



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

September 18, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Mayorkas:

I am in receipt of your response to my August 16th letter that requested you to appear before the Committee on Homeland Security to testify on the unprecedented border security crisis. As you know, I requested your testimony at a mutually agreeable time during the week of October 23, 2023, as part of our ongoing oversight work. The Committee on Homeland Security is the House of Representatives' primary committee of jurisdiction over the Department of Homeland Security.

Your response seems to request a deferral of your testimony to the Committee's annual Worldwide Threats hearing. As is the tradition of this Committee, I intend to schedule the Worldwide Threats hearing this fall, separate from the hearing I describe in my August 16th letter.

Just last week, the Department released its Annual Homeland Threat Assessment stating that the Department "...continues to identify a high risk of foreign and domestic terrorism in 2024[.]" The assessment describes a "...diverse and dynamic threat environment." The dynamic and diverse nature of the threats we face is why I intend for the Worldwide Threats hearing to cover the wide range of threats, including threats to our infrastructure, cybersecurity, economic security, aviation security, faith-based communities, as well as our very way of life. Testimony from DHS, the FBI, and NCTC always give the Committee a wide breadth of topics to explore and to question witnesses about. I also anticipate that border security will be an inevitable point of discussion in that hearing.

Your letter states that "[b]order security is an essential aspect of DHS's core mission..." I could not agree more. However, because of the unprecedented crisis at the border, your testimony on border security, at a hearing focused solely on border security, is essential for the Committee to fulfill its oversight obligations to the crisis by receiving answers to the many questions we have that are specific to the Department.

The Committee takes its oversight responsibilities very seriously and would appreciate your participation and insight in order to understand the entirety of the dynamic threat

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environment you mention in your report. I therefore request that you make yourself available for testimony at both hearings.

I look forward to and request your response by September 25, 2023.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark E. Green". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

MARK E. GREEN, M.D.
Chairman