

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4305

September 21, 2023

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Mayorkas,

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Inspector General (OIG) released a startling report on September 6, 2023, that revealed DHS is incapable of properly tracking migrants after they enter the country.¹ The report was based on a review of nearly one million migrant records from U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) from March 2021 through August 2022. Investigations revealed that addresses for nearly 180,000 migrant records were either missing, invalid for delivery, or not legitimate residential locations. Without accurate residential information, DHS cannot notify migrants of their pending asylum claims and court dates or successfully deport migrants who illegally enter the country.

The Inspector General report documented seven addresses recorded more than 500 times, some of which were locations for federal agencies and charities. From the records examined, at least 25 different charities were listed as residential addresses by migrants.² It appears that migrants who received the physical addresses of these charities, agencies, and other locations circulated the information to other migrants upon discovering DHS accepted them as legitimate and collectively started submitting these addresses.

Several charities and nonprofit entities use the federal government to game our immigration system. Taxpayer dollars are funneled into non-governmental organizations (NGOs) at increasingly new record-setting numbers under the Biden administration. These funds are consumed to provide illegal aliens with assistance for housing, food, transportation, and even legal advice.

Allowing illegal immigrants to use fraudulent addresses on release forms leaves hundreds of thousands of migrants untraceable within the United States. Since migrants' stays at charitable

¹ Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General, "DHS Does Not Have Assurance That All Migrants Can be Located Once Released into United States," (Sept. 6, 2023), <https://www.oig.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/assets/2023-09/OIG-23-47-Sep23-Redacted.pdf>.

² Id.

locations are often brief, these addresses fail to be useful to law enforcement or Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Not only does this prevent law enforcement from locating potentially violent offenders and terrorists, but traffickers can also easily escape law enforcement by listing these false or public addresses. The failure to properly vet and trace these individuals is yet another disservice to the law-abiding American public.

Based on the OIG report and the countless incidents over the past two years, it is evident that migrants are disappearing into the interior of our country without DHS providing proper vetting and oversight of critical information provided on release forms. To help Congress and the American people understand how DHS plans to correct its failures and address this OIG report, we request answers to the following questions:

1. What is your plan to improve internal requirements and processes when migrants do not have a valid U.S. address?
2. What efforts is DHS making to improve interagency communication to ensure migrants who are flagged by law enforcement can be located?
3. How many migrants with false addresses were flagged by law enforcement?
4. Approximately how many migrants does DHS estimate it has lost within U.S. borders due to migrants leaving fraudulent or public post-release addresses?
5. What are the names of the 25 charities listed by migrants in the OIG report? Were any of these charitable entities' recipients of DHS grants or contacts?

Thank you for your attention to this important matter and we look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lance Gooden". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lance Gooden
Member of Congress