



Top 5 things to know about **federal immigration detention quotas**

- 1.** The federal detention quota is established by Congress through language appearing in the DHS funding bill each year.
 - Funding is given to DHS (then on to ICE) by Congress to maintain capacity to detain 34,000 people each day.
 - Congress has the power to stop this policy and practice by not including the quota policy in the appropriations bill.
- 2.** Detention should never be a first resort when it comes to enforcement of immigration law.
 - Community-based alternatives can be less expensive, keep loved ones together in our communities, and are more respectful of the inherent dignity of every human being.
 - Community centered programs may cost as low as \$12/day per person whereas detention costs around \$160/day per person.
- 3.** The federal quota demands that tens of thousands of people lose their liberty without adequate justification and in the absence of due process.
- 4.** ICE is the only law enforcement agency in the U.S. operating on a quota system.
- 5.** U.S. Representatives are seeing how destructive and costly this policy is—and that they have the power to end it by voting for the Deutch-Foster appropriations amendment (which would strike bed quota language from the DHS FY16 appropriations bill).
 - Ending the federal detention quota is a nonpartisan issue, getting support from Republicans, Democrats and Independents alike.
 - A similar amendment to the FY14 DHS appropriations bill garnered 190 votes.



**American Friends
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Top 5 things to know about **site-specific immigration detention quotas**

- 1.** Site-specific quotas are created in contracts between ICE and the for-profit prison companies they hire to detain immigrants on the U.S. government's behalf. a. Congress can prohibit ICE from signing contracts with these companies when the contracts contain a quota.
- 2.** These quotas create an incentive for ICE to keep those slots filled, even when facts on the ground don't indicate any need for mass detention and denials of liberty.
 - In fact, contracts containing these quotas often include discounts for ICE on daily rates for the number of people they hold above the guaranteed minimum threshold under the contract (what's known as "tiered pricing").
 - This creates a perverse financial incentive to lock up more people than the quota requires, without any regard to the actual need to take away someone's freedom.
- 3.** These "guaranteed minimums" enhance the profit margins of private prison companies. For example, a 2014 U.S. Government Accountability Office report referenced one facility in which approximately \$3.6 million in per diems went directly into the hands of the private operators because the quota was greater than ICE's detention needs.
- 4.** ICE publically stated that these site-specific quotas help them achieve their federal bed quota mandate.
 - Instead of respecting the rights of immigrants and reducing government waste by eliminating guaranteed minimums in contracts, ICE instead rounds up more immigrants for detention to avoid public criticism for failing to meet the quota.
- 5.** U.S. Representatives can act—today—to prevent site-specific quotas in ICE contracts. AFSC encourages members of Congress to support the prohibition of these guaranteed minimums by cosponsoring the Protecting Taxpayers and Communities from Local Detention Quotas Act (HR 2808).

For more information, visit afsc.org/stopquotas or write to endthequota@afsc.org.