RANKING MEMBER OF THE INTELLIGENCE & COUNTERTERRORISM SUBCOMMITTEE

## Congress of the United States

House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515-4311

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY & THE HOUSE
FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

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June 13, 2022

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas Secretary U.S. Department of Homeland Security 2703 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, SE Washington, D.C. 20593

Dear Secretary Mayorkas,

Last week, local law enforcement brought to my attention that Customs and Border Protection (CBP) staff is scouting out locations in San Angelo, Texas for the release of illegal immigrants. I find this very concerning. San Angelo is a welcoming community, but the locality has not volunteered for this mission, nor are they responsible for the burdens of the border crisis. This situation is a direct result of DHS' shortsighted policies that encourage more *illegal* immigration and the agency's failure-to establish operational control of the southern border. The local community I represent is rightfully concerned about this possibility, and I ask that you respond to the following inquiries by June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022:

- 1. Has DHS or CBP begun the process of identifying new areas in Texas to drop off illegal immigrants? If so, what criteria does your agency use when evaluating drop-off locations?
- 2. Please provide any internal documents (memos, letters, etc.) that reference plans to bus illegal immigrants to San Angelo, Texas.
- 3. Please list the cities in Texas that are currently receiving buses of illegal immigrants that are transported by DHS. Have any of the current localities receiving immigrants notified DHS that they are unwilling to undertake additional illegal immigrants due to capacity constraints?
- 4. What is DHS's process to notify and alert local, state, and Congressional leaders that illegal immigrants will be transported to an area?
  - o How much notice do you provide these entities before illegal immigrants arrive?
- 5. What steps do you take to ensure that these illegal immigrants do not pose a danger to local communities?

- 6. Do you provide local communities with background checks related to the individuals you are bringing to their area?
- 7. How many illegal immigrants have been released in my district (11<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of Texas) since January 20, 2021? How many have been released in Texas since that date?

Texas has been forced to face the brunt of this crisis, and it's only been exasperated by this Administration's lack of transparency. I look forward to your prompt response to these questions.

Sincerely,

August Pfluger

Member of Congress