



STATE OF VERMONT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
JOINT LEGISLATIVE JUSTICE
OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

August 1, 2025

Governor Philip B. Scott
c/o Karen Pallas
Office of Governor Philip B. Scott
109 State Street, Pavilion
Montpelier, VT 05609
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Dear Governor Scott:

The Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee (the "Committee") is aware that the Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") between the U.S. Customs and Border Protection and U.S. Border Patrol (collectively, the "Agency") and the State of Vermont Department of Corrections (the "State") to house Agency detainees at Vermont correctional facilities will lapse this month, on or about August 21, 2025. Based on testimony and thoughtful discussion, the Committee urges the Governor to include in any renewal or renegotiation of the MOU the following terms and conditions to uphold and protect Vermont laws and values:

1. assurances that Vermont correctional facilities are sufficiently resourced, and staff are not subject to undue operational strain, which includes the requirement that the Agency use best efforts to provide a minimum of 24-hour notice before any detainees enter or exit a correctional facility and that any entry or exit must occur during regular business hours;
2. proper and timely legal representation is provided to detainees;
3. adequate foreign language services are available to detainees and their representatives;
4. Agency compliance with all State laws, policies, procedures, and agreements where any violation constitutes a basis to terminate the MOU without penalty to the State; and
5. full reimbursement by the Agency to the State for all costs to house detainees at a correctional facility, including all medical care and transportation costs.

The Committee appreciates your good faith consideration of these terms and conditions and expects prompt confirmation of the results of any renewal or renegotiation of the MOU.

Respectfully,

/s/ Alice M. Emmons

Representative Alice M. Emmons, Chair
Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee

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