

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

August 2, 2021

Mr. Michael A. Smith
Executive Director
Holding Institute Community Center
1102 Santa Maria Ave.
Laredo, TX 28040

Dear Mr. Smith:

We understand that your organization is coordinating with the U.S. Border Patrol in Laredo, Texas, receiving aliens from their custody, testing for COVID-19, and facilitating their release throughout the U.S. In June, U.S. Border Patrol encountered 188,829 illegal aliens at the southern border, the highest figure in twenty years.¹ We learned recently from a frontline whistleblower that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is ignoring COVID-19 protocols to facilitate the surge of illegal immigrants into the United States. We write to request more information about this troubling matter.

The whistleblower explained that when the Border Patrol turns the aliens over to your organization, your organization tests each one for COVID-19 and that many aliens have tested positive. Although the whistleblower could not be sure whether the COVID-19-positive aliens are properly quarantined, the whistleblower believed that the sheer volume of illegal aliens and the tight timeline for resettlement made proper quarantining impossible.

To allow the Committee to understand how the Biden Administration is enforcing public health and safety along the border, we ask that you please provide the following information:

1. The total number of aliens released to your organization by Customs and Border Protection since January 20, 2021;
2. The total number of aliens released to your organization by Customs and Border Protection who were tested by your organization for COVID-19 since January 20, 2021; and
3. The total number of those aliens who tested positive for COVID-19 since January 20, 2021.

Please provide this information as soon as possible but no later than Monday, August 16, 2021.

¹ U.S. Customs and Border Protection, *FY Southwest Land Border Encounters by Month*, <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/southwest-land-border-encounters>.

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Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Jim Jordan
Ranking Member
House Committee on the Judiciary



Tom McClintock
Ranking Member
House Committee on the Judiciary
Subcommittee on Immigration and
Citizenship



Matthew Rosendale, Sr.
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Jerrold Nadler, Chairman, House Committee on the Judiciary

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren, Chair, House Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on
Immigration and Citizenship