

STEVEN A. HORSFORD

4TH DISTRICT, NEVADA

COMMITTEE WAYS AND MEANS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SOCIAL
SECURITY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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August 19, 2025

The Honorable Mark Amodei (R-NV)
Chair
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland
Security
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lauren Underwood (D-IL)
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland
Security
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Amodei and Ranking Member Underwood,

As the House Appropriations Committee – and its Subcommittee on Homeland Security – continues its vital oversight of the Department of Homeland Security, I write to respectfully [submit troubling video evidence](#) documenting an incident that represents a violation of Public Law 118–47, Section 527 by the Department.

On Thursday, July 31, my staff and I sought to conduct an oversight visit of the Nevada Southern Detention Center in Pahrump, Nevada. Upon arrival, we were denied entry to the facility by on-site personnel. Despite our advance efforts to coordinate the visit appropriately with facility representatives, we were not provided with any legitimate justification for the denial. Alarming, both my staff and I were labeled as “security risks.”

While I understand that federal agencies may establish operational protocols, such procedures must not obstruct, delay, or interfere with congressional oversight activities. Public Law 118–47, Section 527 expressly prohibits any federal agency receiving appropriated funds from denying, delaying, or otherwise restricting congressional access to facilities, personnel, or information. This refusal of entry raises serious concerns about the Department's compliance with its statutory obligations and the broader implications for congressional oversight.

In light of this event, I respectfully urge the Committee to investigate this noncompliance by the Department. I further recommend that the Committee consider appropriate corrective actions, including the potential conditioning of future appropriations to ensure full adherence to congressional oversight obligations as outlined under federal law.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven Horsford", written in a cursive style.

Congressman Steven Horsford
4th District, Nevada