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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
JIMMY GOMEZ
34TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Subcommittee on Tax
Subcommittee on Worker and Family
Support

DEPUTY WHIP FOR POLICY

CONGRESSIONAL DADS CAUCUS
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CONGRESSIONAL RENTERS CAUCUS
Founder & Chair

June 8, 2025

The Honorable Kristi Noem
Secretary of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Secretary Noem,

What happened on June 7 at the ICE facility in the Roybal Federal Building in downtown Los Angeles was a flagrant, unlawful obstruction of congressional oversight.

Members of Congress including myself, Reps. Lou Correa, Luz Rivas, and Norma Torres, were denied entry to inspect the facility, despite our explicit legal authority to do so. Denying Members of Congress access to a federal detention facility is a direct violation of federal law.

I remind you of Section 527(a) of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (Public Law 118-47), which states:

“None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Homeland Security by this Act may be used to prevent... a Member of Congress... from entering, for the purpose of conducting oversight, any facility operated by or for the Department of Homeland Security used to detain or otherwise house aliens...”

It continues:

“Nothing in this section may be construed to require a Member of Congress to provide prior notice of the intent to enter... for the purpose of conducting oversight.”

This is not a gray area. This is black letter law—and your department broke it.

I have also received alarming reports that individuals, including asylum seekers and families, are being held in basement holding cells for up to 24 hours, deprived of basic necessities like food, water, and sunlight. These conditions are not only inhumane—they are morally bankrupt and legally indefensible.

Let me be absolutely clear about what will happen next:

- I demand immediate, unimpeded access to the Roybal facility for Members of Congress, including interviews with detainees, walkthroughs of the full premises, and access to all areas.
- I expect a written explanation from your office detailing who authorized the illegal denial of entry and on what grounds.
- I expect full compliance with Section 527 moving forward, not just in Los Angeles, but in every DHS facility nationwide.

Detaining human beings under these conditions has no place in this country—and I will not stand for it.

I expect your immediate response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jimmy Gomez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress