

RESTORING ACCESS TO DETAINEES ACT

The *Restoring Access to Detainees Act* would ensure noncitizens who are detained by federal officials can contact their families and would guarantee their right to speak with legal counsel while they are in custody.

Since Donald Trump was sworn in for his second term, Americans have watched as people in communities across the country have been detained unexpectedly while doing ordinary tasks, such as dropping their child off at school, going to the grocery store, and riding in a rideshare. Individuals are hauled off, sometimes rather violently, and transported from facility to facility before they can even call their children, parents, or family to let them know they've been detained.

It's un-American and unnecessarily cruel to children and families who are left desperately trying to figure out why their family member didn't come home and where they are being held. If DHS won't ensure these basic due process principles apply, then Congress should mandate them.

Specifically, the bill would ensure that:

- People detained, or transferred to a new facility, have the right to call their families to let them know where they are;
- People detained have an opportunity to speak confidentially with their legal counsel or to find competent legal counsel while in custody;
- People detained have an opportunity to communicate confidentially with existing oversight entities, if applicable; and
- The restoration of a program from the first Trump Administration which established a process for noncitizens to call their families while they are in deportation proceedings.