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

February 11, 2022

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary of Homeland Security
United States Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr Ave SE
Washington DC, 20528

Dear Secretary Mayorkas,

The crisis at our southern border is out of control and its effects are putting the health and safety of our constituents in danger. In FY 2021 1,956,519 illegal aliens broke our nation's immigration laws and entered the United States, compared to 646,822 who gained entry in FY 2020. Since October 1, 2021, an additional 590,899 illegal aliens have tried to gain entry.¹

Some of the people recently apprehended include a Saudi Arabian man arrested in Arizona in December who Border Patrol officials described as a "potential terrorist."² Two men from Yemen on the FBI's terrorism watchlist were also arrested in El Centro, California in 2021.³

Equally as concerning to the members of our community are the circumstances surrounding Issam Bazzi, a Lebanese-born Venezuelan national on the FBI's terror watchlist, who was released in December into Michigan after he crossed the border illegally.⁴ His release comes in spite of both the FBI and local ICE officials opposing his release. Local ICE officials even labeled him a "flight risk."⁵ Furthermore, then-police chief of Dearborn, Michigan, Ronald Haddad, stated that he was not notified of Bazzi's release and said, "I was kept in the dark about this. Withholding that information prevents me from doing my job, which is to keep the community safe."⁶ This startling pronouncement leads us to wonder what other potentially dangerous individuals have been set free into our communities?

In addition to those on the FBI terror watchlist being released into Michigan, our law enforcement agencies have seized a high level of deadly narcotics manufactured and trafficked by drug cartels based in Latin America. Hundreds of pounds of fentanyl were seized by the DEA's Detroit Field Office in 2021

¹ [CBP Enforcement Statistics Fiscal Year 2022 | U.S. Customs and Border Protection](#)

² ['Potential terrorist' who crossed border arrested in Arizona \(nypost.com\)](#)

³ [Venezuelan national on FBI's terror watchlist released into Michigan after crossing border: LeDuff | Fox News](#)

⁴ IBID

⁵ IBID

⁶ [Former Dearborn police chief says feds didn't tell him of terror suspect's release \(detroitnews.com\)](#)

and the DEA has warned of counterfeit pills that contain fentanyl.⁷ The DEA Acting Special Agent in Charge, Kent Kleinschmidt said, “The market is being flooded with these counterfeit pills and people are taking their life into their own hands when they take them”.⁸

The safety and security of our constituents is of the utmost importance to us, and their safety is threatened by the influx of illegal aliens and deadly narcotics crossing our Southern border. As such, we request answers to the following questions:

- How many illegal aliens has DHS apprehended and sent to Michigan for processing or to await a court hearing in the last 12 months?
- How long does the processing usually take for those apprehended and sent to Michigan?
- How many illegal aliens in Michigan have skipped their court hearing in the last 12 months?
 - What is the process for ICE to find and apprehend illegal aliens who skip their court dates? What has changed as far as ICE enforcement since January 20, 2021?
- Are there any others, such as Issam Bazzi, with suspected links to terrorism that have been released into Michigan that we and our law enforcement agencies should be made aware of?
 - If so, where are they and why were they released? If you do not know where they are, explain your reasoning for not tracking terror suspects.
- Why was Ronald Haddad not made aware of Issam Bazzi’s release into the community?
 - Were any Michigan officials made aware of his release?
- Does DHS routinely provide state officials updates on the number of illegal aliens sent to Michigan. If not, why?
- Is there a process to determine which state will receive an illegal alien after they are apprehended? If so, what is that process?
- How is DHS working to crack down on the flow of illegal narcotics over the Southern border?

Our constituents deserve truth and transparency, and not to be left in the dark. We ask for your full and clear response to these questions by Friday, February 25, 2022.

Sincerely,



Lisa C. McClain
Member of Congress



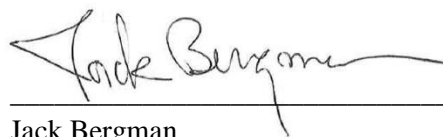
Fred Upton
Member of Congress

⁷ [DEA warns of counterfeit pills from cartels, says emojis in encrypted apps brings challenges \(fox2detroit.com\)](#)

⁸ IBID



Bill Huizenga
Member of Congress



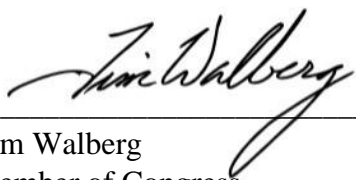
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