

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 24, 2025

The Honorable Kristi Noem
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr Ave SE
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Noem:

We write to express our strong concerns about recent reports of women unable to access or outright denied menstrual products in Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) facilities. These reports raise serious questions about the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) treatment of detainees and its compliance with detention standards.

In June 2025, a woman detained in a Burlington, Massachusetts, field office was allegedly refused suitable menstrual products.¹ When she bled through her clothing, an ICE guard allegedly gave her an extra bottle of water and told her to "use it to wash up."² In July 2025, when a woman in Baker County Detention Center in Florida asked for menstruation hygiene products, officers allegedly dismissed her request and placed her in solitary confinement for not complying with commands that she did not understand.³ In August 2025, a woman held at 26 Federal Plaza in New York City was allegedly forced to wear blood-soaked clothes for several days and told to share only two pads among multiple women.⁴

ICE has reportedly sent some women to facilities that are not designated for female detainees and lack accommodations for menstruation. In July 2025, women in Krome Detention Center, a men's facility in Miami, Florida, were reportedly kept in a small, windowless room originally designed for visitors because this was the only way to separate them from the larger male population.⁵ Officers allegedly rationed menstrual products, forced the women to share toilets with male detainees, and prohibited the women from bathing.⁶ In September 2025, after an ICE raid on a Hyundai battery plant in Ellabell, Georgia, men and women detained in Folkston ICE

¹ Wasser, M. (2025, June 11). Women in ICE's Burlington office subject to 'inhumane' and unsanitary conditions, lawyers say. *WBUR News*. <https://www.wbur.org/news/2025/06/11/inhumane-detainments-burlington-ice-dhs-women>.

² Wasser.

³ *Doe v. Rhoden et al.* No. 3:25-cv-00804 (M.D. Fla. July 16, 2025). <https://rfkhumanrights.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/1-Complaint.pdf>.

⁴ Garcia, A. (2025, August 13). Judge orders DHS to improve conditions at New York City facility holding detained migrants. *ABC News*. <https://abcnews.go.com/US/federal-judge-mandates-conditions-new-york-city-migrant/story?id=124594245>.

⁵ Vagianos, A. (2025, July 31). What happens to the women ICE detains? *Huffington Post*. https://www.huffpost.com/entry/ice-detention-for-women-is-uniquely-cruel_n_688a681ee4b07dfa117f0372.

⁶ Vagianos.

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

Processing Center were reportedly crammed into one room with few toilets and zero privacy, creating “degrading conditions” for those menstruating.⁷

In all these facilities, additional issues, including overcrowding, medical neglect, and a lack of privacy, have reportedly created unsafe and unhygienic conditions for detainees.⁸ These disturbing reports show a pattern of denial of access to menstrual products and care.

We remind you that the provision of menstrual products is a basic standard of care that detention facilities—both ICE facilities and contracted facilities—must uphold. Current standards for ICE facilities and non-dedicated facilities require that detainees be provided “sufficient feminine hygiene items” and that the facilities replenish them on an as-needed basis.⁹ The United States Marshals Service’s Federal Performance-Based Detention Standards, which apply to U.S. Marshals’ facilities where ICE contracts beds, require that articles “for maintaining proper personal hygiene are available to all detainees.”¹⁰ Finally, federal law—specifically, the First Step Act, which Congress passed on a bipartisan basis and President Trump signed into law in 2018—requires the Bureau of Prisons, which is now holding ICE detainees in several facilities throughout the United States, to ensure free access to tampons and sanitary napkins “in a quantity that is appropriate to the healthcare needs of each prisoner.”¹¹

Insufficient access to menstrual products can result in negative health consequences, including infection and even long-term and/or life-threatening medical issues.¹² The failure by ICE to provide these products in a timely and consistent manner raises serious concerns about the

⁷ Rashid, R. [@koryodynasty]. (2025, September 16). 9/ Detention conditions were horrific: over 30 people were crammed into a single room with just 3 sinks and 4 toilets in an open area. Privacy was non-existent, creating degrading conditions for female detainees “who were menstruating.” [Image attached] [Post]. X. <https://x.com/koryodynasty/status/1967955461468197299>.

⁸ See, e.g., Adler, B. (2025, June 13). ‘Atrocious:’ lawyers, family and friends of detainees describe ICE detention. *USA Today*. <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2025/06/13/ice-detention-describe-horrible-conditions/84173121007/>; Villagran, L. (2025, March 23). Immigrant women describe ‘hell on earth’ in ICE detention. *USA Today*. <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2025/03/23/immigrant-women-hell-on-earth-trump-ice-detention/82029368007/>; and Ferré-Sadurní, L. (2025, August 8). ICE is holding migrants in crowded and unsanitary cells, suit claims. *The New York Times*. <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/08/08/nyregion/immigration-holding-cells-lawsuit-aclu.html>.

⁹ U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. (2011). *Performance-based detention standards 2011* (Revised 2016). Sec. 4.5, V, D. U.S. Department of Homeland Security. <https://www.ice.gov/detain/detention-management/2011>; U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. (2019). *National detention standards for non-dedicated facilities*. Sec 4.4, F. U.S. Department of Homeland Security. <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/detention-standards/2019/nds2019.pdf>.

¹⁰ U.S. Marshals Service. (2025). *Federal performance based detention standards* (Version 12). Sec F.4.4. U.S. Department of Justice. <https://www.usmarshals.gov/sites/default/files/media/document/federal-performance-based-detention-standards-12.pdf>.

¹¹ The First Step Act of 2018, 18 U.S.C. § 611 (2018).

¹² American Civil Liberties Union Foundations of California. (2020). *Barriers to reproductive justice while detained*. <https://www.aclunc.org/sites/default/files/Barriers%20to%20RJ%20while%20Detained%20and%20Key%20Standards.pdf>; Darivemula, S., Knittel, A., Flowers, L., Moore, S., Hall, B., Kelecha, H., Li, X., Ramaswamy, M., & Kelly, P. J. (2023). Menstrual equity in the criminal legal system. *Journal of Women’s Health*, 32(9), 927–931. <https://doi.org/10.1089/jwh.2023.0085>.

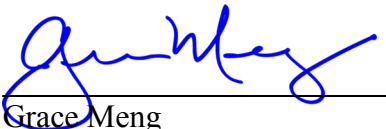
Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

adequacy of care provided in facilities and the treatment of detainees generally. Given these concerns, we demand answers from your department to the following questions:

1. How does DHS address the variability in detention standards across different facilities to ensure uniform access to hygiene products for detainees?
2. How does DHS monitor supplies of menstrual products and the frequency of replenishment in ICE facilities?
3. How are ICE facility staff trained to respond to detainees who request menstrual products?
4. What specific steps does DHS take to address deficiencies in facilities that are out of compliance with the department's detention standards?

We look forward to your prompt response to these questions.

Sincerely,



Grace Meng
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress



Yassamin Ansari
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515



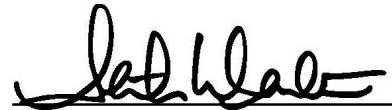
Andre Carson
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



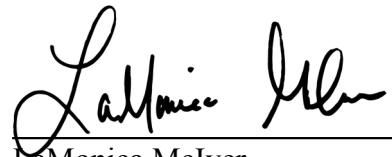
Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress



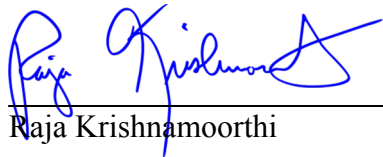
Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress



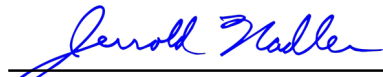
LaMonica McIver
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



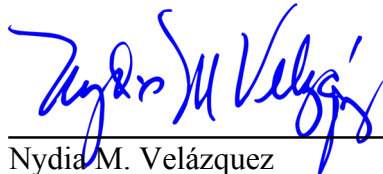
Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Dave Min
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



Valerie P. Foushee
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515



Robert Garcia
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Dan Goldman
Member of Congress