

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 8494

To prohibit the Department of Homeland Security from entering into, modifying, extending, or renewing, any contract or intergovernmental service agreement to establish or operate any new immigration detention model, including the use of warehouses, modular facilities, soft-sided structures, tent systems, and processing centers.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 23, 2026

Ms. TLAIB (for herself, Mrs. McCLAIN DELANEY, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. NORTON, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. MORRISON, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. SALINAS, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mrs. GRIJALVA, and Mr. CASTRO of Texas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To prohibit the Department of Homeland Security from entering into, modifying, extending, or renewing, any contract or intergovernmental service agreement to establish or operate any new immigration detention model, including the use of warehouses, modular facilities, soft-sided structures, tent systems, and processing centers.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. PROHIBITION ON NEW IMMIGRATION MODELS.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

3 (1) The Department of Homeland Security, act-  
4 ing through U.S. Immigration and Customs En-  
5 forcement, has announced plans to spend approxi-  
6 mately \$38,300,000,000 to acquire and retrofit  
7 warehouses and industrial facilities into large-scale  
8 immigration detention centers.

9 (2) Such planned expansion includes the use of  
10 warehouses, modular facilities, soft-sided structures,  
11 tent systems, processing centers, or other alternative  
12 detention facility models.

13 (3) The facilities that the Department of  
14 Homeland Security is attempting to develop are  
15 similar to facilities used to incarcerate about  
16 120,000 people of Japanese descent, as well as many  
17 others, in internment camps in the United States  
18 from 1942 through 1946, a grave violation of human  
19 rights and a dark chapter in our history.

20 (4) Immigration detention has detrimental and  
21 long-lasting impacts on individuals detained, their  
22 families, and their communities.

23 (5) Decades of documentation have proven that,  
24 across the immigration detention system, U.S. Im-  
25 migration and Customs Enforcement subjects people  
26 to violations of their basic rights and unconscionable

1 conditions, including medical neglect, overcrowding,  
2 cruel and unusual conditions of confinement, and  
3 rampant transfers that disappear people deeper into  
4 the detention system, sowing confusion and cutting  
5 people off from their loved ones and support net-  
6 works.

7 (6) Deaths in immigration detention facilities  
8 have occurred under the supervision of the Depart-  
9 ment of Homeland Security, including 33 reported  
10 deaths in 2025 and 13 deaths so far in 2026.

11 (7) The expansion of immigration facilities ad-  
12 versely harms surrounding communities through in-  
13 creased surveillance, infrastructure strain, environ-  
14 mental impact, and diversion of local resources.

15 (8) The expansion, creation, or repurposing of  
16 buildings as detention facilities diverts critical re-  
17 sources such as water and electricity away from the  
18 local communities, could cut off local tax revenue,  
19 and forecloses other economic opportunities for local  
20 communities.

21 (9) Facilities not originally constructed for the  
22 purposes of detaining or processing individuals dras-  
23 tically lack appropriate infrastructure, including  
24 sewage, sanitation, and water systems necessary to

1 protect public health and would further exacerbate  
2 the unacceptable conditions named above.

3 (10) Congress has the authority to condition  
4 and prohibit the use of Federal funds and facilities.

5 (b) PROHIBITION ON NEW IMMIGRATION MODELS.—

6 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a covered  
7 agency may not—

8 (1) establish or implement any new immigration  
9 detention model; or

10 (2) establish, operate, expand, convert, or ren-  
11 ovate any warehouse, industrial facility, tent, soft-  
12 sided structure, modular unit, or similar building or  
13 structure for the purposes of housing, processing, or  
14 detaining individuals under civil immigration author-  
15 ity.

16 (c) PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other  
18 provision of law, none of the amounts made available  
19 before the date of the enactment of this Act for any  
20 fiscal year or otherwise made available to any cov-  
21 ered agency may be obligated or expended to estab-  
22 lish, construct, renovate, expand, or operate any new  
23 immigration detention model, including any ware-  
24 house, industrial facility, tent, soft-sided structure,  
25 modular unit, or similar building or structure,

1 whether directly operated by U.S. Immigration and  
2 Customs Enforcement or by another governmental  
3 or nongovernmental contractor.

4 (2) PROHIBITION ON TRANSFER.—None of the  
5 amounts made available before the date of the enact-  
6 ment of this Act, may be reprogrammed or trans-  
7 ferred for the purposes of operating or constructing  
8 immigration detention facilities, processing facilities,  
9 holding facilities, or non-traditional facilities.

10 (3) TRANSFER OF FUNDS.—Amounts obligated  
11 to operate new immigration detention models, in-  
12 cluding any warehouse, industrial facility, tent, soft-  
13 sided structure, modular unit, or similar building or  
14 structure shall be transferred to needed services  
15 such as affordable health care and housing.

16 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

17 (1) COVERED AGENCY.—The term “covered  
18 agency” means the Department of Homeland Secu-  
19 rity, including U.S. Immigration and Customs En-  
20 forcement, and any component thereof.

21 (2) DEPARTMENT.—The term “Department”  
22 means the Department of Homeland Security.

23 (3) DETENTION FACILITY.—The term “deten-  
24 tion facility” means any facility, building, or struc-

1       ture used to hold, process, house, or detain individ-  
2       uals pursuant to civil immigration authority.

3           (4) EXPAND.—The term “expand” includes  
4       constructing, acquiring, leasing, retrofitting, modi-  
5       fying, renovating, or increasing the bed capacity of  
6       a detention facility.

7           (5) NEW IMMIGRATION MODEL.—The term  
8       “new immigration model” means any newly created,  
9       rebranded, temporary, emergency, or alternative de-  
10      tention framework that results in immigration deten-  
11      tion.

12       (e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This Act shall take effect on  
13      the date of the enactment of this Act.

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