

[DRAFT]

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. \_\_\_\_

To prohibit the Department of Homeland Security, including U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, 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.

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. TLAI B introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

## A BILL

To prohibit the Department of Homeland Security, including U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, 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.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “Ban Warehouse Detention Act”.

## **SEC. 2. FINDINGS**

Congress finds the following:

- (1) The Department of Homeland Security, acting through U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), has announced plans to spend approximately \$38.3 billion to acquire and retrofit warehouses and industrial facilities into large-scale immigration detention centers.
- (2) Such planned expansion includes the use of warehouses, modular facilities, soft-sided structures, tent systems, and processing centers.
- (3) The facilities that the Department of Homeland Security is attempting to develop are similar to facilities used to incarcerate about 120,000 people of Japanese descent, as well as many others, in internment camps in the United States from 1942-1946, a grave violation of human rights and a dark chapter in our history.
- (4) Immigration detention has detrimental and long-lasting impacts on individuals detained, their families, and their communities.
- (5) Decades of documentation have proven that, across the immigration detention system, ICE subjects people to violations of their basic rights and unconscionable conditions including medical neglect, overcrowding, cruel and unusual conditions of confinement, and rampant transfers that disappear people deeper into the detention system, sowing confusion and cutting people off from their loved ones and support networks.
- (6) Deaths in immigration detention facilities have occurred under the supervision of the Department of Homeland Security, including 32 reported deaths in 2025 and 14 deaths so far in 2026.
- (7) The expansion of immigration facilities adversely harms surrounding communities through increased surveillance, infrastructure strain, environmental impact, and diversion of local resources.
- (8) The expansion, creation, or repurposing of buildings as detention facilities diverts critical resources such as water and electricity away from the local communities, could cut off local tax revenue, and forecloses other economic opportunities for local communities.
- (9) Facilities not originally constructed for the purposes of detaining or processing individuals drastically lack appropriate infrastructure, including sewage, sanitation, and water systems necessary to protect public health and would further exacerbate the unacceptable conditions named above.

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

### **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS**

- (1) “Department” means the Department of Homeland Security.
- (2) “Covered agency” means the Department of Homeland Security, including U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and any component thereof.
- (3) “Detention facility” means any facility, building, or structure used to hold, process, house, or detain individuals pursuant to civil immigration authority.
- (4) “New immigration model” means any newly created, rebranded, temporary, emergency, or alternative detention framework that results in immigration detention.
- (5) “Expand” includes constructing, acquiring, leasing, retrofitting, modifying, renovating, or increasing bed capacity of a detention facility.

### **SEC. 4. PROHIBITION ON NEW IMMIGRATION MODELS**

#### **PROHIBITION.--**

- (i) **IN GENERAL.** – Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no covered agency may–
- (1) Establish or implement any new immigration detention model; or
  - (2) Establish, operate, expand, convert, or renovate any warehouse, industrial facility, tent, soft-sided structure, modular unit, or similar building or structure for the purposes of housing, processing, or detaining individuals under civil immigration authority.

### **SEC. 5. PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS**

**IN GENERAL.--** Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the amounts made available before the date of the enactment of this Act for any fiscal year or otherwise made available to any covered agency may be obligated or expended to establish, construct, renovate, expand, or operate any new immigration detention model including any warehouse, industrial facility, tent, soft-sided structure, modular unit, or similar building or structure, whether directly operated by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement or by another governmental or nongovernmental contractor

- (1) **PROHIBITION ON TRANSFER-** None of the amounts made available before the date of the enactment of this Act may be reprogrammed or transferred for the purposes of operating or constructing immigration detention facilities, processing

facilities, holding facilities, or non-traditional facilities.

- (2) TRANSFER OF FUNDS- Amounts obligated to operate new immigration detention models including any warehouse, industrial facility, tent, soft-sided structure, modular unit, or similar building or structure shall be transferred to needed services such as affordable healthcare and housing

## **SEC. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE**

- (a) This Act shall take effect immediately upon enactment