

## **Restoring Oversight for Members of Congress Act**

Heartbreaking accounts of children confined in detention facilities due to the Trump administration's new inhumane immigration policies have inundated the national news cycle. However, access to these facilities by members of congress has been overwhelmingly restricted. Members of Congress have been denied access, in direct contravention of their constitutional duty to serve as a check on executive branch mismanagement and misconduct.

**This bill would ensure that members of Congress can access all federal facilities in order to fulfill their constitutional oversight duties.** The bill creates exceptions for national security by establishing a process for members of Congress to gain approval to access facilities deemed "restricted" for national security purposes.

### **Key components include:**

1. ***Access to Facilities*** – This bill says that Members of Congress shall have access to all federal facilities, including those owned or controlled by the federal government, those under a contract or a lease, and those at which operations are carried out under the authority of the Federal Government.
2. ***Restricted Access for National Security Reasons*** – This bill creates a process whereby an agency, in coordination with the committees of jurisdiction, can request to have a facility deemed "restricted" for national security reasons. If a Member of Congress seeks to access a restricted facility, the agency and the committees of jurisdiction work together to establish protocols to grant access to that member.
3. ***Penalties for Unlawfully Restricting Access*** – This bill establishes penalties for anyone who denies access to a facility, including the head of an agency, and any individual or entity that enters a contract or lease with the Federal Government.