

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0305**

April 22, 2021

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

Acting Director Tae Johnson  
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement  
Washington, D.C. 20536

Dear Secretary Mayorkas and Acting Director Johnson:

It has been widely reported that at least one hotel in the Chandler, Arizona, area is housing more than two hundred aliens. I am appalled that illegal aliens are being housed in American hotels. Illegal aliens should be held in Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention facilities, not in hotels. If President Biden and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) had not ended Trump Administration policies that were successfully securing the border, we would not be experiencing the current border crisis.

Illegal aliens who are seeking asylum should be detained, as required by the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), until their claims are heard by an immigration judge. All other illegal aliens should be detained until they are removed, and they should be removed as quickly as possible.

Unfortunately, instead of providing ICE with the resources necessary to detain aliens as required by law, Democrats in Congress have repeatedly fought to limit funding for ICE detention beds and have even called for abolishing ICE completely. They do not want our immigration laws enforced, and know that if aliens are not detained, they will most likely never be removed—which is their ultimate goal.

In order for me to better understand the current situation, I request that you provide answers to the following questions:

- How many empty beds are currently available in ICE detention facilities?
- Given the surge of aliens crossing our border, how many detention beds would ICE need to detain all aliens subject to detention by the INA for the remainder of fiscal year 2021 and in fiscal year 2022?
- How much money is ICE spending to house aliens in hotels?
- How many aliens are being housed in hotels in Arizona?

- Has ICE completed full criminal background checks on all the aliens being sent to hotels?
- Are the aliens tested for COVID-19 before they are sent to hotels?
- Are aliens who test positive for COVID-19 still sent to hotels?
- Are the aliens who are being housed in hotels in ICE custody while at hotels?
- Are the aliens able to leave the hotels at any time?
- Where do the aliens go when they leave the hotels?
- How long are the aliens staying in the hotels?
- Are all the aliens issued Notices to Appear before they are released from ICE custody?
- What steps is ICE taking to ensure that the aliens show up for their court hearings?
- Will ICE seek *in absentia* removal orders for aliens who do not show up for their court hearings?

Thank you in advance for the requested information. I look forward to receiving your responses in a timely manner.

Sincerely,



Andy Biggs  
Member of Congress