experiencias de mi hijo, y espero que apoyen a esta propuesta legislativa.

5/23/2020

Dear Committee:

Thanks to the committee for the opportunity to share my testimony. My name is Maricela Santos Hernandez, I live in San Mateo County, Silicon Valley California but I am representing my son Angel de Jesus Benito Santos who has been at the GEO Detention Center in Aurora since November 4, 2017. Thank you to the committee for discussing this important issue. I am supporting proposal HB20-1409, allowing inspections of penal institutions by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. These policies are essential in ensuring public health, and ensuring that there is transparency. So I also supported The Truth Act policy here in California that was seeking a similar end.

Unfortunately, the two years that my son Ángel has been in GEO, he has witnessed a lot of neglect, lack of medical attention, and he has lived it himself.

On one occasion, he called me and said "I feel useless." One person was having an epilepsy attack. He and another detainee had to run to help him and give him first aid because the guards did nothing. He was so surprised that he told the guards "what is going on with you? Aren't you able to help?" and they only replied that they are not prepared for this situation. It is ridiculous that the guards do not have the necessary training to know how to respond in this situation.

In April, at the beginning of the pandemic, Ángel became ill with a fever and headache. He had trouble speaking without pauses, sounded hoarse, and had trouble breathing. This worried me a lot since he was diagnosed with asthma from the age of 11 and suffers from respiratory

problems. They only gave him fever and allergy medication, I don't consider this adequate medical care. Other people in his pod were getting sick too. One day the guards finally moved an individual with COVID-like symptoms to another area in the facility, but the guards never told the others if they tested positive or not.

The GEO center's response to the pandemic has not been strict enough. They only checked everyone's temperature for a week. The social distancing seems to be over. They will continue to the normal level since the state has been opened.

HB20-1409 would help us ensure that immigration detention centers have to follow the same basic regulations as any other state penal facility - this would make my son Ángel safer.

It is also important to recognize that the results of planned inspections cannot be relied on alone. A few months ago, Angel told me that there was an inspection by someone of high rank. Those at the detention center told Angel and the rest of the group doing the cleanup work that they wanted the place to look spotless. For that inspection they brought a large television screen to the recreation area, but that screen was only there the day they had the inspection. When the inspection was over, they took down the act they were putting on.

So it is important that the process that CDPHE uses for inspections also includes ways that impacted individuals can alert the agency to problems and health concerns that occur every day, not just when there is an inspection day. With HB20-1409, we will have the opportunity to notify the agency when our loved ones are being neglected or their medical health is in danger.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my son's experiences, and I hope you support this legislative proposal.

**Name:** Claudia Robles

**Email:** claudiav2008@gmail.com

My name is Claudia Robles, I am submitting testimony in support of HB20-1409, to allow CDPHE Inspections of Penal Institutions because I am concerned for the safety of my husband, who is currently detained at the GEO detention center in Aurora.

I am a medical assistant for the local Urgent Care and Family Practice in the small town of Leadville Colorado. I am doing my best to serve my community during this pandemic, but my job keeps getting harder as my coworkers get sick and I have to work more. My job as a mom to my 4-year-old daughter named Julia also gets harder since I am basically a single mom now without my husband. He was her primary caregiver before he was taken from us. My daughter has been affected the most with my husband's detention. She misses her dad every day and hopes to have him home again. She is struggling without her dad and had to be in mental health services, but now due to the pandemic she hasn't been able to attend any counseling since it's hard to do TELEVISTS with a 4-year-old.

I worry about my husband getting sick with COVID19 in detention. As a health care worker I know they are not doing everything they need to, to keep everyone in there safe. He has to share a cell with 5 other people for most of the day, so it's impossible for them to follow social distancing. The past month, he was in his cell for 23 hours a day. There were some days that he was left in his cell for days at a time. They also only get a facemask once a week. He is at a higher risk of getting COVID19 and having worse outcomes because of his asthma. Also, they still keep bringing new people in from other detention centers, that keeps adding more risk of people getting exposed. The best thing ICE could do is release as many people as possible especially those with preexisting conditions like my husband.

The way GEO has handled the COVID crisis has made it hard for us to communicate. He can only call us or use the tablet to video chat when he is out of his cell. And when he only had an hour, that meant we barely got to talk since he also had to use his time to wait in line to use the microwave for his hot water for coffee and soup and to shower. On the days when he was just left in his cell he just couldn't call us and we worried. We could no longer afford to pay an immigration attorney last month so we had to do the humanitarian parole application on our own, and we could only talk about it over the phone which was hard when they had stricter lockdown schedules.

Even before the COVID19 pandemic, the conditions were unacceptable. The whole time my husband has been in that detention center, he has never received his asthma medication which we have offered to send. When he felt sick or had a headache or toothache he would have to submit a Kite which could take days for them to do something about. And even then they only get an ibuprofen. When he was having problems with a tooth, all he got was a saltwater rinse. The food has also always been terrible and basically inedible. The food tastes rotten and sour, so he either goes hungry or he eats what he can from the commissary.

We submitted an application for humanitarian parole because of his high risk but we have not yet heard back. But, he is a perfect example of who should be released. My husband has been in the country for 16 years, and he only has misdemeanors for an argument we had which is not a deportable offense. He is also not a flight risk. I hope he is granted his freedom so he can be safe at home with my daughter and I. Until he is released, I hope conditions in the

facility improve so that I don't have to keep worrying he will die there. It would make a huge difference for the safety of those detained for the state to be able to inspect this facility and ensure they are meeting state guidelines.

## Initial Medical Exam

### General Information (to be completed by program staff)

<b>Child</b>	Last name: _____		First name: _____	
	DOB: ____/____/____		A#: _____	
<b>Healthcare Provider</b>	Name: _____ <b>MD / DO / PA / NP</b>		Phone number: _____	
	Street address: _____		City or Town: _____	
<b>Program</b>	Name of program staff with child: _____		Program name: _____	
	Clinic or Practice: _____		Date of visit: ____/____/____	

### History and Physical (to be completed by provider)

Vital Signs					
T (C°):	HR:	BP (≥ 3 years):	RR:	Ht (cm):	Wt (kg):

Allergies <input type="checkbox"/> Check if none		
<input type="checkbox"/> Food, specify: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Medication, specify: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other, specify: _____

Vision (≥ 5 years)			
	Right Eye	Left Eye	Both eyes
Corrected	20 /	20 /	20 /
Uncorrected	20 /	20 /	20 /

Medical History	
Concerns expressed by child or caregiver: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> No concerns

Past medical history (include surgeries and hospital admissions):  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Family History:  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Reproductive History:	LMP: ____/____/____ or <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	Previous pregnancy: G _____ P _____ or <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
-----------------------	---	---

### Review of Systems (ROS)

Check all applicable signs and symptoms and enter the date each began:			
<input type="checkbox"/> No abnormal findings		<input type="checkbox"/> Pain, location: _____	__/__/__
<input type="checkbox"/> Fever (>37.8 C°) or chills	__/__/__	<input type="checkbox"/> Red eyes	__/__/__
<input type="checkbox"/> Runny nose	__/__/__	<input type="checkbox"/> Sore throat	__/__/__
<input type="checkbox"/> Cough	__/__/__	<input type="checkbox"/> Difficulty breathing/Shortness of breath/ Wheezing	__/__/__
<input type="checkbox"/> Nausea	__/__/__	<input type="checkbox"/> Vomiting	__/__/__
<input type="checkbox"/> Diarrhea	__/__/__	<input type="checkbox"/> Neck stiffness	__/__/__
<input type="checkbox"/> Headache	__/__/__	<input type="checkbox"/> Confusion/Altered mental status	__/__/__
<input type="checkbox"/> Dizziness	__/__/__	<input type="checkbox"/> Neurologic symptoms	__/__/__
<input type="checkbox"/> Skin lesions or rash	__/__/__	<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow skin or eyes	__/__/__
<input type="checkbox"/> Swollen glands	__/__/__	<input type="checkbox"/> Unusual bleeding	__/__/__
<input type="checkbox"/> Other, specify: _____			__/__/__

Physical Examination		
Check each system to indicate if normal or abnormal. If abnormal, describe. Leave blank if not evaluated:		
System	Normal	Abnormal
General appearance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Specify:
HEENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Specify:
Neck	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Specify:
Heart	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Specify:
Lungs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Specify:
Abdomen	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Specify:
GU/GYN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Specify:
Extremities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Specify:
Abdomen	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Specify:
Back/Spine	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Specify:
Neurologic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Specify:
Skin (include tattoos)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Specify:
Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Specify:

Psychosocial Risk	
In each section, place a check next to each reported condition/history/behavior & describe where applicable:	
<b>Mental Health</b> (Over the past 3 months) <input type="checkbox"/> Check if no concerns	
<input type="checkbox"/> Feels empty, hopeless, sad, numb more often than not	<input type="checkbox"/> Has trouble concentrating, restless, too many thoughts
<input type="checkbox"/> Feels constantly worried, anxious, nervous more often than not	<input type="checkbox"/> Has trouble eating, sleeping
<input type="checkbox"/> Experiences mood swings, from very high to very low	<input type="checkbox"/> Feels helpless
<input type="checkbox"/> Reliving traumatic events from the past	<input type="checkbox"/> Feels like hurting others
<input type="checkbox"/> Feels easily annoyed or irritated	<input type="checkbox"/> Feels like hurting self, would be better off dead
<input type="checkbox"/> Feels afraid, easily startled, jumpy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other concerns:
<b>Physical Abuse History</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Check if physical abuse is denied	
<input type="checkbox"/> Victim of physical abuse, specify who/when/where: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> In home country
	<input type="checkbox"/> During journey to U.S.
<b>Sexual Activity/Abuse History</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Check if sexual activity or abuse are denied	
<input type="checkbox"/> Consensual sexual activity (oral/vaginal/anal)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sexual abuse, specify who/when/where: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> In home country
	<input type="checkbox"/> During journey to U.S.
<input type="checkbox"/> Previous STD, specify: _____	
<b>Substance Abuse</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Check if substance use is denied	
<input type="checkbox"/> IVDU:	<input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol:
	<input type="checkbox"/> Tobacco:
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:

Laboratory Testing					
Ordered	Test	Indicators	Result		
			Positive	Negative	Indeterminate
<input type="checkbox"/>	Flu, rapid	Fever + cough or sore throat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	HIV	≥ 13 yrs or Sexual activity/abuse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pregnancy	≥ 10 yrs or Sexual activity/abuse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lead (positive ≥ 5 mcg/dl)	6 mos - 6 yrs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hepatitis B surface antigen	Sexual activity/abuse, IVDU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hepatitis C antibody	IVDU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Syphilis RPR/VRDL	Sexual activity/abuse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Chlamydia NAAT	Sexual activity/abuse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gonorrhea NAAT	Sexual activity/abuse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

TB Screening (Use Supplemental TB Screening form for result documentation)	
Has child ever been a close contact to someone with <b>active</b> TB disease?	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, specify:
Has child ever been treated for <b>active</b> TB disease?	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, specify:
Has child ever been treated for <b>latent</b> TB infection?	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, specify:
<b>TB screening method ordered:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> TST <input type="checkbox"/> IGRA <input type="checkbox"/> CXR <input type="checkbox"/> Was or will be tested elsewhere

### Assessment and Plan

**Assessment:** Check all that apply. If "Other" is selected, specify in the space provided.

**Well-child** (Only check if no other condition present)

#### General/Constitutional

- Dehydration
- Allergy (drug reaction, food allergy, etc.)
- Malnourished
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

#### HEENT

- Headache/migraine
- Vision issues
- Hearing issues
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Respiratory/Pulmonary

- Asthma
- Influenza or influenza-like illness (ILI)
- Upper/lower respiratory illness (not ILI)
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Cardiovascular

- Heart murmur
- Syncope/fainting
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Gastrointestinal

- Gastroenteritis
- Heartburn/reflux
- Intestinal parasites (e.g., tapeworms)
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Genito-urinary/Reproductive

- Childbirth
- Pregnancy/pregnancy-related
- Urinary tract infection
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Neurological

- Developmental delay
- Seizure/epilepsy
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Skin and Hair

- Lice
- Scabies
- Dermatitis/rash (not acne)
- Cellulitis
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Potentially Reportable Infectious Disease

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Acute hepatitis A                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Acute/chronic hepatitis B |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Acute/chronic hepatitis C                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Chikungunya               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chlamydia                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Dengue                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gonorrhea                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> HIV                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Malaria                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Measles                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mumps                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Pertussis                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rubella                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Sepsis/Meningitis         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Syphilis                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> TB                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Typhoid fever                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Varicella                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Viral hemorrhagic fever,<br>specify: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____              |

#### Abuse

- Sexual
- Physical
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Injury

- Fracture
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Other, Medical:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### Behavioral and Mental Health Concerns

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ADHD/ADD                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Adjustment disorder |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Anxiety disorder                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Bipolar disorder    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Borderline personality<br>disorder | <input type="checkbox"/> Depressive disorder |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Panic disorder                     | <input type="checkbox"/> PTSD                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Schizophrenia                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Self-injury/cutting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Suicide ideation/attempt           | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____        |

**Plan:** Check all that apply and specify in the space provided.

Return to clinic:

- PRN/As needed
- Follow-up (specify condition, timing): \_\_\_\_\_

Referred to specialist/counselor: \_\_\_\_\_

Prolonged treatment/therapy (e.g., physical therapy): \_\_\_\_\_

New/Current medications (specify name, reason, date started, dose, and directions and check if psychotropic):

- |          |                                       |
|----------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Psychotropic |
| 2. _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Psychotropic |
| 3. _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Psychotropic |

Immunizations given/validated from foreign record (Please ensure that shelter staff receive a copy of the immunization record)

List immunizations not given due to medical contraindication: \_\_\_\_\_

Age-appropriate anticipatory guidance discussed and/or handout given

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Additional Information:

Name: Carlos Franco Paredes

Email: CARLOS.FRANCO-PAREDES@CUANSCHUTZ.EDU

Committee members, thank you for considering this important issue. I urge you to support HB20-1409 to allow CDPHE inspections of immigrant detention centers. My name is Dr. Carlos Franco-Paredes. I am an Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of Colorado in the Department of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases. I am also the Infectious Diseases Fellowship Program Director and supervise the training of medical students, internal medicine residents, and infectious diseases fellows at the University of Colorado, Anschutz Medical Center. In addition, I hold a public health degree in global health from the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University with a concentration on the dynamics of global infectious disease epidemics and pandemics. From 2006 to 2009, I was a consultant with the World Health Organization, Headquarters where I participated in the team developing the global action plan for influenza vaccine and the guidelines for pandemic influenza preparedness. I have written and published many relevant scientific publications on the topics of infectious diseases, pandemics, and epidemics, particularly in influenza. I have 204 scientific publications in peer-reviewed scientific journals. My last five peer-reviewed scientific publications are about the impact of COVID-19 among vulnerable individuals. I teach a class at the school of medicine on caring for underserved populations including immigrants and incarcerated populations and in best practices in global health. I have written a textbook in infectious diseases.

Over the last nine weeks, since the COVID-19 pandemic began disseminating in the U.S., I have witnessed firsthand the impact of COVID-19 at the University of Colorado, Anschutz Medical Center, and have provided direct care to 57 patients with this infection. Many have required intensive care management and mechanical ventilator support.

Immigration detention centers in the US are tinderboxes for the transmission of highly transmissible infectious pathogens including the SARS-CoV-2, which causes the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19). Given the large population density of immigration detention centers, and the ease of transmission of this viral pathogen, the attack rate inside these centers may reach exponential proportions, consuming significant medical care and financial resources.

I have experience providing care to individuals in civil detention centers and I have performed medical forensic examinations and medical second opinion evaluations for patients in the custody of the Department of Homeland Security. Based on my conversations with patients, my own observations, and information that exists regarding the resources available within immigration detention facilities as detailed by the ICE Health Services Corps, it is my professional opinion that immigration detention centers are often poorly equipped to face the confirmed and ongoing COVID-19 outbreak.

The Aurora facility has had other outbreaks of infectious diseases. Given the level of medical support required to control the spread of COVID-19, in my professional opinion, it would be impossible for the current staff in the facility to provide adequate medical care to people in the facility during the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak.

Now that the Aurora ICE facility is experiencing an outbreak by reporting 11 cases among detainees and a growing number of cases among staff indicates that this outbreak is larger than anticipated and only represents the tip of a larger outbreak. According to ICE, as of May 17, 2020 there are 986 confirmed cases of COVID-19 for people detained in the Department's custody.<sup>1</sup> On April 20, 2020 that figure was 220 people and ICE officials have privately

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ice.gov/coronavirus>.

acknowledged that due to limited testing, “the actual number is much higher.”<sup>2</sup> Additionally, once a case is identified within a detention center, detainees in that particular unit of the detention center ideally need to be tested for asymptomatic infection. Indeed, in many case series and hospital-based reports from many countries, transmission of asymptomatic infection occurs in more than 20% of individuals, particularly within the confines of an enclosed facility such as an immigration detention center. Temperature checks will not detect a large proportion of asymptomatic cases since by definition they have no symptoms and are unlikely to have documented fever. In summary, if broader testing of detainees inside the Aurora facility is carried out, many more individuals would be identified having confirmed COVID-19 infection.

Based on my review of the evidence, it appears that the reason for this outbreak is that staff within the Aurora facility are traveling between different dorms within the facility, many of whom without wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) and these factors fuel the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak. This is concerning because, similar to other viral pathogens, SARS-CoV-2 is closely dependent on human interactions. Custodial institutions have been the epicenter of outbreaks of infections at rates far exceeding those in non-incarcerated communities because of overcrowding, insufficient sanitation, poor ventilation, and inadequate healthcare. Detention and incarceration of any kind involves large groups of people living in cohorts in confined spaces creating many challenges for curbing the spread of COVID-19.

Another important consideration that complicates disinfection and decontamination practices is the ability of this novel coronavirus to survive for extended periods of time on materials that are highly prevalent in secure settings, such as metallic and other non-porous surfaces. Current protocols require frequent disinfection and decontamination of all surfaces of the immigration detention facility, which is exceedingly difficult given the large number of incarcerated individuals, frequent interactions between inmates and staff, and regularity with which staff move in and out of the Aurora facility .

Moreover, incomplete adherence to infection prevention protocols, including the appropriate use of personal protective equipment, is insufficient to contain the spread of this disease at the Aurora facility. Behind the walls of a detention center, the basic reproductive number of the infection ( $R_0=2.2$ ) may be responsible for infecting between 30-50% of detainees and staff within a facility. Having a larger outbreak of COVID-19 cases in the Aurora facility may produce would put a tremendous strain on the medical system in Denver, Colorado at the detriment of other patients. This would likely lead to the loss of additional lives of cherished members of our community that could have otherwise been saved.

Until recently, ICE was not adhering to most facets of the CDC’s guidance as it relates to detained populations. After reviewing the client declarations in this case, it seems as though amendments to the sanitization practices have changed in addition to the expanded use of PPE, yet PPE is not being used consistently and social distancing is not fully possible within a detained setting since people in detention do not have the liberty to choose where to sleep, eat, bathe and wash themselves, or at times, where to sit or stand.

In summary, I remain concerned about the treatment of immigrants inside the Aurora facility. The ongoing outbreak of COVID-19 represents a major threat to the safety of detainees and asylum seeker and it would have ripple effects in the larger community. In light of the continuing and uncured deficiencies in protective equipment and cleaning supplies coupled with detainees’ inability to social distance, the only viable method for combating COVID-19 at

---

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/the\\_americas/us-is-deporting-infected-migrants-back-to-vulnerable-countries/2020/04/21/5ec3dcfe-8351-11ea-81a3-9690c9881111\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/the_americas/us-is-deporting-infected-migrants-back-to-vulnerable-countries/2020/04/21/5ec3dcfe-8351-11ea-81a3-9690c9881111_story.html)

Aurora facility is a significant reduction of its detainee population. While the state of Colorado is unable to mandate the depopulation of federal facilities, ensuring immigrant detention centers are adhering to health and safety state regulations would be an important step in safeguarding the wellbeing of immigrants inside the Aurora facility and the larger community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Paredes', is centered on a white background.

---

Carlos Franco Paredes, M.D., M.P.H.  
Associate Professor of Medicine  
Division of Infectious Diseases  
Department of Medicine  
Division of infectious Diseases  
Program Director Infectious Disease Fellowship  
Training Program, University of Colorado

**Name:** Ana Rodriguez

**Email:** Ana@coloradopeoplesalliance.org

Thank you members of the committee for considering this important policy. My name is Ana Rodriguez, submitting testimony on behalf of Colorado People's Alliance in support of HB20-1409.

The CDPHE inspections of Penal Institutions bill would ensure that our public health and safety agency can hold immigrant detention centers to the same standards as any jail and prison. Immigrant detention centers are largely managed by private corporations that enter into contracts with ICE. ICE is supposed to hold these facilities accountable for failure to meet detention standards and failure to comply with their contracts, but ICE routinely waives and overlooks these standards for facilities that are failing to comply. In a January 2019 report, the Office of Inspector General, the independent federal body in charge of monitoring ICE, stated that "ICE does not adequately hold detention facility contractors accountable for not meeting performance standards... despite documentation of thousands of deficiencies and instances of serious harm to detainees that occurred at these detention facilities, ICE rarely imposed financial penalties."<sup>1</sup>

Because of this failure of oversight from the federal level, it is up to the state to hold immigrant detention centers to basic health and safety standards, including the Devereux child detention facility and the GEO detention center. The GEO detention center is especially a concern due to the countless testimonies from detained immigrants and their loved ones about the lack of medical care, insufficient and inedible food, abusive punitive measures against detainees, and the inability to prevent the spread of viral outbreaks.

As stated by most testimonies, detainees often must wait days before being seen by medical staff, even for urgent medical issues, and often the only treatment they are provided is Tylenol/ibuprofen. In the past two weeks, we heard from one man who had a burst eardrum that had become so infected and swollen that medical staff could not perform an evaluation of what was happening for days. It took him hours to be seen by medical staff one Friday, he was given antibiotics to reduce the infection and swelling as they could not even see in his ear. He was not improving on Saturday and it took several hours to be seen by medical staff once again, but he was just told to give the antibiotics more time to work. Medical staff instructed him to ask for immediate care if the pain worsened the next day. On Sunday his pain and swelling spread to his jaw and the whole side of his face and he worried the infection spread to his bone. He asked for medical care and was told that no one was available in the medical unit and he would have to wait two hours to be seen by the Doctor who was not on site. It wasn't until he told GEO he would call 911 that they finally transferred him to the hospital several hours after his initial request for medical care. It is unacceptable for a facility of this size not to have a constant medical presence that can immediately provide care. It is this delay in medical care and negligence that has already cost immigrant lives, including Mr. Kamyar Samimi who died of medical neglect in GEO in December 2017.

Not even immigrants who have tested positive for COVID19 are receiving adequate care. Mr. Oscar Perez Aguirre, one of the first to test positive for COVID19 in GEO was only in

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.oig.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/assets/2019-02/OIG-19-18-Jan19.pdf>

the hospital for about a week, and was returned to GEO despite not yet testing negative for COVID19 and despite his multiple risk factors (58 years old, hypertension, and enlarged heart). Back at GEO, it has taken days for him to receive fever reducing medication, he was placed in a very cold room with only a thin blanket which he soaked through with sweat from fever. Mr. Perrez Aguirre's immigration attorney has had to constantly pressure GEO medical staff and his deportation officer to ensure adequate access to care and humane treatment.

It is clear that GEO does not provide adequate care to sick immigrants, and it's also clear that they are unable to prevent the spread of communicable disease. In 2019, there was an infectious outbreak for 7 out of 12 months of the year (February 2019-March 2019 - Mumps/Chicken Pox, July 2019-August 2019 - Mumps/Chicken Pox, October 2019-November 2019 - Mumps/Chicken Pox, December 2019 - Scabies). In 2020, there have been viral outbreaks every single month. In January it was the flu, in February it was mumps, and from March onward there have been a steadily growing number of COVID cases, first from ICE and GEO staff and now of at least 11 detainees with the number expected to grow.

Other concerns that have been lifted up by multiple immigrants is the use of heat and air conditioning seemingly as a cruelty or punishment. Usually when it is freezing or close to freezing outside, either no heater is turned on, or the A/C is turned on. Similarly, when it is in the upper 80s or in the 90s, either no A/C is turned on or the heater is on. Failure to utilize temperature control is often interpreted as a cost-saving tool, and creating uncomfortable and miserable temperature conditions is seen as a punishment for detainees for speaking out in protests or simply because protests of conditions are happening outside of the facility.

Another cruel use of punishment is the use of segregation. We spoke with an immigrant in segregation just weeks before his deportation. Jesus said that one day while lining up for lunch, a guard verbally abused a fellow detainee who suffered from anxiety and had just returned from the medical unit after a mental breakdown, this caused a commotion that led to guards calling for a lockdown. The whole unit was so frustrated that this guard started the commotion and they were being punished for it, that they silently stayed put and refused to go into their cells. Jesus and several immigrants calmly spoke to GEO staff about this guard's unacceptable behavior and explained why they felt the lockdown was unfair, he and those who spoke out were written up for "inciting a riot" and got a month in segregation where they are in their cells for 23 hours a day.

Like these testimonies, there are countless others that display the unacceptable conditions in the GEO detention center. While there is less transparency of the conditions within the child detention center in Devereux, what we are aware of from medical professionals who have provided care to these children is concerning; such as a lack of screening for disease and lack of mental health care. It is vital that the state take action to safeguard not just the health and safety of immigrants detained in these federal facilities, but that of the community at large. All individuals in Colorado penal systems deserve to be protected by the same health and safety standards whether you are at a private or public facility. Please support "CDPHE Inspections of Penal Institutions".

**Name:** Feven Berhanu

**Email:** Feven@coloradopeoplesalliance.org

Thank you to the members of the committee for the consideration of this important bill. My name is Feven Berhanu, I am submitting this testimony in support of HB20-1409 on behalf of Colorado People's Alliance, which has a membership of over 300 Coloradans.

HB20-1409 would ensure that private detention facilities around Colorado, facilities which have failed to regulate and hold themselves accountable, will meet the standards of the state in regard to health and other conditions. In a January 2019 report, the Office of Inspector General, the independent federal body in charge of monitoring ICE, stated that ICE does not adequately hold detention facility contractors accountable for not meeting crucial standards of performance and conditions. Many private detention facilities enter contracts with ICE that allows them a dangerous flexibility to escape transparency and accountability to the community, quite literally putting the lives of detainees and staff at risk by mismanaging public illness outbreaks (which becomes of increasing concern since 11 detainees tested positive for COVID-19 in May) and medically neglecting detainees. The safety and health needs of our state are continuously undermined, and detention facilities like GEO feel absolutely no need to communicate with local officials. In January 2019, the GEO group signed a 90 day contract with ICE to open their remodeled annex building without any notice to local governments including vital health and safety agencies like Police or Firefighters or the health department. On April 16, 2019, ICE signed a contract to extend the use of the annex building for another year. None of this happened in coordination with localities, which raises concerns as to what else this facility can do in our community without any oversight. It is a crisis of public health and safety that the current pandemic exacerbates.

Furthermore, The GEO Detention Facility in Aurora has proven itself to be a violently inhospitable place for the immigrants it detains, recorded to have inflicted multiple abuses against them. These abuses include psychiatric torture through long periods of solitary confinement, several preventable illness outbreaks of mumps, measles, chicken pox, more recently COVID-19, inadequate nutrition with some reported issues of expired food, forced labor for only \$1 a day, and consistent medical neglect that has led to the 20-25 day quarantine of 357 individuals at one time in March 2019 due to virus outbreaks like chickenpox and mumps. In 2019, there was an infectious outbreak for 7 out of 12 months of the year (February 2019-March 2019 - Mumps/Chicken Pox, July 2019-August 2019 - Mumps/Chicken Pox, October 2019-November 2019 - Mumps/Chicken Pox, December 2019 - Scabies).

There have been two reported deaths in the facility, Kamyar Samimi who died on Dec. 2, 2017 and Evalin-Ali Mandza, died April 12, 2012. The ACLU filed a federal lawsuit on April 9, 2019 for information regarding the death of Kamyar Samini. More than a year after his death, the ACLU confirmed that his death was indeed preventable had GEO's medical response been better and more timely. In March 2020, during the COVID-19 global pandemic, the GEO Detention center reported that 11 detainees tested positive by the end of May. This was a preventable outbreak, because it was linked to the transfer of a detainee from the Sterling

Correctional Facility, a facility publicly known to have had hundreds of positive cases at the time. During Colorado's shelter in place order, detainees were subject to being held in their pods of 6-8 people for 23 hours per day, only allowed 1 hour to shower, use the phone, and eat. It was

not until COPA and other organizations pressured GEO that this was lifted. This facility has acted unchecked for too long and has only acted for the sole purpose of their own profit, putting our communities at risk in the meantime. The Aurora city council has acted to their maximum capacity and jurisdiction, so it is time for the state to intervene.

I have spent the last 2 years meeting and talking with detainees about the conditions of the center. I will never forget the story of one person in particular. Her name was Brenda. Brenda shared with me that the food at GEO is basically inedible, and said that people are going hungry and can't afford the commissary. In tears, she told me that the guards have made it harder for those inside to have enough food-- they often throw away stored fruits that were ripening and food leftovers without announcing it. She shared with me that the microwave is outside of the center, and detainees must go outside to heat up their food, and sometimes they are left outside in the cold for an hour before someone unlocks the door. Brenda also shared with me that they only receive ibuprofen, no matter the condition or severity of pain they are experiencing. One time, her friend slipped in the shower and hurt her ankle which led to one of her bones protruding, and they still only gave her ibuprofen. When there are protests, the guards board up the window as to not allow the detainees to see the groups supporting them from the outside. Brenda tearfully shared with me that she does not mind not seeing the sky and the sun, as long as it means that someone is out there fighting for her.

Colorado cannot and should not stand for this kind of abuse. Now is the time to show up not just for the public health of detainees and staff of immigrant detention but for their surrounding communities. HB20-1409 is first step toward taking back our state from these corporations who have no regard for the lives of human beings. Colorado MUST act now, and pass HB20-1409.

June 4th, 2020

Honorable Committee members:

Members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony. My name is Jordan T. Garcia, I am the acting program director at the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC). The AFSC is a Quaker organization that promotes lasting peace with justice, as a practical expression of faith in action. Drawing on continuing spiritual insights and working with people of many backgrounds, we nurture the seeds of change and respect for human life that transform social relations and systems.

Thank you for taking time to discuss the health and safety of the whole community. I am a strong supporter of HB20-1409 bill because I believe it provides several elements that will help our Communities throughout Colorado.

I've been active in the immigrant rights community for the last 15 years. Over that time, I have worked with many people who have had family members inside the detention center, and several members who have spent time in the detention center themselves. Each time I have been appalled by the reports of the treatment of individuals inside the detention center, and the conditions they have been forced to endure. They have spoken to me about abuse from guards, rolling quarantine, limited access to legal counsel, spoiled food and worst of all in adequate medical care. They have been forced to treat broken bones and heart conditions with Tylenol, there is one doctor to 1500 detainees, and the doctor is rarely on site. After the death of Mr. Samimi, I had hoped that the public would be more aware of these conditions, but this bill is the first sign of hope I have had in years.

This bill is about protecting the health and safety of the people in Colorado as well. The state has a responsibility to ensure all immigrant detention facilities in Colorado adhere to the same basic standards that jails and prisons follow. There is a history of medical neglect, inability to prevent or control viral outbreaks, and dangerous conditions in detention centers, specifically GEO. This did not just start under COVID19, but the pandemic has made it even more important for the state to ensure our loved ones' health and safety are protected. This bill is an important first step in ensuring accountability and transparency. Conditions in GEO are unacceptable, the state must have authority to do something about them

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to submit my testimony. Please support HB20-1409

**Jordan T. Garcia**

**American Friends Service Committee**

[jgarcia@afsc.org](mailto:jgarcia@afsc.org)

6/2/2020

Dear Committee:

We are health professionals and students from the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus and we represent Students for Immigrant Health and Rights (SIHR) and Doctors for Camp Closure (D4CC).

Thank you for taking the time to discuss this important issue. We are strong supporters of HB20-1409 because it would provide basic public health accountability in detention facilities noted for their medical neglect.

ICE currently has no independent oversight and they have not provided adequate internal oversight. Across the nation they have routinely neglected to uphold public health standards in their contractor facilities. The Aurora ICE detention center -- operated by the GEO Group -- reflects the same practices of medical neglect.

While the pandemic highlights the urgency of detainee medical needs, it arrives against a backdrop of ongoing negligence. This medical neglect was well-documented prior to the COVID-19 (aka SARS-CoV-2) pandemic. The 2019 Colorado ACLU report [Cashing In On Cruelty](#) cites multiple examples of medical negligence. The report opens with the story of Kamyar Samimi who died of medical neglect in 2017 after only two weeks in Aurora's ICE facility. The report advocates for oversight and accountability as a means to prevent such wanton neglect for human health.

More recently, the story of Oscar Perez Aguirre has emerged. A 58-year-old man with hypertension and cardiomegaly, he contracted SARS-CoV-2 while in detention in the Aurora GEO Detention Center. Guards gave his family conflicting information on whether he had tested positive for the virus. His medical care was delayed before he was ultimately hospitalized. He was returned to ICE detention before being symptom-free, and was denied antipyretic medications for his ongoing fever.

As medical professionals we strongly believe that all people have a right to access to medical care, including access to preventative care and care of chronic illness. These principles hold true for all patients in our community and are especially apparent during the COVID-19 pandemic. During the ongoing pandemic, we have seen a disproportionate mortality burden fall on communities of color and vulnerable populations across the country. Detained immigrants are at especially elevated risk for contracting the SARS-CoV-2 virus given that they are confined in closely detained spaces. If they contract the virus they are at risk for poor outcomes as they have often received poor medical care in detention for years. Those detained in Aurora's ICE detention facility — less than one mile from our medical campus — report wholly

insufficient protection provided to detainees. We have heard reports that guards are not wearing masks. We have heard that despite promising detainees three new masks each week, they are routinely left to wear the same mask for weeks. Cells are too small to allow the six feet of space recommended for social distancing. Until we have a vaccine, prevention is our best shield against the spread of the virus. Aurora's ICE facility has not shown themselves capable of rigorously employing these practices to shield detainees.

As of Friday, May 29 there are reports of 11 cases of SARS-CoV-2 among detainees in Aurora's ICE detention facility. We want to emphasize that these patients were diagnosed because they were sick- not because of wide-scale testing for the virus across the facility. We have no idea how many people currently in detention have contracted the virus. We also don't know how many immigrants may have contracted the virus and been deported because they were sick without ever getting tested. We do know that as of April 15th 1,201 out of the 2,394 immigrants in ICE custody nationally who have been tested for COVID have tested positive for the virus. Colorado currently has no oversight over these facilities.

We, as Coloradans, currently cannot demand that people detained in these facilities receive testing. Lawmakers cannot demand widespread testing. The people detained in these facilities are our friends, neighbors, husbands, wives... our patients. We desperately need to pass HB20-1409 so that CDPHE can have the same oversight over these facilities as prisons, jails and other penal institutions. This is a low bar. We are asking for the bare minimum so that our state can help ensure that detention is not a death sentence!

Thank you for your attention to these issues which are among the most fundamental of human rights. We ask you to please support HB20-1409.

Danielle Loeb, MD, MPH

Associate Professor of Medicine, General Internal Medicine

[danielle.loeb@cuanschutz.edu](mailto:danielle.loeb@cuanschutz.edu)

Andrew Willis

Medical Student, SIHR Co-Lead

[andrew.willis@cuanschutz.edu](mailto:andrew.willis@cuanschutz.edu)

Marisa Duran

Nursing Student, SIHR Co-Lead

[marisa.duran@cuanschultz.edu](mailto:marisa.duran@cuanschultz.edu)

Hannah Paul

Dental Student

[Hannah.paul@cuanschultz.edu](mailto:Hannah.paul@cuanschultz.edu)

Michelle Driessnack

Doctor of Physical Therapy Student

[mdriessnack@gmail.com](mailto:mdriessnack@gmail.com)



Thank you Chair and members of the committee.

My name is Chris Klene, and I am the Policy Specialist at Center for Health Progress. At Center for Health Progress, we believe that health care is a right. So, we fight for laws and policies that make it possible for everyone to take care of themselves and their families. It is with this value in mind that we are submitting testimony in support of HB20-1409, CDPHE Inspection of Penal Institutions.

The GEO Detention Facility in Aurora has shown time and time again that it is unable to provide a safe environment for the individuals being detained there. In the past two years alone, the facility has experienced multiple chicken pox and mumps outbreaks. Dozens of individuals at the facility have been afflicted by these diseases and hundreds have been forced to quarantine.

The COVID-19 pandemic has only exacerbated the need for state inspection in order to better contain and stop the spread of the COVID and other illnesses and diseases. According to recently released data from CDPHE, the GEO Detention Facility has experienced a COVID-19 outbreak. Data provided by the office of Congressman Jason Crow confirmed that the GEO facility has had trouble stopping the spread of COVID-19. This finding was confirmed by the office of Congressman Jason Crow. His office found that there were 11 COVID-19 cases among those detained at the facility as of May 28. Furthermore, at least five staff at the facility had tested positive for COVID-19 as of May 20.

At Center for Health Progress, we strongly believe that all people, no matter where they come from or how they got here, deserve the opportunity to live a healthy life. Unfortunately, individuals who are detained at the GEO Detention Facility in Aurora are being denied this opportunity when they have a legal right to health care services when they need them. In fact, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, their health is in more jeopardy now than ever. Inspections conducted by CDPHE will help provide much-needed oversight to these facilities. It is with our full support and we ask you to vote in support of HB20-1409, CDPHE Inspection of Penal Institutions. Thank you.

Thank you Chair and members of the committee:

My name is Alison Quinn-Beitscher. I am a nurse practitioner at Clinica Tepeyac, a community health center in Denver, Colorado. We are members of the Coalition for Immigrant Health. Center for Health Progress formed the Coalition in 2016 with the purpose of securing the safety and well-being of immigrants and their families across Colorado. This growing group, currently representing over 40 organizations and 100 individuals, works together toward universal access to health care by centering the needs and perspectives of immigrants. I am testifying today on behalf of Clinica Tepeyac and the Coalition for Immigrant Health in support of HB20-1409 CDPHE Inspections Of Penal Institutions.

I see many patients from immigrant families who come into our clinic for the treatment of general physical health issues. In our appointments together, patients sometimes grow tearful because they have family members who have recently been taken into detention. Obviously, this is trying on their physical and mental health and is made worse in a pandemic. Not only do our patients not know when they will be reunited with their families, they also fear that their relatives will become sick with COVID-19 while in detention. As a provider, it is difficult to treat patients' chronic health conditions when they are living in daily fear for the health and safety of their families. The priority is the well-being of loved ones. All other basic needs understandably fall by the way-side.

I became a provider because I believe health care is a basic human right. No matter who they are, everyone in our society deserves to have high quality access to health care and to be safe and free from harm. That is why I am asking you to please support HB20-1409 CDPHE Inspections of Penal Institutions. This is the least we can do to protect our immigrant community. Thank you for your consideration.

6/3/20

Colorado General Assembly:

We are urging you to pass state policy to prevent a public health crisis in immigrant detention centers across Colorado. Colorado must conduct inspections of all facilities that are detaining immigrants for civil immigration purposes, including the Aurora GEO Detention Center, and the Devereux child detention facility for unaccompanied minors.

It's not just the moral thing to do, it is about the protection of all Coloradans from preventable outbreak and transmission of infectious diseases like COVID-19. Some facilities are currently able to escape state inspections, making it so there is no way for the state to ensure that they are meeting state health standards and are adequately addressing the unprecedented dangers of COVID-19. Medical professionals around the world have made clear that this virus will not just go away; a vaccine for this novel coronavirus is still a year to a year and a half away.

Right now, these facilities have shown an inability to provide an adequate level of basic medical care even absent a world-wide pandemic. The GEO Detention facility in Aurora has been responsible for several outbreaks of communicable diseases over the past few years, such as mumps, chickenpox, and measles; diseases that are preventable by vaccines. After each illness outbreak, GEO did not improve on the health conditions of the facility, or their processes for medical response. They have had several opportunities to change their procedures and improve their conditions, yet another illness outbreak would always follow the last. Over the past decade, two people have died in this facility from medical neglect.

The Devereux child detention facility is detaining children on behalf of the federal government who have survived trauma in their home countries, during their migration. The intake processes for these children are severely underdeveloped; medical evaluations are being conducted by nurses at the facility who are not properly trained to evaluate the kids. They are not testing the kids for sexually transmitted diseases, communicative diseases, parasitic infections, etc. Not only that, but none of the staff are trained on trauma informed care and there is no child psychologist on staff to provide mental health care. It was only after complaints that the facility hired a mental health provider as a consultant, however, they are not fully being integrated to provide this care to the children. Additionally, they have nurses who are not properly trained doing medical evaluations on the children, and there have been frequent complaints about children not receiving medication.

These conditions are unacceptable. Every person held in the state of Colorado should be ensured a basic level of public health and safety. We owe our community members who are in detention, or who have loved ones in detention, the very minimum assurance that these detention facilities will be held to the same standard as any penal institution in the state. Colorado must bring these facilities under state jurisdiction immediately for the safety of detainees, staff, and our larger community.

Respectfully,

Lizeth Chacon  
Daniela Villareal

NEIL HARLAN  
Amy kafuuma

Xochilt Alamillo  
Daniel Sauve

Theresa Hayes  
Ms. Monica Acosta  
Marco Dorado  
Candace Johnson  
Maria uriostegui  
Ms. Michele Soli  
Lee Ann Gott  
CelestÃ© Martinez  
Billy Husher Jr.  
Serena Vandenberg  
Isaias Vasquez  
Blanca Trejo  
Michelle Huizar  
Iain Wilson  
maxine knife chief  
Rev. Anne Dunlap  
Dominic Lopez  
Karin Henninger  
JoAnne Cusick  
Katherine Land  
tami bonos  
Armando Sotelo  
Aaron Taylor  
Evelyn Vann  
Lynn lawson  
Amelia Power  
Monet Leleua Smith  
Filaree Moore  
Hector Ramirez  
Daniel Jackson  
Greta Nason  
Leslie Young  
Jana Everett  
teresa brummett  
Carisa Olmos  
Andrew Hansen  
Rebecca Carpenter  
Charlie Shae  
claudia ramirez  
Mark Cohen  
Kelly Carter  
Roshan Bliss  
Neil DiMuccio  
James Bealer  
Helen Bushnell

Donald Buley  
Bryant Plank  
Z. Clifton  
Ms. Chloe Johnson  
Angela Phelan  
Amy Palace  
Antony Hebblethwaite  
Elizabeth Suttle Murphy  
Sheree Brown  
Connor Thurston  
Helen Rigmaiden  
Sheryl Sadler  
Khor Johnson  
Sofia Vidal  
Zach hykan  
Nichole Sierra-Lawrence  
Mandy Gray  
Tom Grushka  
Renee Sanders  
Davian Gagne  
Mary Grushka  
Joel Schmidt  
Julie Duncan  
Rev Carol Meredith  
Christopher Wheeler  
Amanda Romero  
Ms. Nancy Rosas  
Mr. Felipe Vieyra  
Ms. Patti Lohman  
Maria Ricalday Aguilar  
Ms. Diane Otsuka  
David Kelly  
Bianca Garcia  
Justin Conyers  
Mrs. Josefina Kazmierczak  
Mr. Saadia Behar  
Merrill Arnie Carter  
Walt Geisel III  
Anna Jansen  
Endale Geta  
Amy Siegel  
Viviana Acevedo  
Lizeth Chacon  
Zachary Kopp  
Louisa Silverman

Dalila Lopez  
Robel Worku  
Daniel Perreira  
Mac Liman  
Arnie Schultz  
Ana Rodriguez  
Feven Enkuselasse  
Jeanna Lovato  
Jordan Garcia  
Cristina Lopez  
Lauren Mares  
Mariela Guereca  
Robel Worku  
Marlene Palomar  
Ricki Runions  
Joseph Zarrella  
Crystal Sierra  
Mo Adams  
ElizaBeth Whittington  
Daniel Ponce De Leon  
Arnie Schultz  
Shira Hereld  
Aleah Lopez  
Jordan Arriaga  
Ariel Avila  
danielle alanis  
Tiare Solis  
Rosalina Roacho  
Jack Flotte  
Kelly Stone  
Kim Smith  
Martina Will  
Christy Montoya  
Joan Presky  
Mallory Connors  
Doris Hernandez  
Haleigh Manriquez Luna  
Jon Eaton  
Jessica Davis  
Karen Bailey-Barbour  
Cindy Neri  
Brian Fauver  
Stephanie Hogan  
Vivian Reeves  
Celeste Martinez

Anna Nickerson  
Savannah Delavega  
Aimee Luevano  
RHONDA CEPEDA  
Mishaela Bishop  
Louie Pinkerton  
Matthew Candelaria  
Umaima Jafri  
Raquel Lane-Arellano  
Amena Meraj  
Mariana Diaz  
Uzma Jafri  
Mona Baig  
Emma Bliesener  
Anam Meraj  
Sabiha Khan  
Asma Ahmad  
Fatima Khan  
Shahnila Ahmad  
Teyebeh Bashir  
Bilauis Billoo  
Nausheen Syed  
Marya Bangee  
Sarah Dar  
Merium Khan  
Mouada Labanieh  
Cindy Arias  
Matthew McLean  
joe deras  
Rachael Ingalla  
Caitlin Guerrie  
Hannah Gregor-hinojos  
Liam McClelland  
Nadya Aweinat  
Adrian Felix  
Dahlia Chavez  
Andrew Stemwedel  
Yara Tovar  
Isabel Villalon  
Lee Ann Gott  
Christian Jackson  
Beatriz Vazquez  
Wendy Howell  
Elizabeth Wagner  
Benjamin Bull

Alejandro Arrieta  
Kensy Serrano  
Ms. Danielle Short  
Ainslie ONeil  
Jessely Chaparro  
Ms. Jeanette Vizguerra  
Anastasia Lovato  
Evalina Kirkpatrick  
Ellory Boyd  
Maddy Fischer  
Caroline Atuk-derrick  
Sage Mayer  
Michael Rollin  
Sasha Laugen  
Michele Weindling  
Sanjida Akter  
Audranae Rodriguez  
Anita Romero  
Maradeysy Bustos  
Nancy Hasabelnaby  
Shamine Faryan  
Nate Martinez  
Mickey Munley  
Kyle Lopez  
Barbara Trujillo  
Justin Reeves  
Kim Hoelke  
Ryan Alden  
Samantha Austin  
JOELLE BRIDGES  
Neil Curran  
Rachel Goldstein  
leysha Williams  
Maritza Bustos  
Shane Griffin  
Miguel Herrada  
Joseph Gaye  
Tori McHugh  
Andrew McClellan  
Elise Saniuk  
Owens Smith  
Maeve Oâ€™Donnell Pax  
Angelo Nিকে  
Bruce Garlick  
Carley Moravek

Christopher Williams  
Ashley Stillwell-Hasan  
Neema Mohammed  
Bassett Johnson  
Starr Vinci  
Ayesha Khalid  
Reno Carollo  
Ryan Burkle  
Marwo Suleiman  
Arrbie Sabtula  
Chris Steele  
Elizabeth Herring  
Liam Grove  
Devon Reynolds  
Aaron Eisenberg  
Samia Lopa  
Kate Compton  
Caralia Panizzon  
Danielle Perea  
Jomana Al  
Rashid Sadiq  
Mona Bahhur  
Suzy Alfahham  
Rula Abutayeh  
Christine Chady  
Sana Hummos  
Roula Awa  
Sam Zaidat  
Hatem Elhady  
Houda Albakri  
Amal Kanan  
Jalal Kanan  
Ghada Elkhatib  
Mina Ayoub  
  
Mielat Asrat  
Dinia Medhkour  
David Kelly  
JaLen Ayers  
Wendy Ondrus Debian  
Alison Coombs  
Troy Valentine  
Christy Strach  
Caitlynn Zall  
Kristin Cartee

Hayley Banyai-Becker  
Shawn Fausett  
Paul Cartee  
Amelia Linett  
Emma Piller  
Matt McCormack  
Cynthia Nielsen  
Ethan Stone  
Tammie Betti  
Eric Schultz  
Dalila Lopez  
Farah Broomandi  
Emily Burkhardt  
Holly Harper-Smith  
Kunle Taiwo  
Ethan Schultz  
Ilissa Romero  
NINA ABERNATHY  
Lee Ann Ann Gott  
Taylor Goodman  
Priscilla Cruz Moreno  
Omar Montgomery  
Michael Parrish  
Jose Carmona  
Sonya Lunder  
Sandra Schultz

Victoria Wheeler  
Yemane Woldesilassie  
Abdul Nizam Abdul Samadh  
Nicole Johnston  
Morgan Langhammer  
Kathy Groth  
Marna Ares  
Kaitlin Wasik  
Juan Marcano  
Amy Long

Margee Cannon  
Heather Colby  
Linda Metsger  
Alex Yanish  
Eliza Greene

Sara Nye  
Rochelle Cohen  
Rebecca Hanes  
cynthia castrohenry  
Diana Walbrun  
Laura Quinto  
Amy Palace  
Cecilia Burns  
Kristen Andersen  
Sarah Jackson  
Kenneth DeBacker  
Douglas Hose  
Billy Husher Jr  
Kathryn Rose  
Dianne Thiel  
Noah Stout  
Anna Wermuth  
Fran Aguirre  
JoLynn Jarboe  
Marlon Nunez  
Rebecca Kreidler  
Regina Olivero  
Erika Church  
Richard Creswell  
Risa Tatarsky  
Georgia Mattingly  
Mike Clapman  
Beverly Jahn  
Colleen Johnston  
Bob Norris  
Alesia Bernard  
Ronald Forthofer  
Christina Botzum

Donna Olson  
Schuyler Trowbridge  
Kay Jay  
Lisa Kunkel  
Nadia Kalman  
Amanda Rea  
Brittney Buckley  
Anastasia Hill  
Sarah Slater  
Michael Neil  
Roberta McClure

Elizabeth Suttle  
Becca Knight  
Andy Coco  
Theresa Hayes  
Robbie Marquez  
Ryan Dailey  
Chris Davis  
April Young  
Symona Ruffin  
Leanne Wheeler  
Crystal Murillo  
Michael Himawan  
John Ronquillo  
Erin Lackore  
Julio Mendoza  
Jack Flotte  
Megan Connolly  
Camila Restrepo  
Gregory Verzosa  
Cleo Dioletis  
Martina Will de Chaparro  
Hayley Bubb  
Desiree Kane  
YVONNE MORADO  
Laura Faraone  
Oscar Lucero  
Zach Stephens  
Kate Compton  
Jose Carmona  
Karlton Culig

Paolo Solorzano  
Rosemary Conder  
Alvaro Marquez  
Melanie Kerwien  
Ana Sanchez  
Ananiya Asrat  
Azaria Asrat  
Aiden Andersen  
Marirose Bernal  
Danielle Perea  
Ken Wagner  
Katey Funderburgh  
Elisabeth Saniuk

Amber Clemetson  
Emily Marshall  
Juan Marcano  
Anne Misak  
Dylan Mori  
Emilio Fernandez  
Max Funk  
Julie Laven  
Rorey King  
Paolo Solorzano  
Angie Alvarado  
Claudia Woodman  
Nora Spielman  
Liz Mahar  
Errynn Rodgers  
John Nunez  
Erin Kania  
Paige Short  
Paige Short  
Andrea Correa  
LAURA BAKER  
Frank Lewis  
Janice Zelazo  
Tom Parson  
Hayley Stewart  
Richard Creswell  
Michael Neil  
Jon Perkins  
Katie Ehrlich  
Risa Tatarsky  
Feven Enkuselasse  
Mike Clapman  
Denis Ngochi  
Brian Colon  
Colin McIntosh  
Charlotte Ridge  
Danielle Mangas  
Jacob Pelletier  
Jo Armendariz  
Chance Neatherlin  
Andrea Utt  
Margot Holmes  
Nikki Allen  
Josh Goldstein  
Sara Fitouri

Juan C. Gallegos  
Michelle Roxbury  
Jonah Vallez  
Vita Floyd-Lantz  
Vita Floyd -Lantz  
Erin Klein  
Alyssa Guzman  
Francisco Gallegos  
Erin Klein  
Francisco Gallegos  
Alyssa Guzman  
Marilyn Bredar  
Wendy Montenegro  
Cristina Lopez  
Caryn Oppenheim  
Amy Lowright  
Jennifer McInerney  
Nancy York  
Ekaterina Barkova  
Sarah Anderson  
Roxanne Doanne  
Michelle Driessnack  
Dawn Magnusson

May 27, 2020

Colorado General Assembly Members  
200 East Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Members of the Colorado General Assembly,

We are writing to you in support of the passage of a bill to ensure that everyone under the care of our State and in our communities are treated with care and respect, including people who are detained. We are in the midst of a fight to make sure that our community members in detention are treated with basic dignity and have access to needed medical care and livable conditions.

Currently, the state has little to no inspection authority of facilities contracting with the federal government, which means these facilities are not held to the same standards as other penal institutions in Colorado. Whether or not someone is being held on a civil immigration case vs. a robbery case should not impact their standards of care. We as medical professionals and Colorado community members believe our state has the responsibility to ensure the health and safety of individuals in all penal or detention facilities, because it is a matter of public health.

The accountability provided by this legislation could help reduce disease outbreaks occurring in private detention facilities, like the recently opened private Devereux facility in Westminster, Colorado that houses unaccompanied minors has demonstrated an inability to care for the children detained at that facility with a lack of mental health support, improper check-ups and untrained health staff. The recent spread of COVID-19 also leaves us concerned for the wellness of their child detainees, staff, and the surrounding community.

Another facility of concern is the private, for-profit GEO Detention facility in Aurora, Colorado. This facility in particular has proven itself to be inhospitable for the people it detains. There are multiple reports of inadequate health treatments, consistent medical neglect, and psychiatric torture. Over the past 12 months alone, there have been multiple communicative disease outbreaks that are a result of poor health conditions and a lack of medical care for those detained inside of the center. The several outbreaks of mumps, measles, and chickenpox over the last year have resulted in several quarantines, keeping families from visits with their detained loved ones, and preventing detainees from access to their attorneys.

COVID-19 has posed yet another of a series of public health threats to those in GEO/ICE detention and our surrounding community, especially since we received confirmation that 2 detainees have tested positive for the virus as of the week of May 17th. It is still unclear as to when GEO/ICE became aware of the positive COVID-19 tests, and what the delay was in reporting it to congressionals and community, which increases concern that this facility will not disclose the severity of the outbreak as it grows. Two positive cases is confirmation that this virus is already running rampant in the facility. Carlos Franco-Paredes, infectious disease expert and Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of Colorado insists that "two cases means many more. In other words, two cases is an outbreak."

The positive cases are suspected to be the result of an ICE transfer of a detainee from the Sterling correctional facility in Colorado ( a facility well known to have had hundreds of positive COVID-19 cases) to the GEO facility in Aurora. The transfer of a detainee who was showing symptoms upon arrival to GEO is telling of ICE and GEO's mismanagement and mishandling of detainee and staff protection during this pandemic. Their systems and procedures have disastrously failed even before the added risk of a deadly virus, with the preventable deaths of Kamyar Samimi and Evalin-Ali Mandza.. In light of the current pandemic, and the ongoing spread of COVID-19 happening in the facility as this letter is written, we are a mere days away from this facility becoming a hotspot for viral transmission, and weeks away from it becoming a death camp.

As health professionals we are extremely concerned about the situation happening at these detention facilities and the threat they pose to the community at large. The several illness outbreaks inside of this center should be regarded with the severity of a public health crisis, as our immigrant community in detention is suffering from preventable and life-threatening diseases. We believe this bill will be a step toward mitigating the poor conditions in the center, by more regularly holding these facilities accountable for the way detainees are treated and bringing them in line with standards already adhered to by the rest of the state.

We the below signers urge you to support this legislation and work with us to ensure that everyone in our state receives the medical care they need.

In Solidarity,

Ann Fairbairn, Inner City Health Center

Alan J Winter, Retired Registered Nurse

Albert Zook, Private Practice

Alex Kim, University of Colorado College of Nursing

Angela Kantor, CU Anschutz Medical Campus

Anne Steele, The Denver Hospice

Arnie Schultz, Ph.D. Retired from Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Denver

Bitwire Kamezire, University of Colorado College of Nursing

Bob Segura, Private Practice

Bonnie Moya, Regis University

Carlos Franco-Paredes, Infectious Diseases Physician, Anschutz Medical Center, University of Colorado

Caroline m Thompson, Home Health Care

Carrie Brouillette, University of Colorado College of Nursing

Cindy Belz, Retired

Crystal Cormier-Bradley, Colorado Technical University

Crystal Santos, University of Colorado

Christina Marie Pilonetti, Comfort Keepers

Dan Moen, First Universalist Church of Denver

Danielle Loeb, MD, MPH, University of Colorado School of Medicine  
Daviyon Houston, Metropolitan State University  
Dawn Magnusson, University of Colorado  
Douglas A Fairbairn, Inner City Health Center  
Ekaterina Barkova, CU Anschutz Physical Therapy Program student  
Elizabeth Davila, Colorado Mesa University  
Emely Contreras, University of Northern Colorado  
Evelyn Bueno, CU Anschutz Medical Campus  
Evelyn Hutt, MD, University of Colorado Hospital  
Genna Bonfiglio, University of Colorado School of Medicine  
Grace C Fan, University of Colorado and Children's Hospital  
Hannah Paul, University of Colorado School of Dental Medicine  
Isabelle M Olson, University of Colorado College of Nursing  
Jessica Gonzalez-Avita, University of Colorado College of Nursing  
Jessie R Read, Jessie Read Therapy, LLC  
Joshua Molina, Aims Community College  
Joshua Scurles, CU School of Medicine, Department of Physical Therapy  
Julee Karcz, Physician Assistant, Rose Medical Center  
Julie Reichenberger, Licensed Professional Counselor  
Kate Crowe, University of Denver  
Kelly Wiepking, Licensed Professional Therapist  
Kimberly Pineda, University of Colorado  
Leah Jo Carnine, Casa De Salud  
Lisa Templeton, The Interpersonal Healing Center  
Lorena Fajardo, Children's Hospital  
Margaret McCready, Colorado University Anschutz Campus CON  
Mark Rush, Ph.D, Retired Clinical Psychologist  
Marisa Duran, University of Colorado College of Nursing  
Marissa Holliday, University of Colorado, Anschutz Medical Campus  
Maureen Daly, MD, MPH, Colorado Public Health Consultant  
Melisa Mireles Caraveo, Metropolitan State University  
Michael Harris-Love, University of Colorado  
Michelle Driessnack, CU Anschutz Doctorate of Physical Therapy student  
Omarah Macias, University of Colorado  
Ona Ahumada, AfterHours Urgent Care  
Penelope Thron-Weber, Private Practice  
Rebecca Barker, Casper College student of nursing  
Renee Ostertag, Green Tree Mind  
Shannon C Radak, Nurse Practitioner  
Stacy Martinez, University of Colorado  
Susan Piper, Retired Registered Nurse  
Taylor Villar, medical professional student  
Terese Schissler, Retired  
Will R. Logan, Trauma therapist, Licensed Clinical Social Worker

# SUBMITTED WRITTEN TESTIMONY

**Committee** Senate State, Veterans, & Military Affairs  
**Meeting Date** 06/10/2020 Upon Adjournment

<b>Registered</b>	<b>Bill Number</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Position on Bill</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Testifying</b>	<b>Text of Testimony</b>
6/9/2020 18:42	HB20-1409	Alison	Quinn-Beitscher.	For	Center For Health Progress	Open	Uploaded file	
6/9/2020 18:42	HB20-1409	Alison	Quinn-Beitscher.	For	Center For Health Progress	Open	Uploaded file	
6/9/2020 18:12	HB20-1409	Alma	Perez Aguirre	For	Self	Open	Uploaded file	
6/9/2020 18:13	HB20-1409	Ana	Banuelos	For	Self	Open	Uploaded file	
6/9/2020 18:27	HB20-1409	Ana	Rodriguez	For	Colorado People's Alliance (COPA)	Open	Uploaded file	
6/9/2020 18:09	HB20-1409	Baltazar Abel	Sosa Valenzuela	For	Self	Open	Uploaded	
6/9/2020 18:38	HB20-1409	Chris	Klene	For	Center For Health Progress	Open	Uploaded file	
6/9/2020 18:16	HB20-1409	Claudia	Robles	For	Self	Open	Uploaded file	
6/9/2020 18:11	HB20-1409	Daud Ali	Mohamed	For	Self	Open	Uploaded file	
6/9/2020 18:26	HB20-1409	Dr. Carlos	Franco Paredes	For	Self	Open	Uploaded file	
6/9/2020 18:23	HB20-1409	Dr. Jeanine	Young	For	Self	Open	Uploaded file	
6/9/2020 18:28	HB20-1409	Feven	Berhabu	For	Colorado People's Alliance (COPA)	Open	Uploaded file	

Registered	Bill Number	First Name	Last Name	Position on Bill	Representing	Status	Testifying	Text of Testimony
6/9/2020 18:58	HB20-1409	Feven	Berhanu	For	COPA	Open	Uploaded file	We've heard countless stories, usually from loved ones on the outside first, of packed cells, lack of PPE, and feverish people going untested amid a global pandemic. This bill is a good first step to increasing accountability for these agencies and private corporations who do not value the lives of our community members. However, it should not be forgotten or lost that this detention is not essential. Private immigration detention is a waste of our taxpayer dollars and will leave a long and dark scar on our history as one of the greatest human rights abuses in American history. Member of the committee, I urge you to vote in support of HB20-1409 to increase our state's jurisdiction and ability to hold these facilities accountable. Thank you."
6/9/2020 19:00	HB20-1409	Feven	Berhanu	For	COPA	Open	Uploaded file	We've heard countless stories, usually from loved ones on the outside first, of packed cells, lack of PPE, and feverish people going untested amid a global pandemic. This bill is a good first step to increasing accountability for these agencies and private corporations who do not value the lives of our community members. However, it should not be forgotten or lost that this detention is not essential. Private immigration detention is a waste of our taxpayer dollars and will leave a long and dark scar on our history as one of the greatest human rights abuses in American history. Member of the committee, I urge you to vote in support of HB20-1409 to increase our state's jurisdiction and ability to hold these facilities accountable. Thank you."

Registered	Bill Number	First Name	Last Name	Position on Bill	Representing	Status	Testifying	Text of Testimony
6/9/2020 18:32	HB20-1409	Jordan T.	Garcia	For	American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)	Open	Uploaded file	
6/9/2020 18:15	HB20-1409	Maricela	Santos Hernandez	For	Self	Open	Uploaded file	
6/9/2020 18:58	HB20-1409	Raquel	Lane-Arellano	For	Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition (CIRC)	Open	Submitted text	<p>“Thank you members of the committee for taking the time to read this testimony. My name is Raquel Lane-Arellano and I am speaking on behalf of the Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition to urge you to vote in support of HB20-1409. At a time when we speak collectively about the need to ‘protect the most vulnerable among us,’ it is imperative that we do not forget those who are detained against their will in Aurora, Colorado at the privately run immigration detention facility. The neglect in medical care and treatment and the crowded and poor conditions at this facility should be upsetting to everyone who calls this state home. We should make no mistake, although immigration is a civil matter, these community members are at risk of losing their lives due to the blatant disregard shown continuously by the GEO detention facility staff and ICE.</p> <p>We’ve heard countless stories, usually from loved ones on the outside first, of packed cells, lack of PPE, and feverish people going untested amid a global pandemic. This bill is a good first step to increasing accountability for these agencies and private corporations who do not value the lives of our community members. However, it should not be forgotten or lost that this detention is not essential. Private immigration detention is a waste of our taxpayer dollars and will leave a long and dark scar on our history as one of the greatest human rights abuses in American history. Member of the committee, I urge you to vote in support of HB20-1409 to increase our state’s jurisdiction and ability to hold these facilities accountable. Thank you.”</p>

Registered	Bill Number	First Name	Last Name	Position on Bill	Representing	Status	Testifying	Text of Testimony
6/9/2020 18:35	HB20-1409	(N/A)	Health Professionals	For	Students for Immigrant Health and Rights (SIHR) and Doctors for Camp Closure (D4CC)	Open	Uploaded file	
6/9/2020 19:04	HB20-1409	(N/A)	Medical Professionals	For	Self	Open	Uploaded file	We've heard countless stories, usually from loved ones on the outside first, of packed cells, lack of PPE, and feverish people going untested amid a global pandemic. This bill is a good first step to increasing accountability for these agencies and private corporations who do not value the lives of our community members. However, it should not be forgotten or lost that this detention is not essential. Private immigration detention is a waste of our taxpayer dollars and will leave a long and dark scar on our history as one of the greatest human rights abuses in American history. Member of the committee, I urge you to vote in support of HB20-1409 to increase our state's jurisdiction and ability to hold these facilities accountable. Thank you."