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The Honorable John Carter
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
B-307 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
1016 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0301

March 23, 2016

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ALASKA NATIVE AFFAIRS

Dear Chairman Carter and Ranking Member Roybal-Allard:

As you begin work on the fiscal year (FY) 2017 Homeland Security Appropriations bill, I urge you to include language that would prohibit funds from being used to provide medication to detainees who have been released from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) custody.

During a recent visit to an ICE facility in Arizona my staff was struck by the amazing amenities provided to the detainees there: beautiful outdoor recreation facilities, immediate access to high-quality healthcare and comprehensive medical screenings including x-rays, MRIs, and a number of other tests, and a cafeteria that would make most public schools jealous – all completely free of cost to the detainee. My staff immediately noticed the disparity between the level of care that we provide to these illegal immigrants and the care that we provide to our nation's veterans. While our veterans languish on waitlists, detainees receive 24-hour on-demand medical attention in state-of-the-art facilities and are even sent home with additional medication. According to the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement [Performance-Based National Detention Standards](#): "Upon release from ICE custody, the detainee shall receive up to a 30 day supply of medication as ordered by the prescribing authority." This type of expenditure is unacceptable when our national debt is over \$19 trillion and our own veterans cannot receive the medication that they need.

Furthermore, while I can understand the need to perform health screenings on detainees to ensure that we are not unduly exposed to foreign pathogens, it is absurd that we continue to pay for their medical care once they are returned home. It should be the responsibility of the individual or their home country to foot the bill for their medication, not American taxpayers. Accordingly, I ask that you include language similar to the following:

"Section ____ . None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to provide medication to any alien for use after release from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement custody.

I thank you for your consideration of this request, and for your leadership on the committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S." The signature is stylized and cursive.

Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S
Member of Congress