



**One Hundred Eighteenth Congress**  
**Committee on Homeland Security**  
**U.S. House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

January 30, 2023

Tae D. Johnson  
Acting Director for U.S Immigration and Customs Enforcement  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
2703 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, Southeast  
Washington, D.C. 20593

Dear Acting Director Johnson:

The Committee on Homeland Security continues to conduct oversight of contracts for housing illegal migrants encountered at the Southwest Border. I write as a follow-up to the letter you received in December 2022 from the Committee's Ranking Member requesting that you preserve documents pertaining to contracts for housing migrants at the southwest border.

In 2021, the Committee on Oversight and Reform and the Committee on Homeland Security Republicans began oversight of two massive, sole source contracts that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) awarded to nonprofit Family Endeavors, Inc (Endeavors). Since that oversight began, the Inspector General issued a report, finding that ICE did not adequately justify the need for the sole source contract and spent nearly \$17 million on hotel space and services that went largely unused.<sup>1</sup> Recent reporting also suggests that these contracts included superfluous accommodations to illegal immigrants at taxpayer expense.<sup>2</sup>

In the first three months of this fiscal year alone, Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has apprehended over 700,000 migrants at the southwest border - more than in any full fiscal year between 2009 and 2018.<sup>3</sup> Of those 700,000 migrants, over 200,000 were family units<sup>4</sup> that DHS scrambled to house before releasing them into the interior of the United States. Instead of pursuing cogent policies at the border, the Biden Administration has been aimlessly throwing taxpayer dollars at the issue, hoping to cure a problem it has only exacerbated.

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<sup>1</sup> Office of the Inspector General, ICE Spent Funds on Unused Beds, Missed COVID-19 Protocols and Detention Standards while Housing Migrant Families in Hotels, OIG-22-37 (April 12, 2022), <https://www.oig.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/assets/2022-04/OIG-22-37-Apr22.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Stephan Dinan, Feds paid room service, laundry, and babysitters for illegal immigrants kept at hotels, The Washington Time (Nov. 6, 2022), <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2022/nov/6/feds-paid-room-service-laundry-and-babysitters-ill/>.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.cbp.gov/sites/default/files/assets/documents/2021-Aug/US59B8~1.PDF>.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/southwest-land-border-encounters>.

The Committee has a responsibility to ensure that the federal government engages in contracts fairly and competitively and utilizes taxpayer money efficiently. As such, I have concerns about the Administration's contracts for housing migrants at the Southwest Border. To help understand DHS's decision to award a sole-source contract to Endeavors, I hereby request that you provide the following information as soon as possible, but no later than noon on February 28, 2023: from January 1, 2021, to the present, as to the contract<sup>5</sup> DHS awarded to Family Endeavors, Inc. that began March 16, 2021:

1. All documents, emails, and communications about the need for contract migrant housing at the southwest border to accommodate an anticipated surge of migrants in early 2021;
2. All documents, emails, and communications about investigations of any potential vendors for contract migrant housing services at the southwest border to accommodate an anticipated surge of migrants in early 2021;
3. All emails and communications that refer to the contract, between any DHS employee and any Endeavors employee, personnel, executives, agents, affiliates, or representatives;
4. All emails and communications between any DHS employee and Andrew Lorenzen-Strait;
5. A copy of the sole source contract awarded to Endeavors;
6. A copy of any file for the sole-source contract kept by DHS contracting officials;
7. A copy of any proposals by Endeavors to initiate the sole source contract;
8. All documents and communications DHS contracting officials used to award the contract as a no-bid sole source contract;
9. All communications about the justification and approval document used for the sole source contract; and
10. The final draft of the justification and approval document used for the sole source contract.

In accordance with House Rule X, the Committee has jurisdiction over border security and shall "review and study on a continuing basis all Government activities relating to homeland security, including the interaction of all departments and agencies with the Department of

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<sup>5</sup> [https://www.usaspending.gov/award/CONT\\_AWD\\_70CDCR21C00000001\\_7012\\_-NONE-\\_NONE-](https://www.usaspending.gov/award/CONT_AWD_70CDCR21C00000001_7012_-NONE-_NONE-)

Homeland Security". This request and any documents created as a result of this request will be deemed congressional documents and property of the House Committee on Homeland Security.

Thank you for your prompt attention to and compliance with this request. Please provide your response no later than February 28, 2023. Should you or your staff have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Elizabeth O'Connor on my Committee Staff at (202) 226-8417.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark E. Green". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "M" and "G".

MARK E. GREEN, MD  
Chairman