

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 13, 2021

Mr. Tae D. Johnson
Acting Director
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Department of Homeland Security
500 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20536

Dear Acting Director Johnson:

On March 20, 2021, you announced that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) had signed a contract with Endeavors, Inc. worth nearly \$87 million to provide “shelter and processing services” to families that had illegally entered the United States.¹ News reports later indicated that shortly before ICE awarded the no-bid contract to Endeavors, the company had hired a former ICE official and advisor to the Biden-Harris transition team to be its senior director for migrant services and federal affairs.² Because of the unusual nature of this contract, as well as ICE’s decision to spend taxpayer dollars to house illegal aliens when existing federal facilities have capacity, we write to request additional information about this matter.

ICE’s no-bid contract to Endeavors raises several concerns. Not only did ICE award a contract to a company that had recently hired a former ICE official and Biden-Harris transition team adviser, but ICE had never before contracted with Endeavors and the contract was allegedly awarded without soliciting any other bids.³ Contrary to President Biden and Vice President Harris’s effort to ignore the crisis at the border, ICE cited “unusual and compelling urgency” as the reason for the no-bid contract.⁴ ICE’s decision to avoid the regular order contracting process—and to cite a compelling urgency at the same time the Biden Administration has downplayed the crisis—raises serious questions about the propriety of the contract.

It is also troubling that ICE spent taxpayer dollars on a contract with Endeavors to house illegal alien families in hotels when ICE’s own family residential centers are sitting nearly empty. ICE currently maintains three Family Residential Centers (FRCs) specifically designed to house alien families: one in Dilley, Texas; one in Karnes, Texas; and one in Leesport,

¹ Press Release, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Statement attributable to ICE Acting Director Tae D. Johnson (Mar. 20, 2021), <https://www.ice.gov/news/releases/statement-attributable-ice-acting-director-tae-d-johnson>.

² Lachlan Markay & Stef W. Kight, *Exclusive: Texas nonprofit got massive border contract after hiring Biden official*, AXIOS (Apr. 14, 2021), <https://www.axios.com/texas-nonprofit-border-contract-biden-official-23a493f4-6779-44f0-a5d4-db8690f11aec.html>.

³ Anna Giaritelli, *Exclusive: ICE gave \$87M no-bid contract to business with Biden ties, raising conflict of interest question*, Washington Examiner (Apr. 07, 2021), <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/biden-ice-gave-87m-no-bid-contract-conflict-of-interest>.

⁴ *Id.*

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Pennsylvania.⁵ These FRCs have a combined capacity to house over 2,300 aliens under COVID-protocols.⁶ However, ICE has informed Committee staff that the two facilities in Texas are housing around 200 aliens total while the Pennsylvania FRC sits empty because ICE released all family units from that facility in late February.⁷ In light of these vacancies at established federal facilities, the need for ICE's no-bid contract with Endeavors is even more questionable.

The Biden border crisis is the direct result of the radical immigration policies of President Biden. Rather than reserve these radical policies and reimplement the successful policies of President Trump, the Biden Administration is wasting taxpayer money on an unnecessary no-bid contract to a company with insider connections. Therefore, to assist the Committees with oversight of this issue and to better understand the nature of the contracts with Endeavors, we request you provide the following documents and information:

1. A list of all hotels used by Endeavors to house illegal alien families, including the following details:
 - a. The address of each hotel,
 - b. The number and type of rooms by category booked and used by illegal alien families at each hotel,
 - c. The number of meals provided to illegal alien families at each hotel, and
 - d. The dates on which illegal alien families stayed at each hotel
2. A full accounting of all expenses paid by Endeavors to house illegal alien families;
3. All documents and communications between or among employees of ICE and employees, representatives, or contractors of Endeavors for the period January 1, 2021, to the present.

Please provide this information as soon as possible but no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 27, 2021. Additionally, we request that you arrange a staff briefing on this matter following ICE's provision of this material.

If you have any questions about this request, please contact Judiciary Committee staff at (202) 225-6906 or Oversight Committee staff at (202) 225-5074. Thank you for your attention to this matter.


Jim Jordan
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary

Sincerely,


James Comer
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Reform

⁵ U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Detention Management, Family Residential Centers, <https://www.ice.gov/detain/detention-management>.

⁶ Telephonic briefing by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to House and Senate Committees (Apr. 22, 2021).

⁷ *Id.*

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Tom McClintock

Ranking Member

Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship

Committee on the Judiciary

cc: The Honorable Jerrold L. Nadler, Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
The Honorable Carolyn Maloney, Chairwoman, Committee on Oversight and Reform
The Honorable Zoe Lofgren, Chair, Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship,
Committee on the Judiciary