

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 16, 2026

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

Dear Secretary Mullin,

We are writing to oppose the State of Florida's Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles proposal to construct temporary detention facilities.

As Florida Highway Patrol continues participating in immigration enforcement, "Alligator Alcatraz" continues to make national news for its reported inhumane conditions, and Haitian communities across the state face deportation due to the loss of their Temporary Protected Status, transparency regarding the relationship between federal agencies and state governments is more important than ever.

We understand that the State of Florida's Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles recently issued a request for information (RFI) about temporary adult-detention facilities, with a submission deadline of August 10. The RFI describes these facilities as "similar to a detention center, comprised of buildings and other structures, where a detention facility contractor delivers secure residential support services under the oversight of the U.S. Government to house its detainees on a 24- hour per day, 7-day per week, 365 day per year basis."¹

We strongly oppose the construction of these facilities in Florida and urge DHS to not move forward with this proposal. Given the RIF's reference to federal oversight, we are requesting information about the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)'s role in this proposal. We request responses in writing no later than October 22, 2026.

- 1) Has the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles communicated with DHS regarding the proposed facilities?
 - a. If yes, please provide the dates and nature of those communications.
- 2) Has DHS communicated with any Florida state or local officials about the proposed facilities?
 - a. If yes, with whom and when?
 - b. If yes, please provide the nature of these communications.
- 3) What stage is the proposal currently in, including any site selection, contracting, permitting, or construction activities?
- 4) Will DHS perform environmental reviews prior to construction of any facility?
 - a. Will that review be open for open comment?

¹ Healy, Claire. "State Requests Vendors for Temporary Detention Sites in Florida." *Miami Herald*, www.miamiherald.com/news/local/immigration/article316789788.html. August 6, 2026.

- 5) Will DHS require that the State of Florida perform environmental reviews prior to the construction of any facilities?
- 6) What, if anything, has DHS committed to regarding the proposed facilities, including federal funding, personnel, operational oversight, or other support?
- 7) Which DHS components would be responsible for any federal oversight?
- 8) Has DHS entered into, or does it anticipate entering into, any agreement, memorandum of understanding, contract, or other arrangement with the State of Florida concerning these facilities?

Given the poor conditions reported at detention centers across Florida and the rest of the country over the past year, we have grown increasingly concerned with the unprecedented level of collaboration between DHS and local and state law enforcement. We once again urge the Department to not move forward with any plan to construct these temporary facilities.

Thank you for your attention to this serious matter.

Sincerely,



Maxwell Alejandro Frost
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



Lois Frankel
Member of Congress