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Honorable members of the House Judiciary Committee, Reps. Sanchez, Bynum, Sprenger, Barker, Greenlick, Spence, Lewis, Moore-Green, Noble, Piluso, Power:

I oppose HB 4121, "Relating to correctional facility contracts."

It weakens the ability of ICE and the US Department of Homeland Security to carry out their duties to protect the safety and well-being of citizens. This bill, if passed, would be especially harmful at a time of huge illegal immigration threatening the sovereignty of our country.

**ICE defends itself** in this statement: "... Through an aggressive inspections program, ICE ensures its facilities follow ICE's [National Detention Standards](#) (NDS). ERO's Detention Standards Compliance Unit ensures that detainees in ICE custody reside in safe, secure and humane environments and under appropriate conditions of confinement. ..."

(<https://www.ice.gov/detention-management#wcm-survey-target-id>)

Dan Cadman, a retired INS / ICE official with thirty years of government experience, who writes now for the Center for Immigration Studies, said recently: "Private detention assistance exists because businesses can offer those services more quickly and often more cheaply than governments can do the job themselves." – (<https://cis.org/Cadman/Bank-America-Gets-Woke-Disinvests-Private-Detention>)

The Center has also recently published a fact sheet, **Why Immigration Detention Is Necessary**, (<https://cis.org/Fact-Sheet/Why-Immigration-Detention-Necessary>) which points out many good reasons. Here is the summation, and I have highlighted especially pertinent ones:

- Immigration detention is civil and for the purpose of ensuring appearance of aliens at removal proceedings, and for the actual removal itself.
- Congress recognizes both qualitative and quantitative problems associated with illegal immigration in the processes and detention mechanisms it directs.
- **Claims of asylum and fear of return are a major loophole that result in release of aliens who then disappear.**
- **Lack of detention space to hold aliens also contributes to the collapse of immigration and border controls, resulting in a system of "catch-and-release" that encourages more aliens to attempt to enter illegally or to overstay their visas.**
- **Immigration and border security controls are at a crisis point, due to dismaying case backlogs currently clogging the immigration courts (more than 750,000 cases) and the number of fugitives (900,000) under orders of removal who are loose on the streets of the United States.**

- Migrant caravans may force both legislators and the administration to take effective remedial action to close legal loopholes and to declare a mass immigration emergency to ensure continued control of our external border(s).

**Members of the House Judiciary Committee**, unless you believe in completely open borders, you must understand that controls over immigration are essential to a nation and must be enforced in the most effective and least costly ways. Essentially, I'm asking you whether you believe in the U.S. as a sovereign nation in control of who enters this country, or do you believe anyone who wishes to settle here may do so, at his/her volition, without any limits. If you care for this country, its heritage and future, I urge you to vote NO on this harmful bill, HB 4121.