

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5051
MINORITY (202) 225-5074
<https://oversight.house.gov>

July 29, 2022

Mr. Tae D. Johnson
Acting Director
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Department of Homeland Security
500 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20536

Dear Acting Director Johnson:

We continue to investigate the Biden Administration's erosion of the rule of law and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) failure to engage in immigration enforcement. According to a recent report, the Administration is planning to issue identification cards to individuals who illegally cross the southwest border and are released into the interior of the U.S.¹ This pilot program, known as the ICE Secure Docket Card program, is intended in part to help illegal immigrants circumvent checking in physically at ICE offices and more easily access benefits within the United States.² We are concerned that this pilot program is yet another Biden Administration move encouraging illegal immigration by rewarding illegal immigrants for breaking our laws.

Due to the Biden Administration's pro-illegal immigration policies, the United States is facing the worst border crisis in our nation's history. In June 2022, U.S. Border Patrol made 191,898 arrests of illegal immigrants at the southwest border,³ making the month the worst June on record. In the year and a half since President Biden took office, Department of Homeland Security personnel have encountered over 3.1 million illegal immigrants at our southwest border, which far exceeds the number of encounters during the entire four years of the prior administration. Further, this Administration has released over 1,048,000 illegal immigrants into the interior of the United States⁴ since President Biden took office, not including aliens who evaded apprehension entirely, which are estimated at over 500,000 just this fiscal year.⁵ The

¹ Stef W. Kight, *Government eyes plan to give I.D.s to unauthorized immigrants*, AXIOS NEWS (Jul. 22, 2022).

² *Id.*

³ Southwest Land Border Encounters, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (Jul. 15, 2022), *available at* <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/southwest-land-border-encounters>.

⁴ See Andrew R. Arthur, *Under Biden DHS Has Released More Than 756,000 Southwest Border Migrants*, CENTER FOR IMMIGRATION STUDIES (Apr. 14, 2022); and *Texas v. Biden Defendant Monthly Reports*, *available at* <https://www.courtlistener.com/docket/59815977/state-of-texas-v-joseph-r-biden/>.

⁵ Bill Melugin & Stephen Sorace, *Illegal immigrant 'gotaways' crossing US-Mexico border number more than half a million, DHS sources say*, FOX NEWS (Jul. 25, 2022).

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Administration is now reportedly planning yet another reckless policy that will further exacerbate this ongoing crisis.

The ICE Secure Docket Card program raises several concerns. The program is apparently intended to permit illegal aliens to check in with ICE virtually instead of physically reporting to an ICE office. Committee Republicans have heard from ICE officials that many aliens enrolled in Alternatives to Detention (ATD) programs fail to check in with ICE as required and disappear into our local communities. The ATD program's failure to ensure illegal immigrants report to ICE is not a reason to issue them identification cards hoping the statistics improve, but instead an indication that more of these illegal border crossers should be detained during the pendency of removal proceedings. Also, we are concerned that identification cards will include QR codes that link to court documents and personally identifiable information related to removal cases. This raises security concerns as well as questions regarding the likelihood that significant taxpayer resources will be diverted from immigration enforcement to uploading documents into and maintaining a secure system. Finally, the issuance of ID cards raises the possibility that illegal aliens will use these identification cards to improperly access benefits such as housing, healthcare, and transportation.

To assist Republicans on the Committee on Oversight and Reform in conducting oversight of ICE's execution of the planned identification cards pilot program for illegal immigrants, please make arrangements to provide a staff-level briefing as soon as possible. In addition, please provide the following documents and communications no later than August 12, 2022, for the time period January 20, 2021, to present:

1. All documents and communications referring or relating to the ICE Secure Docket Card program, or any other program to provide identification cards to aliens who illegally cross the southwest border and are released from ICE custody;
2. All documents and communications referring or relating to cost estimates for the implementation and maintenance of the ICE Secure Docket Card program or similar programs.

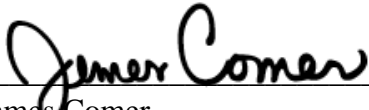
To ask any follow-up, related questions, or to schedule the briefing, please contact the Committee on Oversight and Reform Republican staff at (202) 225-5074. The Committee on Oversight and Reform is the principal oversight committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate "any matter" at "any time" under House Rule X. Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this inquiry.

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Sincerely,



James Comer
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Reform



Glenn Grothman
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on National Security



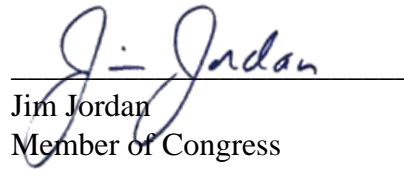
Jody Hice
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Government Operations



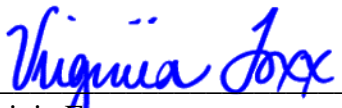
Michael Cloud
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Economic and
Consumer Policy



Nancy Mace
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Civil Rights and
Civil Liberties



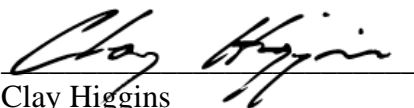
Jim Jordan
Member of Congress



Virginia Foxx
Member of Congress



Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress



Clay Higgins
Member of Congress



Ralph Norman
Member of Congress



Pete Sessions
Member of Congress

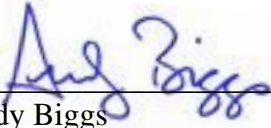


Fred Keller
Member of Congress

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Andy Biggs
Member of Congress



C. Scott Franklin
Member of Congress



Jake LaTurner
Member of Congress



Byron Donalds
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Carolyn Maloney, Chairwoman
Committee on Oversight and Reform

The Honorable Gerald E. Connolly, Chairman
Subcommittee on Government Operations

The Honorable Stephen F. Lynch, Chairman
Subcommittee on National Security

The Honorable Raja Krishnamoorthi, Chairman
Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy

The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Chairman
Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties