

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

Joe Neguse, et al.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement,
et al.,

Defendants.

Civil Action No. 1:25-cv-02463-JMC

DECLARATION OF SEAN HACKBARTH

I, Sean Hackbarth, declare the following under 28 U.S.C. § 1746, and state that under penalty of perjury the following is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief:

1. I am the Acting Assistant Director and Deputy Assistant Director for the Office of Congressional Relations (“OCR”), U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”), Department of Homeland Security (“DHS”).
2. In my role as Acting Assistant Director and Deputy Assistant Director, I serve as the primary liaison to Congress for ICE providing Members and their staff with timely, relevant, and accurate information regarding ICE missions, priorities, and programs; I support effective engagement by ICE leadership with Member offices and staff; I evaluate potential legislative impacts to ICE; and I defend ICE resources and authorities.
3. I provide this declaration based on my personal knowledge and information obtained in my official capacity.

4. I am aware of the lawsuit *Neguse v. U.S. Immigr. and Customs Enf't*, No. 25-2463 (D.D.C. filed July 30, 2025).
5. On or about the week of June 16, 2025, ICE published on the ICE OCR website an update to its Facility Visit Request Process, which states:

Please note the Department [of Homeland Security] requires requests be made a minimum of seven (7) calendar days in advance to schedule visits to DHS detention facilities. Any requests to shorten that time must be approved by the DHS Secretary. Visit requests should be submitted during normal business hours to OCR at CongressToICE@ice.dhs.gov. Visit requests are not considered actionable until OCR acknowledges receipt of the request to the requestor. Requests received after hours or on weekends/holidays will be confirmed on the next business day. OCR will work with the appropriate ICE Field Office to coordinate the visit request and will confirm details as soon as practicable.

Visit requests should include the date of the proposed visit, the visit location, the duration of the visit, and the names and titles of all participants. Only Members and congressional staff scheduled and confirmed for the visit will be allowed to participate.

See Office of Congressional Relations | ICE, available at: <https://www.ice.gov/leadership/ocr>.

6. Members of Congress and their staff can request to visit ICE detention facilities, field offices, or holding rooms, provided the request is submitted a minimum of seven (7) days in advance for scheduling purposes.
7. Members of Congress and their staff must request visits to ICE facilities a minimum of seven (7) days in advance to ensure that the appropriate Field Office can support and accommodate

the visit. OCR will work with the appropriate Field Office to schedule the visit, then confirm the visit with the requesting Member office or committee staff. If the Field Office is unable to support the visit, OCR will propose alternate dates or times until a mutually agreed time is available. As long as the visit request is made seven (7) days in advance for scheduling and the relevant Field Office can support the visit, Members of Congress and their staff are able to visit ICE Field Offices with temporary holding facilities.

8. Visits from Members of Congress and their staff are resource intensive because ICE must ensure the safety of these high-profile visitors and any unannounced visit is highly disruptive to ICE's immigration enforcement operations. Members of Congress and their staff require screening at entry to facilities, access to locked units in facilities, and escorts between locked units in facilities. The required advance notice for visits is necessary to ensure that ICE can allocate the staff and resources necessary to ensure these visits can take place safely.
9. The seven (7) days' advance request for scheduling is critical to ensure the safety of ICE facilities for staff, detainees, and visitors. To protect staff, detainees, and the surrounding community, and to maintain order, ICE enforces strict security measures, including advance scheduling of facility tours, maintaining a secure perimeter, and screening all visitors prior to entry in accordance with ICE detention standards. Visitors must comply with identity verification and security screening requirements before being granted access. In some cases, entry may be delayed due to exigent circumstances, such as security concerns during protests or the time required to vet visit requests.
10. Recent events confirm why it is important for DHS to require visit requests for access to ICE facilities be made seven (7) days in advance to ensure that sufficient ICE staff is available to facilitate a safe and secure visit. In some recent visits from Members of Congress, those

Members and their staff have refused to comply with facility visitation requirements, including limitations on recording devices. These visits required additional staff attention and resources both to ensure safe visits and to protect the privacy interests of detained individuals and ICE employees.

I declare, under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, as of the time of signature.

Executed this 29th day of August 2025.

Sean Hackbarth
Office of Congressional Relations
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
U.S. Department of Homeland Security