

[DISCUSSION DRAFT]

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To prohibit any limitation on the entry of a Member of Congress to any facility for the detention of aliens, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. CROW introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To prohibit any limitation on the entry of a Member of Congress to any facility for the detention of aliens, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Public Oversight of
5 Detention Centers Act of 2019” or as the “POD Act of
6 2019”.

1 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT OF DETENTION FA-**
2 **CILITIES.**

3 (a) PROHIBITION ON LIMITATIONS ON OVERSIGHT
4 OF DETENTION FACILITIES.—Chapter 4 of title II of the
5 Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. et seq.) is
6 amended by adding at the end the following:

7 **“SEC. 244A. PROHIBITION ON LIMITATIONS ON OVERSIGHT**
8 **OF DETENTION FACILITIES.**

9 “(a) IN GENERAL.—A Member of Congress may not
10 be prevented from entering by not later than 48 hours
11 after making a request to do so, for the purpose of con-
12 ducting oversight, any facility operated by or for the De-
13 partment of Homeland Security (including any facility op-
14 erated by a private contractor with the Department) used
15 to detain or otherwise house aliens, or nor may any tem-
16 porary modification be made at any such facility that in
17 any way alters what is observed by a visiting Member of
18 Congress, compared to what would be observed in the ab-
19 sence of such modification.

20 “(b) FACILITIES HOUSING ALIEN MINORS.—A Mem-
21 ber of Congress may not be prevented from entering by
22 not later than 48 hours after making a request to do so,
23 for the purpose of conducting oversight, any facility oper-
24 ated by or for the Department of Homeland Security or
25 the Department of Health and Human Services (including
26 any facility operated by a private contractor with either

1 Department) used to detain or otherwise house alien mi-
2 nors, or to make any temporary modification at any such
3 facility that in any way alters what is observed by a vis-
4 iting Member of Congress, compared to what would be ob-
5 served in the absence of such modification.”.

6 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
7 for such Act is amended by inserting after the item relat-
8 ing to section 244 the following:

“244A. Prohibition on limitations on oversight of detention facilities.”.