Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 17, 2026

Markwayne Mullin
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security

David Venturella
Acting Director
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Secretary Mullin and Acting Director Venturella:

I am writing with an urgent plea regarding Michell Germán and her family, who are currently being held at the South Texas Family Residential Center, also known as Dilley Detention Center (Dilley), in Dilley, Texas.

The Guerrero-Germán family, originally from Venezuela, have been residents of El Paso, Texas for several years after being paroled into the United States and pursing an asylum determination. Parents Pablo Jose Guerrero-Pimentel and Dolores Emilia Zarraga-Colina, along with daughters Michell Germán and her 11-year-old sister were detained on October 22, 2026 in El Paso. The family was apprehended by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) during what ICE referred to as "targeted enforcement arrests" in a statement to local news outlet KVIA[1]. In that same statement, ICE claims that neither parent has "documentation to remain in the U.S. legally".

However, Kate Lincoln-Goldfinch, a lawyer for the family, shared in a statement to *El Paso Matters* that the family is in "valid immigration proceedings, has a lawyer and work permits, and no criminal record"[2]. The detention has impacted the entire family and "traumatized" the two girls.

Michell is a star student at El Paso High School, where she's enrolled in the school's Center for Career and Technology Education Program studying cosmetology. Social and outgoing, Michell is a member of the Tigerettes, the school's dance team, has a part-time job, and volunteers with seniors in the El Paso community. Earlier in the schoolyear, Michell was part of the school's Homecoming Parade and crowned Lady-in-Waiting.

During her time at El Paso High School, Michell has created a close-knit community of friends who clearly value her and her family. Classmates share that Michell is reliable and trustworthy,

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[1] https://kvia.com/news/el-paso/2026/11/06/san-antonio-congressman-calls-on-federal-government-to-release-el-paso-family-allegedly-detained-by-ice/

https://elpasomatters.org/2026/11/06/el-paso-high-school-texas-student-michell-german-ice-immigration-dilley-detention-center/

and that shows up for her friends. In an interview with El Paso Matters, a friend describes Michell and her family as "incredible people" with good hearts.

When Michell was unable to join her classmates in being honored at Senior Night as a result of being detained by ICE. When her name was called to step out onto the football field at the school stadium, her friends carried a poster of her onto the field to cheers and applause from classmates and families in the stands. Michell should have been on the field among her friends, but was instead sitting over 500 miles away, in detention at Dilley.

Dilley Detention Center was closed in 2024, but reopened in 2025 by the second Trump administration as they began detaining families as part of the President's mass deportation campaign. In a *ProPublica* article titled "The Children of Dilley" and published on February 9, 2026, mothers and children detained at Dilley shared several concerns about the conditions at the facility. Parents and children shared instances of mold and worms in food, and drinking water that made people feel ill[3]. Mothers shared that conditions at the facility are so dire, that some children developed suicidal ideation and attempted self-harm.[4] Parents and children alike described insufficient medical care at Dilley, including children with medical complaints frequently experiencing delays, dismissals, or lack of follow-up from on-site medical staff.[5]

I urge you to release Michell German and her family from Dilley Detention Center. They should be allowed to continue pursuing their asylum case at home in El Paso, where they will be able to better communicate with their legal team and prepare for any upcoming court dates or hearings pertinent to their case.

Sincerely,

Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress

Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress

Greg Casar
Member of Congress

Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress

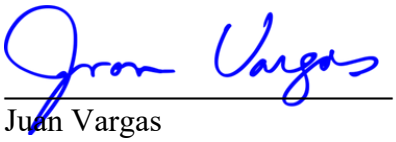
[3] https://www.propublica.org/article/life-inside-ice-dilley-children
[4] https://www.propublica.org/article/life-inside-ice-dilley-children
[5] https://www.propublica.org/article/life-inside-ice-dilley-children



Al Green
Member of Congress



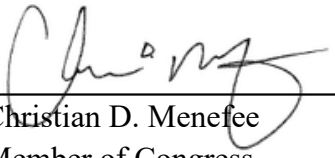
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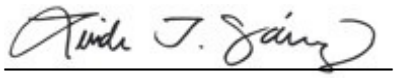
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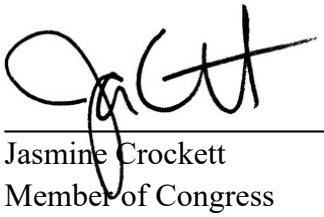
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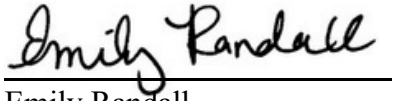
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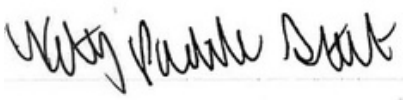
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