

U.S. House of Representatives

Committee on the Judiciary

Washington, DC 20515-6216
One Hundred Sixteenth Congress

January 11, 2019

The Honorable Matthew Whitaker
Acting Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Acting Attorney General Whitaker:

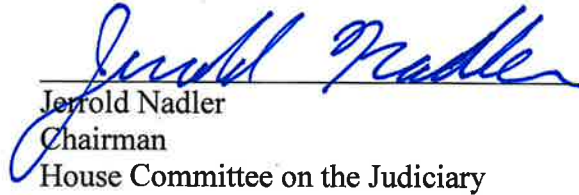
There remain many unanswered questions about the development and execution of the Trump Administration's family separation or "zero tolerance" policy. The latest tragic deaths in custody of young children underscore the need for oversight of Administration's policies. Members of this Committee have written repeatedly to the Department to request briefings, information, and document preservation on matters related to family separation, migrant detention, deaths in custody, and related policies on the border. The existence of any family separation pilot program, the health and safety of children in your facilities, the lack of a proper reunification strategy prior to implementation, and the legal justifications for these policies remain key issues this Committee must better understand.

To that end, I respectfully ask that you provide complete responses and produce the relevant documents and communications requested below by February 8, 2019. I recognize the challenges created by the ongoing government shutdown and my office is willing to work with you to find a workable deadline as the shutdown progresses.

1. Documents and communications dated from January 20, 2017 to April 23, 2018 relating to the implementation of a "zero tolerance" policy or any other family separation policy, including any pilot program resulting in family separation along the southwest border. Please include a list of any steps taken by the Administration to separate families at the southwest border, either at ports of entry or otherwise, prior to June 17, 2018;
2. Documents or communications relating to the policies, processes, or resources needed to identify, track, and reunify family members separated between January 20, 2017 and April 23, 2018;
3. Documents or communications relating to the creation of procedures or the allocation of resources to support the reunification of families separated between April 23, 2018 and June 20, 2018;

Thank you for your prompt attention on this matter. I look forward to working more closely with your office in the 116th Congress,

Sincerely,



Jerrold Nadler
Chairman
House Committee on the Judiciary

cc: Honorable Doug Collins, Ranking Member, House Committee on the Judiciary