



**U.S. House of Representatives**  
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET  
Washington, DC 20515-6065

September 12, 2023

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas  
Secretary  
United States Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Mayorkas:

The United States is experiencing an invasion of crime, criminals, and deadly fentanyl at our southern border. The Biden Administration's immigration policies have encouraged historic levels of migration, which have created a self-inflicted national security and humanitarian crisis. Southwest border encounters have grown out of control — regularly setting new records for illegal crossings — and my home state of Texas continues to bear the brunt of these unlawful and irresponsible policies.

While the Administration ignores the national security crisis, Texas is doing what is necessary to protect U.S. citizens. Texas has spent and allocated through 2025 a total of \$9.5 billion for Operation Lone Star, which Governor Abbott launched in direct response to the Administration's failure to address the border crisis.<sup>1</sup> This included a budget authorization for Texas to build their own border wall and deployment of the Texas National Guard and Texas Department of Public Safety to the border. Operation Lone Star continues to try and fill the dangerous holes created by the Biden Administration's refusal to do its job and protect our sovereign borders.

Since you were appointed Secretary of Homeland Security, the House Committee on the Budget has sent several letters to the Biden Administration requesting answers regarding the fiscal impact of the border crisis.<sup>2</sup> The Committee has not received a response to any of those requests. It is completely unacceptable that the Biden Administration would refuse to be transparent about the use of taxpayer dollars and blatantly ignore official requests from Congress. On behalf of the House Committee on the Budget, I am writing a final time to request that this Administration voluntarily produce answers to the Committee — and the American people — on the true fiscal cost of the border crisis.

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<sup>1</sup> Governor Abbott Signs Sweeping Package Of Border Security Legislation, Office of the Texas Governor, June 8, 2023, <https://gov.texas.gov/news/post/governor-abbott-signs-sweeping-package-of-border-security-legislation>.

<sup>2</sup> Letter to Acting OMB Director Shalanda Young on Fiscal Impact of Border Crisis, Ranking Member Jason Smith and Ranking Member John Katko, April 27, 2021, <https://budget.house.gov/imo/media/doc/2021/04/Smith-Katko-Letter-4.27.21.pdf>; Letter to DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas and OMB Acting Director Shalanda Young on halting construction of southern border wall, Ranking Member Jason Smith, July 16, 2021, <https://budget.house.gov/imo/media/doc/2021/07/Smith-Letter-to-DHS-and-OMB.pdf>; Letter to Acting OMB Director Shalanda Young on President Biden's FY23 Budget Request, House Budget Committee Republicans, February 7, 2022, <https://budget.house.gov/imo/media/doc/2022/02/Letter-to-OMB-on-Presidents-FY23-Budget-Request.pdf>.

Given all of this, I ask for your timely written response to the following questions regarding the fiscal costs of this Administration's border policies:

- Since you became Secretary, what has the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) spent on addressing the dramatic influx of migrants at the southwest border?
  - What does DHS project to spend on addressing the border crisis for fiscal year 2024?
- Since you became Secretary, what has been the total cost of transporting, housing, relocating, and releasing illegal aliens in DHS custody?
  - How much funding has DHS disbursed to non-profits to house, feed, and transport illegal aliens?
- Since you became Secretary, how much funding has DHS allocated to construction of new border barriers?
  - What is the current cost of materials that have gone to waste due to the pause in construction of the border wall system?
- If there isn't a crisis at the border, why is the Administration asking Congress for \$4 billion in supplemental funding to address the border?<sup>3</sup>
  - If DHS received supplemental funding, how would the funding be used to enforce security at the border?
- Will the \$9.5 billion that Texas is spending on the border to enforce the national security of the United States be reimbursed by the Administration?

Please be aware that failure to provide forthcoming and transparent answers to the Committee's questions will necessitate additional action, including resorting to compulsory process to obtain the required information. We look forward to hearing from you on this important matter, particularly as you request supplemental funding from Congress to address a crisis that was created by this Administration.

With the end of fiscal year 2023 approaching, I respectfully request a response to this letter by September 30, 2023.

Sincerely,



Jodey C. Arrington  
Chairman  
Committee on the Budget

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<sup>3</sup> Letter to Speaker McCarthy regarding critical funding needs for FY 2024, Office of Management and Budget, August 10, 2023, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Final-Supplemental-Funding-Request-Letter-and-Technical-Materials.pdf>.