

RAÚL M. GRIJALVA
3RD DISTRICT, ARIZONA

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

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CONGRESSIONAL PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS
Co-CHAIR

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0307

WEBSITE: <http://grijalva.house.gov/>

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1511 LONGWORTH HOB
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
PHONE (202) 225-2435 | FAX (202) 225-1541

738 N. 5TH AVENUE, SUITE 110
TUCSON, AZ 85705
PHONE (520) 622-6788 | FAX (520) 622-0198

146 N. STATE AVENUE
P.O. Box 4105
SOMERTON, AZ 85350
PHONE (928) 343-7933 | FAX (928) 343-7949

13065 WEST McDOWELL ROAD, SUITE C-123
AVONDALE, AZ 85392
PHONE (623) 536-3388 | FAX (623) 748-0451

FACEBOOK: [Facebook.com/Rep.Grijalva](https://www.facebook.com/Rep.Grijalva)
TWITTER: [Twitter.com/RepRaulGrijalva](https://twitter.com/RepRaulGrijalva)

The Honorable Thomas S. Winkowski
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Winkowski:

I am concerned about increasing number of people being detained in Texas and released at a Greyhound Bus Station in Tucson, Arizona. I am concerned about the health and safety of everyone involved. While I agree the Department of Homeland Security should work to quickly process and release detainees who pose no threat; I fear there are many circumstances where people are not being treated humanely.

Over the Memorial Day weekend Immigrations and Customs Enforcement released hundreds of women and children in Tucson without adequate care or appropriate accommodations. It's been reported that requests for medical attention are not being addressed and many of the people released are dehydrated, hungry, and in need of medical care.

My office has been told children are being released without pants or shoes and several women are left wearing only a tank top because their sweaters were not returned to them upon release. My office has also been told people being released are not even informed they are in Tucson, Arizona and do not receive a list of services available in the community.

According to the ICE Field Handbook, "The time, point and manner of release from a facility shall be consistent with safety considerations and shall take into account special vulnerabilities. Prior to release, the detainee shall be notified of the upcoming release and provided an opportunity to make a free phone call to facilitate release arrangements. Facilities that are not within a reasonable walking distance of, or that are more than one mile from, public transportation shall transport detainees to local bus/train/subway stations prior to the time the last bus/train leaves such stations for the day... Detainees will be provided with a list of legal, medical, and social services that are available in the release community, and a list of shelter services available in the immediate area along with directions to each shelter."

In the joint statement released on May 28, 2014, ICE officials said they are working with CBP to make sure each family is able to place a phone call to make travel arrangements, to provide sack lunches, and work with the bus station to accommodate the influx of people.



However, according to the ICE Field Handbook these steps are all currently required, but do not appear to be standard procedures for the hundreds of people recently released in Tucson. ICE has also failed to address other pressing health and safety issues including: water, diapers, clothing, personal hygiene items, and shelter if travel arrangements can not be made immediately due to bus schedules and overcrowding. People are being dropped off late in the evening when it is no longer possible for them to travel that night requiring them to spend the night on the streets in Tucson. There is a clear lack of communication, planning, coordination, and effort to guarantee people are safe and have appropriate accommodations.

I am requesting a copy of the list of available services being provided to people released in Tucson. I am also requesting a detailed plan of how and when DHS will address the safety concerns of people being released.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Raúl M. Grijalva". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress