

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 23, 2024

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Mayorkas:

We write to express our outrage with your continued failure to secure our southern border and protect the citizens of our country. In the fourth year of President Biden’s administration, the level of illegal immigration remains staggering. Since the President took office, there have been nearly *10 million* illegal immigrant encounters, and there have been nearly 2 million known “gotaways” who have evaded detection from border patrol and entered the United States.¹ Just as concerning, over 350 migrants encountered by border patrol were on the terrorist watchlist—75 of whom were apprehended in this fiscal year.² And, yet again, Tennesseans have been forced to bear the brunt of President Biden’s border crisis.

Last week, it was reported that Nelson Yovani Ortiz-Ramirez—an illegal immigrant—was charged with attempted kidnapping, sexual battery, public intoxication, and evading arrest.³ This illegal migrant allegedly followed a woman to the bathroom at a local coffee shop, groping her and forcing her into the bathroom, where the woman feared she would be raped. Fortunately, this brave woman was able to push Ortiz-Ramirez away and call the police. But this despicable incident would never have happened without your reckless and irresponsible open border policies.

Sadly, this incident is only the latest in a series of unconscionable acts by illegal immigrants who have entered our country. Last summer, an illegal immigrant in Franklin, Tennessee, was arrested after his co-workers discovered photos and videos on his phone of him raping and abusing unconscious children.⁴ And, in February, an illegal immigrant who had been released into the United States via parole under your watch is alleged to have brutally raped and murdered Laken Riley, a 22-year-old Georgia nursing student who lived in his apartment building.⁵ If you or this

¹ *Joe Biden’s Executive Action is a Political Stunt That Does Nothing to Secure Our Southern Border*, House GOP | Press Releases (May 16, 2024), <https://www.gop.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=797>.

² U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION, CBP SOUTHWEST LAND BORDER ENCOUNTERS, <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/southwest-land-border-encounters>.

³ Amanda Hara, *Woman Fights Off Would-Be Kidnapper Inside Gulch Coffee Shop, Police Say*, WSMV4 (May 17, 2024 6:26 AM), <https://www.wsmv.com/2024/05/17/woman-fights-off-would-be-kidnapper-inside-gulch-coffee-shop-police-say/>.

⁴ *Tennessee Soccer Coach is Charged with Child Rape After Restaurant Workers Find Photos on His Phone*, AP NEWS (July 10, 2023 10:56 AM), <https://apnews.com/article/tennessee-soccer-coach-rape-900e8104b45e0d1ab22d3669f5f23bee>.

⁵ Stephen Sorace, *Laken Riley’s Father Says Suspect ‘Might Not Have Been Here’ If Border Was Secure*, Fox News (March 19, 2024 12:46 PM), <https://www.foxnews.com/us/laken-rileys-father-says-suspect-might-not-have-been-here-border-secure>.

administration actually enforced our immigration laws, these heinous acts would never have taken place.

With all of this in mind, it is critical that we get answers from your Department about Mr. Ortiz-Ramirez's immigration status and why he was allowed to remain in the United States. The people of Tennessee deserve nothing less.

Please respond to the following questions by May 30, 2024:

1. Was the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) aware that Ortiz-Ramirez was in the country illegally?
 - a. If so, when did the Department become aware of his immigration status?
 - b. If so, please provide all documentation in the Department's possession, custody, or control related to Ortiz-Ramirez, his criminal record, and/or his immigration status.
 - c. If not, why was the Department unaware of his immigration status?
2. Was Ortiz-Ramirez provided a Notice to Appear when he entered the country illegally?
 - a. If so, when was his court date and did he appear?
 - b. If not, why not?
3. Did the Department initiate any enforcement actions against Ortiz-Ramirez?
 - a. In responding to this question, please provide all documentation in the Department's possession, custody, or control related to any legal proceedings or enforcement actions—or decisions not to bring enforcement actions—against Ortiz-Ramirez.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

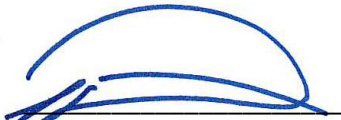
Sincerely,



Marsha Blackburn
United States Senator



Tim Burchett
Member of Congress



Scott DesJarlais, M.D.
Member of Congress



Chuck Fleischmann
Member of Congress



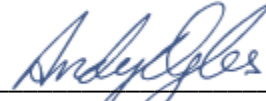
Mark E. Green, M.D.
Member of Congress



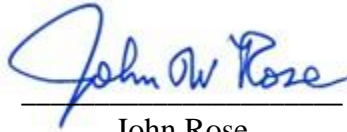
Diana Harshbarger
Member of Congress



David Kustoff
Member of Congress



Andy Ogles
Member of Congress



John Rose
Member of Congress