

2162 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

PHONE: 202-225-6116
FAX: 202-225-5590

WWW.PINGREE.HOUSE.GOV



HELLIE PINGREE
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
1ST DISTRICT MAINE

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CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

April 16, 2026

Todd Lyons
Acting Director
Immigration Customs and Enforcement
500 12th Street SW
Washington, DC
20536

Miguel Vergara
Field Office Director, Enforcement and Removal
Immigration Customs and Enforcement
1777 NE Loop 410, Suite 1500
San Antonio, TX
78217

Dear Acting Director Lyons and Field Office Director Vergara,

I write to request a clear and immediate explanation of the legal basis for Olivia Andre's continued detention and to call on your agency to promptly release her from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) custody.

Ms. Andre remains in ICE custody despite her mother and two siblings, who were detained with her, being released. ICE has failed to provide any clear, written explanation for why she alone continues to be detained. This lack of transparency, especially to Ms. Andre and her legal counsel, is unacceptable and indefensible.

Even more troubling, Ms. Andre's attorneys have repeatedly requested this information in conjunction with requests for her release and have not received any response. ICE's failure to provide counsel with the basic grounds of her ongoing detention reflects a serious breakdown in process and raises profound due process concerns. When the government deprives someone of their liberty, it should at the bare minimum be able to clearly state why. Here, ICE has failed to do that.

To my knowledge, ICE has not made, or at the very least has not communicated, any individualized custody determination in Ms. Andre's case. If such a determination does exist, ICE must explain the specific statutory or regulatory authority it is relying on, identify the individualized factors it claims justify her continued detention, and explain why that information has been withheld from her legal representatives despite repeated requests.

If no such determination exists, and I have difficulty imagining there is, then ICE must explain on what basis Ms. Andre remains in custody at all, particularly when a federal court has issued a stay of removal in her case.

2 PORTLAND FISH PIER, SUITE 304
PORTLAND, ME 04101
PHONE: 207-774-5019
FAX: 207-871-0720



108 MAIN STREET
WATERVILLE, ME 04901
PHONE: 207-873-5713
FAX: 207-873-5717

Holding a 19-year-old student in indefinite detention when she cannot be removed from the country, and doing so without clearly articulating or communicating a lawful justification, raises serious concerns about arbitrary detention and is a failure of accountability.

ICE is not free to detain individuals without explanation. Every additional day that passes without a clear explanation only deepens my belief that this detention lacks any lawful or articulable basis. I expect a prompt response.

Sincerely,



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress