



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0906

May 2, 2024

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
2702 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Mayorkas,

On April 19, 2021, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Immigration Statistics released a report entitled, “Estimates of the Unauthorized Immigrant Population Residing in the United States: January 2015-January 2018.”¹ According to the report, as of January 2018, 11.4 million illegal aliens resided in the U.S.² Since January 2021, the Southwest border crisis has reached heights not seen in recent history, and at least 4.7 million illegal aliens have been released into the interior under the Biden Administration’s policies.³ Therefore, we write to request an immediate update to the report using the most recent data available.

Since January 2021, the U.S. has encountered more than 7.6 million illegal aliens at its Southwest border.⁴ DHS has also released more than 4.7 million illegal aliens into the interior, in addition to over 1.8 million “got-aways” who have evaded capture by Border Patrol.⁵ Taken together, at least 6.5 million illegal aliens have entered the United States since this administration took office.

Despite the administration’s claims to the contrary, it has removed, through immigration court removal proceedings, less than one percent of the millions of illegal aliens released into the interior between January 20, 2021, and September 30, 2023.⁶ DHS has also issued memoranda restricting U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s (ICE) ability to conduct arrests and removals of illegal aliens, effectively allowing many to stay in the country, despite clearly being removable.⁷ In some cases, ICE has released aliens from its custody instead of physically detaining them for the pendency of their immigration court proceedings.⁸ In addition, the administration provided additional relief from removal through Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and Deferred Enforced Departure (DED), which permits broad categories of illegal aliens to remain in the U.S.⁹

The American people deserve an exact accounting of the number of illegal aliens residing in the country, especially if the federal government’s policies have caused that number to surge since the previous estimate.

¹ https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/immigration-statistics/Pop_Estimate/UnauthImmigrant/unauthorized_immigrant_population_estimates_2015_-_2018.pdf.

² *Id.*

³ <https://judiciary.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/republicans-judiciary.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/2024-04-16-How-the-Biden-Administration%27s-Lax-Immigration-Enforcement-Allows-Dangerous-Criminal-Aliens-to-Run-Free-in-American-C.pdf>

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

⁵ *Id.* <https://judiciary.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/republicans-judiciary.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/2024-04-16-How-the-Biden-Administration%27s-Lax-Immigration-Enforcement-Allows-Dangerous-Criminal-Aliens-to-Run-Free-in-American-C.pdf>.

⁶ <https://judiciary.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/republicans-judiciary.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/2024-01-18-new-data-reveal-worsening-magnitude-of-the-biden-border-crisis-and-lack-of-interior-immigration-enforcement.pdf>.

⁷ <https://cis.org/Arthur/New-Mayorkas-Memo-Further-Guts-Immigration-Enforcement>.

⁸ <https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2023/05/25/bidens-dhs-frees-2-3k-illegal-alien-convicted-criminals-into-u-s-in-five-months/>.

⁹ <https://americafirstpolicy.com/issues/research-report-temporary-protected-status-understanding-how-the-biden-administration-is-launders-its-failed-border-policies>.

Further, DHS's 2021 estimate differs drastically from other studies – one such study concluded the unauthorized alien population might exceed 22 million, double the DHS estimate.¹⁰

We request that DHS produce an updated report on the number of illegal aliens in the United States using data from January 2018 to the present. Specifically, we request the following to be included in the report:


1. An updated estimate of the total illegal alien population residing in the U.S. since the last study was produced using data from January 2018 to the present.
 - a) An explanation as to why previous DHS estimates, and any future estimate, of the illegal alien population residing in the U.S. differs from other publicly available estimates.
2. An updated number of aliens who evaded capture at the southern, northern, and coastal borders, also known as “gotaways,” including an estimate of unknown “gotaways” since January 2021.
3. The number of aliens who have overstayed their visas.
4. The number of aliens paroled and released into the country, both those encountered at a port of entry and between ports of entry.
5. The number of illegal aliens who are:
 - a) TPS beneficiaries.
 - b) Aliens enrolled in DED.
 - c) Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients.
6. The total number of aliens who have been released into the interior of the U.S., including:
 - a) Aliens released who received a Notice to Appear (NTA).
 - b) Aliens released who received a Notice to Report (NTR).
7. The total number of illegal aliens removed from the United States.
8. The number of aliens ordered to be removed from the U.S. by an immigration judge but who remain in the United States or the number of aliens in the United States with final orders of removal.
9. The number of aliens ordered removed *in absentia* because they failed to appear for their immigration court hearing.
10. The number of aliens currently considered fugitives by ICE.

Thank you for your attention to this inquiry.

Sincerely,



Chip Roy
Member of Congress



Mary E. Miller
Member of Congress

¹⁰ <https://thehill.com/latino/407848-yale-mit-study-22-million-not-11-million-undocumented-immigrants-in-us/>.



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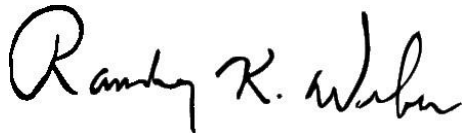
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