

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 6, 2026

The Honorable Edward Forst
Administrator
U.S. General Services Administration
1800 F Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20405

Dear Administrator Forst:

We write with concern regarding recent reports of a Legionella bacteria outbreak at the George H. Fallon Federal Building, located at 31 Hopkins Plaza, Baltimore, MD 21201. The Fallon Building houses several federal agencies, including offices in the U.S. Departments of the Treasury, Veterans Affairs, Justice, and Homeland Security. We are particularly concerned by this development in light of reports of overcrowding¹ at the Baltimore Immigration and Customs Enforcement Field Office's holding rooms, as well as the presence of a child care facility, in the building.

We have learned that in November of 2025, GSA conducted a baseline test that confirmed the presence of the bacteria and proceeded to implement hyperchlorination to treat the issue. However, we understand that the bacteria are still present in the building's water system and the tenants of the Fallon Building have received varying levels of communication regarding the status of the outbreak, and some may remain entirely unaware. The presence of these bacteria, and the lack of clear direction from GSA, poses a serious health and safety threat for all users of the Fallon Building.

We therefore ask you to undertake immediate remediation measures and to respond to the following questions no later than March 20, 2026:

1. When did GSA first discover the bacteria at the Fallon Building? Please share all testing dates to date since the outbreak was discovered as well as their results.
2. When did hyperchlorination treatment commence after discovery?
3. According to a 2023 Memorandum from the Office of Inspector General,² the Public Buildings Service's "current approach to Legionella testing is not comprehensive or consistent." Has the Public Buildings Service addressed the concerns outlined in the report? How frequently is GSA required to test for Legionella bacteria?
4. According to GSA guidelines,³ GSA or the delegated federal agency is required to notify tenants and post relevant signage, and communicate with the water supplier if necessary. Has GSA satisfied these requirements?
 - a. If tenants have been notified, when, and with what information?

¹ Teo Armus, *The Washington Post*, "Viral video shows overcrowded conditions inside ICE facility in Maryland," <https://www.washingtonpost.com/immigration/2026/01/28/maryland-ice-facility-overcrowding-video/> (January 28, 2026).

² Office of Audits, Office of Inspector General, U.S. General Services Administration, Memorandum Number A230072-1, "Alert Memorandum: PBS Must Take Immediate Action to Address the Risk of Legionella Contamination in GSA-Controlled Buildings," <https://www.gsaig.gov/sites/default/files/audit-reports/A230072-1%20Final%20Memorandum.pdf> (September 20, 2023).

³ U.S. General Services Administration, "Water quality: Federally owned facilities," <https://www.gsa.gov/real-estate/water-quality-management/federally-owned-facilities> (November 19, 2024).

- b. If the issue is ongoing, are tenants provided with regular updates? If so, what do the updates entail?
 - c. Does GSA still notify tenants of buildings in states without notification requirements? If so, with what information?
5. According to the aforementioned GSA guidelines, GSA or the delegated federal agency is required to begin corrective actions and notify tenants of follow-up testing. Has GSA satisfied these requirements?

We must ensure that our federal employees, along with other tenants of and visitors to the building, are being afforded clear communication and a safe working environment. We look forward to your response and ensuring the health and wellbeing of all current tenants of the Fallon Building.

Sincerely,



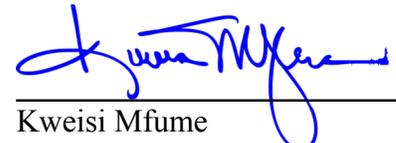
Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Angela D. Alsobrooks
United States Senator



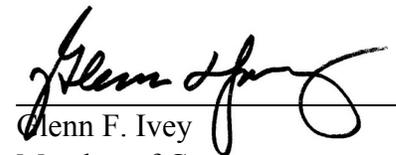
Steny H. Hoyer
Member of Congress



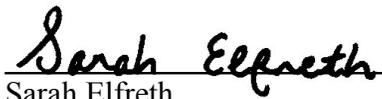
Kweisi Mfume
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