

Restoring Oversight for Members of Congress

Congressional oversight of the executive branch is a constitutional duty and a cornerstone of our democracy. Startling and heartbreaking accounts of children confined in detention facilities due to ongoing inhumane and heartless immigration policies are constantly in the news cycle. However, access to these facilities has been overwhelmingly restricted, and only a select few have been granted admittance to certain facilities specifically selected by the administration. Members of Congress have been denied access, in direct contravention of their constitutional duty to serve as a check on the executive branch's mismanagement and misconduct.

This bill would ensure that Members of Congress are able to access all federal facilities in order to fulfill their constitutional oversight duties. The bill creates exceptions for national security, and sets forth a process whereby Members of Congress consult with Senate and House intelligence committees in order to access facilities deemed "restricted" for national security purposes.

This bill will ensure that Members of Congress are able to effectively serve the people they represent and uphold the morals and integrity of this nation.

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 congressional intelligence committees, can deem a facility "restricted" for national security reasons. If a Member of Congress seeks to access a restricted facility, the agency and the intelligence committees 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.