



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

THE DIRECTOR

April 3, 2014

The Honorable Bill Foster
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Foster:

Thank you for your letter regarding the 2015 budget request for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and specifically, your opposition to Congressionally-mandated requirements to maintain a minimum number of individuals in detention. I appreciate the time you took to share your views and your interest in the President's Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 Budget.

The Nation's economy is moving forward and businesses are creating jobs. Our top priority is accelerating that growth while expanding opportunity for all Americans. The President's FY 2015 Budget makes investments in critical areas such as education, research, clean energy, infrastructure, and national security that will strengthen the middle class, make America a magnet for jobs, and lay the foundation for economic growth, while continuing long-term deficit reduction. At the same time, the Budget takes key steps to both continue and enhance the Administration's efforts to deliver a government that is more effective and efficient.

In recognition of the important compromise reached by Congress in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 and the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014, the Budget adheres to the 2015 spending levels agreed to in the legislation and shows the tradeoffs and choices the President would make while keeping to those levels. However, the Budget also shows how to fully realize the President's vision for an economy that promotes opportunity for all Americans by including a fully paid for Opportunity, Growth, and Security Initiative – evenly split between defense and non-defense priorities – which presents additional investments to grow the economy and create jobs.

Consistent with prior Administration proposals, the Budget does not request the inclusion of appropriations language requiring ICE to maintain a specified minimum number of beds per day. The number of beds utilized by ICE should be based on actual demand, to include those for whom detention is required by law (i.e., mandatory detainees) and higher-priority, non-mandatory individuals. Lower-priority individuals should be placed in alternatives to detention programs, which may include electronic monitoring and supervision.

I look forward to working with you throughout the budget process. Thank you again for your letter. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Kristen J. Sarri, Associate Director for Legislative Affairs, at (202) 395-4790.

Sincerely,

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

Sylvia M. Burwell
Director

Identical Letters Sent to:

The Honorable Theodore E. Deutch
The Honorable Bill Foster
The Honorable Luis V. Gutierrez
The Honorable Mike Quigley
The Honorable Sam Farr
The Honorable Juan Vargas
The Honorable James McGovern
The Honorable James P. Moran
The Honorable Jared Polis
The Honorable Jan Schakowsky
The Honorable Raul Grijalva
The Honorable Tony Cardenas
The Honorable Lloyd Doggett
The Honorable Chellie Pingree
The Honorable Dina Titus
The Honorable Mark Pocan
The Honorable Alan Lowenthal
The Honorable Barbara Lee
The Honorable Charles Rangel
The Honorable Beto O'Rourke
The Honorable Keith Ellison
The Honorable Joaquin Castro
The Honorable Gwen Moore
The Honorable Betty McCollum
The Honorable Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
The Honorable Alan Grayson
The Honorable Lois Frankel
The Honorable Michelle Lujan Grisham