



One Hundred Eighteenth Congress
Committee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

August 13, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Mayorkas:

The Committee on Homeland Security (Committee) is continuing its oversight of the Department of Homeland Security's (Department) implementation and operation of the Cuban, Haitian, Nicaraguan, and Venezuelan (CHNV) parole program. According to an internal report obtained by a public interest organization, a Department investigation recently revealed large amounts of fraud among applications for prospective sponsors in the CHNV program.¹ Last week, a Department spokesperson confirmed that "DHS has temporarily paused the issuance of advanced travel authorizations for new beneficiaries while it undertakes a review of supporter applications."²

Reportedly, the Department's internal investigation found that 100 physical addresses were listed for parole sponsors on unique application forms with each address appearing between 124 and 739 times each, accounting for over 19,000 total forms.³ The internal investigation also purportedly reveals that 2,839 sponsor forms contained non-existent zip codes and 4,590 forms were filled out with Alien file numbers that had never been issued by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).⁴ Additionally, the report concluded that 100,948 forms had been filled out by 3,218 serial sponsors (sponsors who appeared on 20 or more forms).⁵

On August 21, 2023, the Committee subpoenaed the Department to compel production of documents related to the CHNV program.⁶ In partial compliance with the subpoena, the Department produced to the Committee documents that revealed USCIS officers were instructed

¹ *Internal Homeland Security Report Proves Biden-Harris-Mayorkas CHNV Parole Program Loaded with Fraud*, FEDERATION FOR AMERICAN IMMIGRATION REFORM, July 31, 2024, <https://www.fairus.org/news/executive/internal-homeland-security-report-proves-biden-harris-mayorkas-chnv-parole-program>.

² Adam Shaw, *Biden Admin Freezes Controversial Migrant Flight Program After Fraud Revelations*, FOX NEWS, Aug. 2, 2024, <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/biden-admin-freezes-controversial-migrant-flight-program-after-fraud-revelations>.

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Supra* note 1.

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ See Letter from Hon. Mark Green, Chairman, H. Comm. on Homeland Sec., to Hon. Alejandro Mayorkas, Sec'y, U.S. Dep't of Homeland Sec. (Aug. 21, 2023).

not to issue Requests for Evidence, which might have resolved disputable or unconfirmable information about potential sponsors' identities, unless such requests were to ascertain a sponsor's immigration status or to correct illegible documents.⁷ Additionally, the documents produced to the Committee show that prospective sponsors were able to submit up to 10 separate applications for non-related parole recipients before their application was submitted to the Fraud Detection and National Security Directorate (FDNS) of USCIS for further review.⁸ The Committee is deeply concerned that such measures reduced the level of scrutiny that prospective sponsor applications received, which possibly enabled the widespread abuse of the CHNV parole program as described in the report on the Department's internal investigation.⁹ The reduced level of scrutiny also potentially enabled increased exploitation of parole applicants by malicious individuals applying to sponsor them.

Despite the Department's partial production, several of the Committee's requests included in the Committee's August 21, 2023, subpoena and its September 26, 2023, letter remain outstanding.¹⁰ Given the significant revelations outlined in the report of the Department's internal investigation,¹¹ the Committee reiterates its requests relating to the CHNV parole program. Additionally, the Committee seeks to understand the full facts and circumstances surrounding the Department's abrupt decision to suspend the issuance of travel authorizations through the CHNV parole program and how this decision impacts other DHS policies regarding migrant processing.

On August 5, 2024, the Department briefed Committee and House Committee on the Judiciary staff on the suspension of CHNV parole program travel authorizations. During the briefing, however, Department officials repeatedly refused to provide clear responses to staff questions related to the Department's current suspension and screening of CHNV parole sponsors.

Specifically, Royce Murray from the Department and Avidah Moussavian from USCIS repeatedly failed to adequately respond to even basic questions about the confirmation of the dates that parole processing was suspended, fraud indicators used by the Department to screen sponsors, sponsorship threshold numbers that would trigger concerns for fraud, the Department's plan for tracking upcoming parole expirations, or the current backlog of CHNV travel authorizations awaiting Department approval.

The Committee finds the August 5 briefing wholly unsatisfactory. Pending the Department's cooperation with our outstanding requests, the Committee will consider further actions to obtain information about the operations of the CHNV parole program, including but

⁷ U.S. CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES, *Uniting for Ukraine/CHNV Parole Processes Review of Form I-134A* (2023).

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ *Supra* note 1.

¹⁰ *See* Letter from Hon. Mark Green, Chairman, H. Comm. on Homeland Sec., to Hon. Alejandro Mayorkas, Sec'y, U.S. Dep't of Homeland Sec. (Aug. 21, 2023); Letter from Hon. Mark Green, Chairman, H. Comm. on Homeland Sec. et al., to Hon. Alejandro Mayorkas, Sec'y, U.S. Dep't of Homeland Sec. (Sep. 26, 2023). (As of Aug. 2, 2024, items 1, 6, and 8 of the subpoena schedule remain outstanding).

¹¹ *Supra* note 1.

not limited to, pursuing transcribed interviews with the briefers and other Department employees.

To assist the Committee in its oversight of the Department's implementation and operation of the CHNV parole program, please provide the following documents and information, as well as fulfilling the outstanding requests outlined in the Committee's August 21, 2023 subpoena, as soon as possible but no later than 5:00 p.m. on August 27, 2024:

1. An unredacted copy of the Department of Homeland Security's internal report that identifies patterns, trends, and potential fraud indicators within the CHNV parole program, and the associated data used to inform the report;
2. All documents and communications between or among any employee or contractor of the Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, including but not limited to, e-mail, text messages, internal memoranda, and guidance, referring or relating to the internal report to identify patterns, trends, and potential fraud indicators within the CHNV parole program, from October 1, 2022 to the present;
3. All documents and communications between or among any employee or contractor of the Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, including but not limited to, e-mail, text messages, internal memoranda, and guidance, referring or relating to the decision to suspend the issuance of travel authorizations through the CHNV parole program, from October 1, 2022 to the present;
4. Copies of all documents referring or relating to assessments of the impact of suspending the issuance of travel authorizations through the CHNV parole program on migration to the Southern border of the United States;
5. A document sufficient to identify the dates on which the issuance of travel authorization was suspended for individuals applying through the CHNV parole program;
6. A document sufficient to show the current backlog of CHNV parole program applications which are pending Department approval for travel authorization;
7. A document sufficient to show the current backlog of Uniting for Ukraine parole program applications which are pending Department approval for travel authorization;
8. A document sufficient to explain the current process for adjudication of CHNV and Uniting for Ukraine parole program applications, including the roles of the Immigration Records and Identity Services Directorate (IRIS) and the FDNS;

Secretary Mayorkas

August 13, 2024

Page 4

9. A document sufficient to identify potential fraud indicators used by the Department in screening sponsors for beneficiaries of parole, including in the CHNV and Uniting for Ukraine parole programs;
10. All documents and communications, including but not limited to, e-mail, text messages, internal memoranda, and guidance, referring or relating to the criteria used to flag sponsors who sponsor multiple beneficiaries for parole to the FDNS for additional review and investigation, including but not limited to the CHNV and Uniting for Ukraine parole programs; and
11. All documents and communications between or among any employee or contractor of the Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, including but not limited to, e-mail, text messages, internal memoranda, and guidance, referring or relating to the Department's processes and plans for tracking the upcoming expiration of parole granted to individuals under the CHNV, Uniting for Ukraine, and Operation Allies Welcome parole programs, from April 21, 2022 to the present.

Additionally, please contact Committee staff to schedule another briefing with briefers prepared to adequately answer Committee questions, as soon as possible, but no later than 5:00 p.m. on August 27, 2024.

An attachment contains instructions for responding to this request. Please contact the Committee on Homeland Security Majority staff at (202) 226-8417 with any questions about this request.

Per Rule X of the U.S House of Representatives, the Committee on Homeland Security is the principal committee of jurisdiction for overall homeland security policy, and has special oversight functions of "all Government activities relating to homeland security, including the interaction of all departments and agencies with the Department of Homeland Security."

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



MARK E. GREEN, M.D.
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security



CLAY HIGGINS
Chairman
Subcommittee on Border Security
and Enforcement

Secretary Mayorkas

August 13, 2024

Page 5

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Bishop". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

DAN BISHOP

Chairman

Subcommittee on Oversight,
Investigations, and Accountability

Encl.

cc: The Honorable Bennie Thompson, Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security

The Honorable Lou Correa, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Border Security and Enforcement

The Honorable Glenn Ivey, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations, and Accountability