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April 3, 2024

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC, 20500

Dear Mr. President,

Last year, the Office of Refugee Resettlement awarded my home state of Michigan a grant which is being used by Governor Gretchen Whitmer to provide a rental subsidy up to \$500 per month¹ to house illegal immigrants who are claiming asylum status. With your failure to secure our borders, and the yearly number of border encounters increasing from 859,501 in FY 2019² to 1,151,448 in only the first five months of FY 2024³, the Refugee Resettlement Program will only burden the U.S. taxpayer with higher costs.

Your Administration's distribution of grants under this Program raises a number of troubling questions, and my constituents are demanding answers to the following by April 19th, 2024:

1. Are U.S. tax dollars being used to help provide housing assistance to someone who has broken our laws and come into this country illegally, also known as an illegal immigrant, under this program?
 - a. If illegal immigrants are prohibited from accessing this particular benefit, what is your administration doing to ensure U.S. tax dollars do not go towards housing assistance for those who have broken our laws and come across our borders illegally?
2. As mentioned above, under your watch we have seen a devastating humanitarian crisis at our southern border. Are you at all concerned that the Refugee Resettlement Program

¹ Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Opportunity. *Newcomer Rental Subsidy Program*, Global Michigan.

² United States, Congress, US Border Patrol. *Total Illegal Alien Apprehensions By Month - FY 2019*, p. 20.

³ "Southwest Land Border Encounters." *U.S. Customs and Border Protection*, 5 Mar. 2024, www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/southwest-land-border-encounters.

could be viewed as yet another incentive by your Administration to roll out the red carpet and invite more people to illegally pour across our borders.

3. Do you feel that someone who breaks our laws and comes into our country illegally, should receive a \$500 subsidy?
 - a. If yes, are you pleased with the \$500, or do you believe someone who breaks our laws and comes into our country illegally should receive less than or more than \$500 of U.S. taxpayer funding to subsidize their housing?
4. A factsheet regarding this program uses the phrase “newcomer.” Upon close inspection, it appears the term “newcomer” is a euphemism for someone who breaks our laws and comes into this country illegally. ⁴ Do you believe an illegal immigrant, someone who breaks our laws and comes across our border illegally, should be referred to as a “newcomer?”
5. Since January 20, 2021, how much money has the federal government spent to provide housing assistance to those who have broken our laws and come into this country illegally?

Your Administration is seemingly hellbent on providing taxpayer-provided benefits to those who deliberately break our laws, all the while making our communities less safe and straining our already depleted social services. The American people deserve answers to these questions, and as the Chairwoman of the House Oversight Subcommittee on Health and Financial Services, my job is to deliver the transparency and accountability taxpayers demand of our government. If that same government prioritizes illegal aliens over American citizens, the people deserve to know.

Sincerely,



Lisa McClain
Member of Congress

⁴ [Newcomer Rental Subsidy Program \(michigan.gov\)](https://www.michigan.gov/newcomer)