

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 9883

To create a private right of action to hold private detention centers liable for the wrongful death of any person being held in such private detention center, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 22, 2026

Mr. TRAN (for himself, Mr. MOULTON, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Mr. THANEDAR) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To create a private right of action to hold private detention centers liable for the wrongful death of any person being held in such private detention center, 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 “Private Detention Cor-  
5       porate Accountability Act of 2026”.

6       **SEC. 2. PRIVATE DETENTION CENTER LIABILITY.**

7       (a) PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION.—An officer or em-  
8       ployee of a private detention center that causes the wrong-

1 ful death of any person that was being held in such private  
2 detention center shall be liable, under the relevant State  
3 law, to the decedent or any successor in interest for—

4 (1) statutory damages in an amount not less  
5 than \$5,000,000 and economic damages; and

6 (2) punitive damages, as appropriate.

7 (b) ACTION IN DISTRICT COURT.—The decedent or  
8 any successor in interest that suffered the harm described  
9 under subsection (a) may bring an action in the appro-  
10 priate district court of the United States for the relief de-  
11 scribed under such subsection.

12 (c) VICARIOUS LIABILITY.—A private detention cen-  
13 ter shall be vicariously liable for any harm described under  
14 subsection (a).

15 (d) NO IMMUNITY DEFENSE.—No officer or em-  
16 ployee of a private detention center shall be entitled to  
17 assert any form of absolute or qualified immunity as a  
18 defense to liability under this section.

19 (e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-  
20 tion shall be construed to limit the ability of the decedent  
21 or any successor in interest that suffered the harm de-  
22 scribed under subsection (a) from bringing an action in  
23 a State court for such harm.

24 (f) PRIVATE DETENTION CENTER.—The term “pri-  
25 vate detention center” means a private entity that has a

- 1 contract with the Federal Government to hold any person
- 2 due to any alleged or purported violations of civil, crimi-
- 3 nal, or immigration laws.

