

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1803

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Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Tae Johnson
Acting Director
Immigration and Customs Enforcement
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20536

Secretary Mayorkas and Acting Director Johnson,

I write today to request the immediate termination of ICE's "temporary support plan" to resettle migrants across the country, which has led to migrants being dropped at bus stops and airports in Louisiana. This operation lacks transparency, is a complete evasion of responsibility, and compromises the safety of both migrants and Louisianans.

The Biden Administration created a major crisis at the southwest border and continues to incentivize migrants to illegally cross into the U.S. with the promise of amnesty. The federal government has failed to perform its essential national security duties. More illegal border encounters have been documented in the short months that President Biden has been in office than in all of 2020 combined. Recent data show that there were 188,829 illegal border encounters in just the month of June, progressively worsening since January's total of 78,442 encounters. This has led to Border Patrol facilities and temporary processing centers being over capacity. Pawning off the management of these individuals to state and local communities is wholly unacceptable.

Many cities in Louisiana are working hard to recover from the economic impacts of COVID-19 and two major hurricanes. During this challenging time, it is concerning that the current Administration is allowing individuals who have knowingly broken the law to be placed freely in our communities with no way of contacting their families and nowhere to go. There are reports that local governments are not given any warning before dozens of busloads of migrants arrive in their cities. Given that the Delta variant of COVID-19 continues to ramp up in the U.S., the mass resettlement of migrants poses a significant risk to public health. Title 42 public health protections are more important now than ever, and your agencies should use that authority to aggressively limit admission to the U.S. interior.

If this Administration truly cares about the well-being of migrants, the first step is to stop incentivizing lawlessness and dropping migrants off at bus stops and airports with no money or resources to sustain themselves. This is a recipe for disaster. I respectfully ask that you end this practice and provide my office and the state of Louisiana with answers to the following questions:

1. What is the process for notifying state and local governments about the arrival of busloads of migrants being dropped into their communities?
2. What specific steps is ICE taking to ensure there are no migrants with criminal records being released into our communities, making the area less safe?
3. How is ICE tracing migrants to make sure they return for court proceedings?
4. What instructions and details are migrants given for their arrival in US cities, where to go, what to do, etc.?
5. Is DHS depending on state and local governments to provide for the needs of bussed migrants?
6. Are migrants being tested for COVID-19 or COVID-19 antibodies prior to being transported across the United States?

Respectfully,



Clay Higgins
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Border Security, Facility, and Operations