



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

September 30, 2026

The Honorable Markwayne Mullin
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave. SE
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Mullin:

I am writing to respectfully ask for a stay of deportation for Fatou Traore, a constituent of mine and a valued member of the University of Iowa community.

On Thursday, September 24, 2026. Fatou was detained by agents of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in Iowa City, IA, while on her way to pick up her sister. She was first taken to a detention facility in Cedar Rapids before finally being transferred to Richwood Correctional Center in Monroe, LA, where she is currently being held. As of now, she is being ordered to be deported to Sierra Leone next week, despite having no connection to the country.

Fatou is currently in the United States legally under a 2011 withholding of removal order and is a wife and mother of 4 children, with no criminal history. Deporting Fatou would deprive a young family of their mother and would violate the withholding of removal order, which allows Fatou to work and reside in the United States legally.

I once again respectfully ask that you stay the deportation of Fatou Traore and return her to her family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mariannette Miller-Meeks".

Mariannette Miller-Meeks, M.D.
Member of Congress