October 3, 2017

Re: ACLU Urges Passage of the Dignity for Detained Immigrants Act of 2017

(H.R. 3923)

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), we urge you to support the Dignity for Detained Immigrants Act of 2017 (H.R. 3923), an Act that will significantly reduce the number of people held in immigration detention; ensure fair and individualized bond determinations; end detention profiteering by private prisons and local jails; and set enforceable standards to ensure tho

suicides, sexual abuse, and denial of medical care.[1] When deprivation of physical liberty is at stake, profiteering should never be part of the equation. Following the adoption of this Act, DHS will be required to phase out its practice of contracting with private and county/local prisons within three years.

least five of these deaths were suicides, but Eloy *still* had not adopted a suicide prevention plan when Jose de Jesus Deniz Sahagun killed himself in his cell in May 2015. Indeed, since 2006, Eloy has yet to fail an ICE inspection.

allow people to remain with their families in the community while they undergo immigration proceedings.

By adopting these critical reforms, H.R. 3923 will significantly reduce the fiscal and human costs of the current mass detention apparatus, end the detention profiteering that dominates the current system, and bring immigration custody decisions in line with fundamental norms of fairness.

Federal courts have recognized that the goals served by the immigrant detention system are to ensure that immigrants attend their immigration proceedings and address any public safety risks posed by an individual's release. Instead, however, the mass detention of immigrants is punitive and inhumane, wrongly enriches detention profiteers, inflicts harms wildly out of proportion to the government's stated interests, and raises grave human rights and civil rights concerns. This Act will fundamentally reshape that system to remove the profit motive, impose binding