

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 5, 2021

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

The Honorable Xavier Becerra
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Mayorkas and Secretary Becerra,

On April 15, 2021, 34 Members of the House of Representatives sent a letter requesting important information regarding the destinations within the interior of our nation of the heavy illegal migration over our nation's border. As of the date of this letter, the response from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) deferred to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and regrettably, DHS has not responded to the Congress' letter.

Border crossings remain unsustainably high. Last month, July 2021, it was reported that attempted crossings at the U.S. - Mexico border remain at a historically high level not experienced in at least 21 years.¹ In June, more than 188,829 individuals were taken into custody by Customs and Border Patrol (CBP), including 15,018 unaccompanied children.² This former figure represents an alarming 141 percent increase from January 2021.

Like so many in our nation, we remain deeply concerned about this unlawful, manmade humanitarian and national crisis that is being facilitated on our southern border. Our concern is informed not only by such alarming data, as reported by media outlets including *The Washington Post* and CNN, but also the observations made by many Members of Congress while at the border. Members of Congress can attest that there is a huge influx of women and children. These increased levels do not merely suggest more illegal crossings, but greatly increased related criminality, including human and drug trafficking and smuggling.

Regarding the human cost, the cumulative suffering inflicted on these individuals will never be completely ascertained due to the clandestine nature of the cartels, gangs, traffickers and smugglers. Once on U.S. soil, and despite the dedication of our CBP officers and state officials, these illegal aliens are often subjected to "poor conditions," as CNN reports.³ We are quite

¹ Julia Ainsley, *Number of attempted crossings at southern U.S. border hits 21-year high*, NBC News (Jul. 16, 2021), available at <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/immigration/number-attempted-crossings-southern-u-s-border-hits-21-year-n1274230> (accessed Jul. 27, 2021).

² U.S. Customs and Border Protection, *Borders apprehensions spiked in March, Southwest Land Border Encounters*, CNN (Apr. 02, 2021), available at <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/southwest-land-border-encounters> (accessed Jul. 26, 2021).

³ Priscilla Alvarez, *Borders apprehensions spiked in March, including a record number of unaccompanied migrant minors*, CNN (Apr. 02, 2021), available at <https://www.cnn.com/2021/04/02/politics/us-mexico-border-immigration-apprehended/index.html>.

simply not prepared to handle such an extreme increase in illegal entries into our nation that should be thwarted rather than encouraged. It is also difficult to quantify the enormous impacts to our citizens in border states who continue to suffer property damage and loss, as well as threats to their own safety and that of their families and neighbors.

The widespread abuse and criminality do not end at the border, because as we know many of these illegal aliens end up dispersed in cities across our nation. However, in spite of the Congress' previous request, we continue to lack an adequate accounting of the nature and extent of this dispersing of illegal aliens. *Although we should not have to, we reiterate: this is information that the U.S. Congress needs and the American people have a right to know.* For that reason, the Congress once again requests that you compile and send the following information within the next thirty (30) days:

- the locations where illegal immigrants have been sent, transported, or provided ability or funding to travel to, or allowed to travel to by other funding including their own or private funding for all individuals who entered the U.S. without visas;
- for each named location, the total number of immigrants who have been sent, transported, or provided ability or funding to travel to, or allowed to travel to by other funding including their own or private funding to such city or town; and
- the number of immigrants tested for the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), the number of immigrants that tested positive for COVID-19, and CBP's course of action to respond to immigrants that test positive for COVID-19.

Again, this requested information is critical to understanding how the unabated illegal flow of aliens over the southern border affects all Americans in each of the 50 states.

It must be reiterated that members of the executive branch have a duty and many have sworn an oath that would include the requirement to carry out the lawfully enacted legislation under the Constitution. With an open border facilitating illegal entry into our nation and the manifold resulting criminalities, the executive branch is failing miserably in its duty. Your failure to provide this requested information over the past three months, an eminently reasonable amount of time, raises further concerns about the lack of transparency and your unwillingness to provide this important information to elected representatives of the people of this nation.

Once again, your prompt attention and response to this matter is quite critical to this nation and is requested to be provided in a timely fashion, and in consideration of the fact that this is the Congress' second request.

Sincerely,



Mike Braun
United States Senator



Louie Gohmert
United States Representative



Kevin Cramer
United States Senator



Diana Harshbarger
United States Representative



Cindy Hyde-Smith
United States Senator



Matthew Rosendale, Sr.
United States Representative



Cynthia Lummis
United States Senator



W. Gregory Steube
United States Representative



Glenn Grothman
United States Representative



Randy K. Weber
United States Representative



Ben Cline
United States Representative



Jeff Duncan
United States Representative



Mo Brooks
United States Representative



Bob Good
United States Representative



Andy Biggs
United States Representative



Lauren Boebert
United States Representative



Jodey C. Arrington
United States Representative



Chip Roy
United States Representative



Michael Cloud
United States Representative



Kevin Hern
United States Representative

Madison Cawthorn

Madison Cawthorn
United States Representative

Paul A. Gosar

Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
United States Representative

Ted Budd

Ted Budd
United States Representative

Debbie Lesko

Debbie Lesko
United States Representative

Scott Perry

Scott Perry
United States Representative

Marjorie Taylor Greene

Marjorie Taylor Greene
United States Representative

Bill Posey

Bill Posey
United States Representative

Vicky Hartzler

Vicky Hartzler
United States Representative

Pete Sessions

Pete Sessions
United States Representative