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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.