



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0605

June 4, 2024

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Secretary Mayorkas:

We write to you with grave concern over the dramatic rise in encounters at our nation's borders with individuals on the Terrorist Screening Data Set (TSDS) and the unprecedented, otherwise unexplained rise in Chinese nationals – largely adult males – crossing illegally. The rise in encounters of this kind appears to be correlated to the expansion of the CBP One mobile application. These developments prove our worst fears: the weakening of our borders and willful lack of enforcement of immigration laws has encouraged America's adversaries to exploit this national security vulnerability.

It is no secret the Biden Administration's open border policies have created chaos at major ports of entry. America's adversaries recognize this weakness and are now exploiting it. In FY23 alone, over 2.4 million illegals were encountered at the Southern Border, with daily surges of up to 12,000 per day. The reported additional known 'gotaways' for FY23 exceeded 600,000. FY23 also saw a record-breaking 169 encounters with illegal aliens on the TSDS, which represents more than a 70 percent increase from the 98 encounters in FY22, and more than a 10-fold increase from the 15 encounters in FY21. The increase of terrorists encountered at the U.S.-Mexico border in recent years is obviously deeply concerning.

There is increasing opportunity for bad actors to take advantage of this strained system¹. DHS's expansion of CBP One is only exacerbating the problem. In October 2020, Customs and Border Protection (CBP) rolled out CBP One. Its primary stated purpose was to provide travelers with access to Form I-94, scheduling inspections for perishable cargo, and assisting organizations helping individuals arriving to the US. However, last year, CBP significantly expanded the app's availability to include illegals arriving at the U.S.-Mexico border. After the expansion, anyone seeking asylum at a port of entry is now able to preschedule appointments for processing.

CBP One has been exploited by Mexican drug cartels to smuggle inadmissible aliens into the country, including a record number of Chinese nationals. In September 2023, the Washington Examiner reported that the Mexican cartels were exploiting CBP One by using a virtual private network to mask

¹ [Highest single day record of migrants crossing border, FOX sources \(fox10phoenix.com\)](https://www.fox10phoenix.com/news/highest-single-day-record-of-migrants-crossing-border)

the location of aliens, enabling them to schedule asylum appointments through the app.² Mexican cartels reportedly charge as much as \$70,000 to smuggle Chinese nationals, compared to \$8,000 to \$15,000 for other aliens.³ Last year, 86 percent of Chinese nationals entering the US were single adults.

Clearly, the increase in illegal aliens entering the country is a major national security concern, compounded by those coming from adversarial nations, with a reported 52,700 Chinese encounters alone in FY23.⁴ Findings from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Department of Defense outlined over 100 incidents in which Chinese nationals have been caught spying at U.S. military installations and other sensitive sites with national importance.⁶ In fact, the FBI has stated that they open a new China related counter-intelligence investigation every 12 hours.⁷ However, CBP continues to weaken the screening process, including reducing the required question list for Chinese nationals from 40 questions to 5 questions, which will further increase the probability of dangerous individuals being undetected.

The Biden Administration has intentionally dismantled any semblance of security at the U.S.-Mexico border. Hostile illegal aliens, Mexican cartels, and terrorists are exploiting this absence of security at an alarming rate, exacerbated by the expansion of CBP One. We are concerned the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) is exploiting your lack of enforcement to infiltrate our country. Therefore, we request that you answer the following questions not later than June 28, 2024:

Sincerely,

1. Given the increase under your watch in encounters on the southern border with individuals on the TSDS, can you please provide data on how many of those encounters are affiliated with the CCP?
2. Do you acknowledge that there is a connection OR correlation between the expanded use of CBP One and the increased encounters with individuals on the TSDS? If not, to what else do you attribute this massive increase in encounters with individuals on the TSDS?
3. How does the increased numbers of encounters with individuals from our greatest adversary, China, affect our national security?
4. Of the 52,700 Chinese nationals encountered, how many had official or unofficial affiliations with the CCP?
5. Of the 100+ documented incidents where Chinese nationals have been caught spying at US military bases and sensitive sites, how many of these individuals used CBP One to schedule their entry into the United States?
6. In expanding CBP One in FY23, what advice or guidance did you seek from counter-terrorism experts at the FBI or other federal security agencies?
7. What is your plan to ensure CBP One is not exploited any further by illegal aliens, the cartels, or Chinese nationals?
8. Has the watered-down screening process helped or harmed CBP's ability to screen for Chinese nationals conducting or intending to conduct espionage?

² [Mexican cartels exploit US government's CBP One app - Washington Examiner](#)

³ [Human Smugglers Charging Up To \\$15,000 Per Person for U.S. Border Crossing \(newsweek.com\)](#)

⁴ [Number of Chinese Nationals Trying to Cross Southern Border Skyrockets \(dailysignal.com\)](#)

⁵ [Nationwide Encounters | U.S. Customs and Border Protection \(cbp.gov\)](#)

⁶ [Chinese spies breach US military bases 100 times, officials say \(americanmilitarynews.com\)](#)

⁷ [FBI Director Wray says scale of Chinese spying in the U.S. 'blew me away' \(nbcnews.com\)](#)

9. How many times has CBP encountered Chinese nationals suspected of intending to conduct espionage?
10. Of the 52,700 Chinese nationals encountered, how many were deported back to China? How many were refused by the CCP?
11. Of the 52,700 Chinese nationals encountered by CBP, how many were released into the U.S.?
12. Now that the list of screening questions for Chinese nationals has been reduced from 40 questions to just 5 – how does CBP plan to effectively screen for Chinese nationals who are affiliated with the CCP?
13. What is the protocol for individuals encountered who are found to be affiliated with the CCP?

We look forward to your prompt response regarding this significant breach in our national security.

Sincerely,



Bob Good
Member of Congress



Ralph Norman
Member of Congress



Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress



Alex X. Mooney
Member of Congress



Byron Donalds
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Lauren Boebert
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