

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 31, 2022

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave SE
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Mayorkas,

On behalf of those we represent in South Florida, we appreciate that you agreed to meet with us on January 29, 2022 to provide us with information on the Administration's new parole policy changes. Within all applicable rules and regulations, we respectfully request that you answer some of the questions that we had during the meeting.

As Members of Congress, this information is of critical importance for oversight of the federal government and to our function as liaisons between those we represent and the federal government. Our constituents have asked questions regarding the new parole program for Cubans, Venezuelans, Nicaraguans, and Haitians. Furthermore, they have specifically inquired about the implementation process and have encountered issues with attempting to sponsor a family member from one of these countries of origin.

During our meeting, we discussed critical information regarding the humanitarian crisis at our southern border. You may remember that there were questions that you were unable to answer at that time, but that your Department would get that information to us. In order to effectively represent our districts and have the most up-to-date information, please respond to the following questions by no later than February 8, 2022.

1. According to U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), over 4.5 million migrant encounters have occurred at the Southwest border since President Biden took office. How many of those individuals encountered are currently residing in the United States and where are they residing? What is the process for choosing a location to release individuals and what sort of information is given to those localities?
2. How many of those individuals have authorized work permits? Do those with authorized work permits receive federal government assistance, if so how many and how much per individual? Do those individuals who do not have authorized work permits receive federal government assistance, if so how many and how much per individual?

3. According to CBP sources, over 1.2 million known “gotaways” have evaded CBP. How many of those have since been located by CBP? What are the current steps being taken by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in processing individuals who have been captured and detained? How many immigrants who were unknown to DHS have been detained and deported over the past two years?

Thank you for your attention on this important matter. I look forward to hearing from you on these issues.

Sincerely,



Carlos A. Gimenez
Member of Congress



Mario Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress