



**U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement**

OCT 06 2010

Ms. Michelle Brané
Director, Detention and Asylum Program
Women's Refugee Commission
122 East 42nd Street
New York, NY 10168-1289

Dear Ms. Brané:

Thank you for your July 27, 2010 letter regarding proposed changes to the Performance Based National Detention Standard on Escorted Trips for Non-Medical Emergencies.

Please be assured that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) will give your recommendations full consideration. I share your belief that parents have a fundamental right to care for their children and participate in the discussions and decisions that affect the interest of their child. As you note in your letter, ICE has taken extraordinary measures to ensure that detained parents are provided access to family court proceedings, so that they may exercise their parental rights. I will review your other proposals to see what additional changes might be viable. ICE welcomes your suggestions and looks forward to working with the Women's Refugee Commission and other organizations on matters related to ICE's detention reform initiative.

Please share this letter with your co-signatories. Should you have any additional concerns or questions, please reach out to me or to Andrew Lorenzen-Strait, Chief Public Engagement Officer, at 202.732.4262, or at Andrew.Strait@dhs.gov. I thank you for your comments and recommendations, and I look forward to our continued collaboration on issues of mutual interest.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Phyllis A. Coven", with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Phyllis A. Coven
Acting Assistant Director