

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

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August 6, 2024

Mr. Troy A. Miller
Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Commissioner
U.S. Customs and Border Protection
Department of Homeland Security
500 C Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20024

Dear Mr. Miller:

The Committee on Oversight and Accountability is investigating Vice President Harris's role in effectuating the worst border crisis in American history. On March 24, 2021, President Biden tasked Vice President Harris with "stemming the migration to our southern border."¹ The media anointed her the Administration's "border czar."² Since the Biden-Harris Administration assumed office, there have been more than 8 million illegal aliens encountered entering the country through the southwest border³ and over 1.6 million "gotaways."⁴ The mass illegal migration under the Biden-Harris Administration has contributed to murders, sexual assaults, and serious bodily injuries committed against numerous Americans at the hands of illegal aliens.⁵ The Committee requests documents and communications to understand Vice President Harris's role in the worst border crisis in American history.

Vice President Harris's record on border security is abysmal and predates her taking office as Vice President of the United States. In 2018, then-Senator Harris stated that U.S.

¹ Briefing Room, Remarks by President Biden and Vice President Harris in a Meeting on Immigration, The White House (Mar. 24, 2021).

² Shawna Chen, *Harris to visit Mexico and Guatemala to address "root causes" of border crossings*, Axios (Apr. 14, 2021).

³ Newsroom, *Southwest Land Border Encounters*, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (accessed July 24, 2024).

⁴ Adam Shaw & Bill Melugin, *New data reveals Illegal immigrants eluding Border Patrol spiked under Biden, surpassing predecessors*, Fox News (May 15, 2024).

⁵ See e.g., Jeff Amy, et al., *The killing of a Georgia nursing student is now at the center of the US immigration debate*, Associated Press (Feb. 27, 2024); Christina Zdanowicz, *A 12-year-old who loved Harry Potter and old music: What we know about Jocelyn Nungaray and the men accused in her death*, CNN (June 27, 2024); Michael Dorgan, *Rachel Morin murder: Open border 'allowed' illegal immigrant to kill mom of 5, Maryland sheriff says*, Fox News (June 18, 2024); Jack Morphet, et al., *Illegal immigrant who posed as minor while crossing border charged with murder in Florida*, New York Post (Nov. 4, 2021); Noa Half, *Teenage migrant is arrested after murdering and DISMEMBERING a 25-year-old victim and leaving his chopped up remains inside a car*, Daily Mail (Apr. 9, 2024).

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) needed to be reworked “from scratch”⁶ and compared ICE agents’ enforcement of U.S. immigration law to the Ku Klux Klan’s use of “fear” and “force.”⁷ She described President Trump’s border wall as a “medieval vanity project.”⁸ Frontline Border Patrol agents, in contrast, have stated the border wall “certainly works,” described the system as something that “helped” in achieving border security, and concurred that there are areas where it would be beneficial to install more border wall.⁹ Then-Senator Harris also endorsed decriminalizing illegal entry¹⁰ and, regarding illegal aliens, stated, “I would not enforce a law that would reject people and turn them away[.]”¹¹ Vice President Harris recently called for a “meaningful pathway to citizenship” for illegal aliens.¹²

Instead of focusing on the southwest border, through which millions of illegal aliens have been let into the country by the Biden-Harris Administration, Vice President Harris focused on the purported “root causes of irregular migration” from Central America.¹³ Central to Vice President Harris’s root causes initiative is an effort “to provide \$4 billion to the region over four years.”¹⁴ Vice President Harris has traveled to Central America—to Mexico and Guatemala in 2021 and to Honduras in 2022—more than she has traveled to our own southern border.¹⁵ Outside of Central America, illegal aliens from over 170 countries entered the United States illegally in Fiscal Year 2023 under the Biden-Harris Administration.¹⁶ Vice President Harris’s root causes approach to solving the border crisis has been an abject failure as encounters at the southwest border remain high.¹⁷

It is unclear what actions, if any, Vice President Harris has taken to fix the border crisis. Rather, she has claimed that “[w]e have a secure border in that that is a priority for any nation,

⁶ Daniella Diaz, *These Democrats want to abolish ICE*, CNN (July 3, 2018).

⁷ *Nomination Hearing: Hearing Before the S. Comm. on Homeland Security*, 115th Cong., at 16-17 (Nov. 15, 2018) available at <https://www.congress.gov/event/115th-congress/senate-event/LC64393/text>.

⁸ Stacey Solie, *Kamala Harris Kicks Off 2020 Campaign With Oakland Rally*, The New York Times (Jan. 27, 2019).

⁹ See Staff Report, *Crisis at the Border: Reports from the Frontline*, H. Comm. on Oversight & Accountability & H. Comm. on Homeland Security at 12-17 (Jan. 16, 2024).

¹⁰ Associated Press, *Most Democrats promise to decriminalize border crossings during 2020 debate*, PBS (June 27, 2019).

¹¹ Matthew Impelli, *What Kamala Harris Has Said About Immigration Before Leading White House Border Response*, Newsweek (Mar. 24, 2021).

¹² Briefing Room, *Remarks by Vice President Harris on New Actions to Keep Families Together*, The White House (June 18, 2024).

¹³ Briefing Room, *Report on the U.S. Strategy for Addressing the Root causes of Migration in Central America*, The White House (Apr. 19, 2022).

¹⁴ Briefing Room, *FACT SHEET: Update on the U.S. Strategy for Addressing the Root Causes of Migration in Central America*, The White House (Mar. 25, 2024).

¹⁵ Maeve Reston, *Kamala Harris’ rocky first foreign trip*, CNN (June 10, 2021); Zolan Kanno-Youngs & Natalie Kitroeff, *Harris Seeks Ally in Honduras as She Revisits Central America*, The New York Times (Jan. 29, 2022); Jennie Taer, *Federal agents instructed to clear streets of migrants and put on a ‘show’ for ‘border czar’ Kamala Harris’ only trip to border*, New York Post (July 24, 2024).

¹⁶ See Interim Staff Report, *New Data Reveal Worsening Magnitude of the Biden Border Crisis and Lack of Interior Immigration Enforcement*, H. Comm. on the Judiciary at 7 (Jan. 18, 2024).

¹⁷ *Supra*, n. 3.

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including our administration.¹⁸ One Border Patrol agent noted Vice President Harris is “the border czar and has been remotely close to the border once in four years.”¹⁹ Another claimed the Vice President “hasn’t literally done anything” and stated, “she came to the border once and we sanitized all the aliens out of there to make it look good.”²⁰

The Committee seeks to understand whether Vice President Harris has “done anything” to address the worst border crisis in American history. To enable oversight over Vice President Harris’s involvement in border security and policy, please provide the following documents and communications no later than August 20, 2024, covering the time period January 20, 2021 to the present:

All documents and communications between U.S. Customs and Border Protection and the Executive Office of the Vice President related to the southwest border or illegal immigration.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue. To make arrangements to deliver documents or ask any related follow-up questions, please contact the Committee on Oversight and Accountability at (202) 225-5074. Attached are instructions for producing the documents and information to the Committee.

The Committee on Oversight and Accountability is the principal oversight committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this inquiry.

Sincerely,



James Comer
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Accountability

cc: The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Accountability

¹⁸ Transcripts, Meet the Press – September 11, 2022, NBC News (Sept. 11, 2022).

¹⁹ Jennie Taer, *Kamala Harris told migrants ‘do not come’ to US – and 8 million showed up anyway: Inside the veep’s legacy as ‘border czar’*, New York Post (July 23, 2024).

²⁰ *Id.*