

GARY C. PETERS, MICHIGAN, CHAIRMAN
THOMAS R. CARPER, DELAWARE
MAGGIE HASSAN, NEW HAMPSHIRE
KYRSTEN SINEMA, ARIZONA
JACKY ROSEN, NEVADA
ALEX PADILLA, CALIFORNIA
JON OSSOFF, GEORGIA
ROB PORTMAN, OHIO
RON JOHNSON, WISCONSIN
RAND PAUL, KENTUCKY
JAMES LANKFORD, OKLAHOMA
MITT ROMNEY, UTAH
RIK SCOTT, FLORIDA
JOSH HAWLEY, MISSOURI

DAVID M. WEINBERG, STAFF DIRECTOR
PAMELA THIESSEN, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR
LAURA W. KILBRIDE, CHIEF CLERK

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

June 22, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Mayorkas:

The Biden administration's open border policies have caused a crisis at our southern border. Border Patrol has already apprehended more than 1.4 million illegal aliens this fiscal year, and is on pace for a record year at the southern border.¹ Under your leadership, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has released more than 1 million illegal aliens into the interior of the U.S.² Recent reports indicate that DHS is using taxpayer dollars to reimburse nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to transport these illegal aliens across the country.³ I write to request information about DHS payments to NGOs.

Earlier this year, an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agent stated that if an illegal alien's family does not agree to pay the alien's travel costs in the U.S., then an "NGO buys the ticket and bills the government."⁴ Following these reports, my staff requested and received a list of NGOs that ICE works with to coordinate illegal aliens' transportation following release from DHS custody. That enclosed list potentially shows only a fraction of the NGOs DHS and its components utilize.

It appears that a recently leaked DHS plan doubles down on this administration's efforts to charge taxpayers for illegal aliens' travel.⁵ According to this plan, DHS would pay to transport aliens away from the border and deeper into the U.S. Under DHS's plan, taxpayers would foot the bill to send aliens to cities such as Los Angeles, California; Albuquerque, New Mexico; and Houston and Dallas, Texas.⁶

¹ U.S. Homeland Security, *Nationwide Enforcement Encounters*, CBP.gov, Last modified May 13, 2022, <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/nationwide-encounters>; see also, Luke Barr and Stephanie Guerilus, *Migrant arrivals at southern border soared to 22-year high in March*, ABC News, Apr. 16, 2022, <https://abcnews.go.com/US/migrant-arrivals-southern-border-soared-22-year-high/story?id=84126036>.

² *Texas et al. v. Biden et al.*, No. 2:21-cv-00067-Z, (N.D. Tex. 2022). In this litigation, DHS is required to file monthly status updates with the court containing certain immigration statistics. According to these filings, DHS has released nearly 1.05 million aliens into the interior of the U.S.

³ Bill Melugin and Adam Shaw, *ICE agents forced to coordinate travel for illegal immigrants, some with criminal records: source*, Fox News, Jan. 27, 2022, <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/ice-removal-operations-turned-into-unofficial-travel-coordination-agency-source-says>.

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ Julia Ainsley, *Amid border surge, Biden admin plans to send migrants to cities deeper inside U.S., starting with L.A., say internal documents*, NBC News, Jun. 8, 2022, <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/immigration/border-surge-biden-admin-plans-send-migrants-cities-deeper-us-starting-rcna32530>.

⁶ *Id.*

Taxpayer dollars should be used to secure our border not further exacerbate the Biden border crisis. To better understand DHS's use of taxpayers' dollars to transport illegal aliens throughout the U.S., I ask that you provide the following information:

1. Does DHS provide any funding, financial support, or reimbursement to any NGOs, including, but not limited to, those found on the list enclosed herein, for the travel of illegal aliens apprehended at the southern border?
2. If DHS does provide any funding, financial support, or reimbursement, please provide a list of all NGOs that receive such support.
 - a. If DHS or any of its components work with these NGOs to facilitate illegal aliens' travel, please explain the nature of that work broken down by component and sector.
 - b. Please identify the source of the funding (e.g. contract, grant, reimbursement, etc.), the purpose of the funding provided, the scale of the travel (e.g. number of tickets purchased, final destinations, mode of transportation, etc.) and the amount of funding provided, for Fiscal Years 2019, 2020, 2021, and year to date for fiscal year 2022 broken down by NGO.
3. Please provide all records referring or relating to the aforementioned DHS plan that leaked on June 8, 2022.⁷

Please provide this information as soon as possible, but no later than 5:00 p.m. on July 6, 2022. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Ron Johnson
Ranking Member
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

cc: The Honorable Jon Ossoff
Chairman
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

Enclosure

⁷ "Records" include any written, recorded, or graphic material of any kind, including letters, memoranda, reports, notes, electronic data (emails, email attachments, and any other electronically-created or stored information), calendar entries, inter-office communications, meeting minutes, phone/voice mail or recordings/records of verbal communications, and drafts (whether or not they resulted in final documents).



**U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)
Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO)
Response to the ICE Leadership
April 7, 2022**

San Diego

- Bethany Christian Services; U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops
- Jewish Family Services (JFS)
- Galilee Center
- Catholic Charities San Diego
- TBC New Shelter

Harlingen

- Catholic Charities Laredo
- Holding Institute Community Center
- Catholic Charities RGV
- Loaves & Fishes
- La Posada Providencia
- City of Brownsville/Good Neighbor Settlement House
- Ozanam Center



El Paso

- Endeavors
- Annunciation House
- El Paso Migrant Center Christian Ministry
- Border Servants Corps
- 5 Site Council
- Colores United

Phoenix

- North Star
- Regional Center for Border Health (RCBH)
- International Rescue Committee (IRC)
- The Vineyard
- Alpha y Omega Church
- "Centro Cristiano De Restauracion
- Vino Nuevo"
- Iglesia El Buen Pastor
- The Grove
- King Jesus Christ Ministries
- Casa Alitas