**[Excerpts from] Options for Advocating for our Friends in Detention**

Created by Volunteers of Casa de Paz; slightly edited and excerpted by RMIAN on June 14, 2020

(Location of original version by Casa de Paz volunteers—occasionally updated by them: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1eLXZbIbGfvie7TUMBK\_2Q-CjiS6mGfSSfLuGvrEomok/edit)

**Please note:** If you decide to contact one of the organizations below on behalf of an immigrant in detention, ***it is critical that you first obtain permission from the immigrant and consult with their attorney*** before publicly advocating on their behalf. If immigrants go public with their complaints, the risk of retaliation is real. Some immigrants are willing to take this risk, while others are not. It is also helpful to pass along anonymous concerns, as this builds a body of evidence that has value in our overall advocacy efforts.

A list of advocacy partners is provided below.

**Congressman Jason Crow**

The Aurora ICE immigration detention center is in Mr. Crow’s district, and the Congressman’s team endeavors to monitor and hold accountable the staff who oversee the center’s operation. Each Monday, staff from Mr. Crows office tour the facility and [publish a report](https://crow.house.gov/about/ice-accountability-report) of their findings.

Ways to contact Mr. Crow’s team

* Complete this [Google form](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdr2ap1WKvI3Re_fnpS-CkElHLwLIrIlmwwWrtUayXIPBsf5g/viewform), the results of which are closely monitored by Kevin Vargas (Kevin.Vargas@mail.house.gov) on Mr. Crow’s staff.
* For more nuanced concerns, email Kevin directly.

**Colorado ACLU**

[ACLU Colorado](https://aclu-co.org/) is interested in advocating for individuals at GEO who are not receiving adequate medical care, having problems with food or sanitation, assault or lack of hygiene products, and anytime someone is not receiving proper care. Please contact Deanna Hirsch at 720-402-3122 or dhirsch@aclu-co.org to pass along immigrant concerns.

**Additional Resources**

* The [Immigrant Freedom Fund of Colorado](https://immigrantfreedomfund.org/) offers assistance - as they are able - to immigrants who have the option to pay a bond and then fight their case outside of detention.
* The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) has [provided extensive information](https://www.afsc.org/xs?emci=889bc8a1-57f0-e911-b5e9-2818784d6d68&emdi=a1bfb4c2-5bf0-e911-b5e9-2818784d6d68&ceid=296846&en=) for those who are being deported to Mexico, Honduras, El Salvador or Guatemala.
* [Freedom for Immigrants](https://www.freedomforimmigrants.org/) is an organization that is working to build a national network of folks who visit immigrants in detention, provide legal services and post-release support. The ***Resources*** section on their website is particularly helpful regarding ideas for supporting immigrants in detention.
* [Detention Watch Network](https://www.detentionwatchnetwork.org): These folks are a national political advocacy group in the immigration space. They have a really good [issues page](https://www.detentionwatchnetwork.org/issues) with a lot of information about our detention system.