

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Crystal Howard [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 18, 2026 1:03 PM  
**To:** House Judiciary  
**Subject:** Written Testimony for Feb 23 House Judiciary Committee Hearing – ICE Detention of Children

Dear Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

My name is Crystal Howard, and I am a constituent from Wasilla, Alaska. I am writing to express deep concern regarding the recent detention of a family from Soldotna, currently held in Anchorage before potential transfer to the lower 48.

I understand that the adult child, who is 18, has been placed in adult detention despite having no criminal record and no reason to be in jail, while the mother was temporarily housed with her 16-year-old and five-year-old children in a hotel overnight. The mother is married to a U.S. citizen, which may make her eligible for lawful status.

Separating families in this manner is harmful and traumatic, particularly for children. Alaska does not have detention facilities suitable for minors, and temporary placements such as hotels are not safe or appropriate for the care and wellbeing of children. Children should never be treated as prisoners, and family integrity must be preserved whenever possible.

I urge the committee to take these facts into account and ensure that federal enforcement in Alaska prioritizes the dignity, safety, and wellbeing of children above all else. I also ask that you use your oversight role to explore safe alternatives, including release or placement in appropriate accommodations, so that children and families are not subjected to unnecessary trauma.

The way we treat children reflects our values as a society. Alaska families, and indeed all Americans, expect that the most vulnerable members of our communities — children — will be protected and not subjected to avoidable harm.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. I respectfully ask that this letter be considered as part of the record for your hearing on Feb 23.

Sincerely,  
Crystal Howard  
Wasilla, Alaska