



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

October 24, 2024

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
CHAIRMAN, BORDER SECURITY AND ENFORCEMENT
TRANSPORTATION AND MARITIME SECURITY
COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND
THE FEDERAL WORKFORCE
NATIONAL SECURITY, THE
BORDER, AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
SEAPOWER AND PROJECTION FORCES

Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr Ave SE
Washington, D.C. 20528

Secretary Mayorkas,

On October 9, 2024, the State of Louisiana was informed that the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) had in custody a Chinese national, infected with a rare form of tuberculosis (TB), who illegally entered the United States. The illegal Chinese national has come into contact with hundreds of ICE detainees and numerous other individuals.¹ This strain of TB is a rare, aggressive, and drug-resistant form that has been associated with high mortality rates. We must ensure detainees exposed to these deadly bacteria are not released into the interior to spread this sickness to more Americans.

As the Chair of the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Border Security and Enforcement, I have raised alarms that the Biden-Harris open border policies have endangered every community in our nation. The crisis at our southern border risks the safety and health of American citizens across our nation. In light of these developments, I am requesting expedited answers to the following questions:

1. What is the travel history of the illegal Chinese national (patient zero)?
2. Where was patient zero first intercepted? By whom?
3. Where was the Chinese national living prior?
4. Have any individuals who have been in contact with patient zero shown symptoms, been released, or come into contact with anyone outside of the ICE facility?
5. Has the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) been activated to help trace potential infections?
6. Has the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) been notified of these developments?
7. What resources have been initiated at the federal level to mitigate the spread of this disease?

¹ <https://www.foxnews.com/us/illegal-chinese-immigrant-exposed-hundreds-louisiana-rare-tb-strain-state-sues-mayorkas-ice>

This situation is yet another example of the catastrophic failures at our southern border and the dangerous consequences of the Biden-Harris Administration's negligence. The American people deserve leaders who prioritize their safety and security. I demand swift action. The people of Louisiana and the American public cannot afford further delay. We expect full transparency on this matter.

I request timely answers to these questions and updates on the federal response to this situation. I look forward to your cooperation with this inquiry.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Clay Higgins". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C" and "H".

Clay Higgins
Member of Congress