

THOMAS P. TIFFANY  
7TH DISTRICT, WISCONSIN



WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
1719 LONGWORTH HOB  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515  
(202) 225-3365

DISTRICT OFFICES:  
2620 STEWART AVE, SUITE 312  
WAUSAU, WI 54401  
(202) 225-3365

P.O. Box 586  
HAYWARD, WI 54843  
(202) 225-3365

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

April 14, 2021

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

Dear Secretary Mayorkas,

Like many Americans, I am deeply concerned about the immigration and public health crisis that the Biden administration has created on the southern border. Policy changes the administration made shortly after taking office, including the termination of the Migrant Protection Protocols and a return to the failed policy of catch-and-release, have unleashed an unprecedented tidal wave of illegal immigration – one that is overwhelming Border Patrol agents and their facilities, and resulting in the release of thousands of illegal aliens into American communities without adequate vetting or COVID screening.

This dangerous situation is being made worse by the administration's policy of putting recently released migrants on to commercial flights in large numbers, making airliners new vectors for COVID infection as illegal aliens rapidly fan out across the country. Aliens are boarding flights without conventional photo identification documents, in many cases carrying only a manila envelope that says "Please help me. I do not speak English," which contains "sparse" information that includes only the person's "name, nationality, gender, date of birth."<sup>1</sup>

Yet even this basic information may not be accurate, as Border Patrol personnel in Texas informed me that many migrants show up without any documents whatsoever. Even more alarming, the information collected from aliens upon intake is only checked against existing U.S. databases – meaning if the alien has not encountered U.S. authorities in the past, there will be no way to reliably verify the accuracy of the information they have provided. Moreover, when asked by lawmakers during a fact-finding mission to McAllen, TX, Border Patrol officials admitted they have no mechanism for tracking these aliens after they are released and spread out across the nation – meaning once they leave custody, they can effectively disappear into the country.

While some news reports suggest that aliens are tested for COVID-19 before they are released,<sup>2</sup> numerous Border Patrol and other Customs and Border Protection personnel I spoke with in the Rio Grande Valley last week directly contradicted this claim – saying that universal testing is simply not possible due to the sheer volume of migrants officers are being forced to process. What's worse, recent reports indicate that every single shelter currently sheltering illegal alien minors holds COVID positive individuals, some with rates in excess of 30 percent.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <https://fox40.com/news/national-and-world-news/migrants-freed-without-court-notice-sometimes-no-paperwork/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://fox40.com/news/national-and-world-news/migrants-freed-without-court-notice-sometimes-no-paperwork/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2021/apr/9/covid-19-prevalent-shelters-holding-illegal-immigr/>

COVID vaccination rates among those arriving illegally in the United States from primary source countries are also cause for concern. In Honduras and Guatemala, for example, less than one percent of the population has been vaccinated. In El Salvador, the number is just 2.5 percent.<sup>4</sup> Meanwhile many U.S. citizens remain unable to access shots, with millions of our own citizens still waiting to receive them.

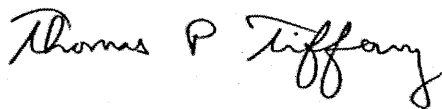
To that end, please provide answers to the following questions:

1. What steps does the department take to coordinate with American air carriers to ensure that illegal aliens who board commercial flights have tested negative for COVID-19?
2. What quarantine measures are required between the time these aliens are released from custody and the time they board these flights?
3. What steps, if any, are the airlines being asked to take to ensure that these travelers are healthy given the large number that are now boarding flights and transiting U.S. airports?
4. What are the containment protocols and contact tracing requirements for when an alien who is ill is removed from or denied the ability to board a flight?
5. How does the department verify the true identity of aliens who arrive without identity documents and who do not appear in U.S. databases, prior to the aliens' release into the U.S.?
6. When those aliens are released to family members residing in the U.S. who are themselves illegal immigrants, as media reports is happening,<sup>5</sup> how does the department verify the identities of these "recipient" family members?
7. What is the monetary total cost to U.S. taxpayers, of transport for these aliens to their final destination?
8. What steps does the department take to track these aliens once they are released from federal custody?
9. Does the department notify state and local officials in the jurisdiction of the aliens' final stated destination?

Mr. Mayorkas, Americans are being subjected to intense restrictions on their personal freedom, both by the government and by private companies. These include everything from business capacity limitations and mandatory temperature checks to strict quarantine lockdowns and vigorous contact tracing requirements. Yet record numbers of illegal aliens – whom we know little about and who potentially pose serious risks to public health and national security – are seemingly permitted to sidestep all of these rules as they melt into communities nationwide, putting pressure on local schools, hospitals and other taxpayer services without any say from the affected communities.

Thank you in advance for providing answers to these troubling questions, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Tom Tiffany  
Member of Congress

---

<sup>4</sup> <https://nypost.com/2021/04/09/wh-considers-cash-payments-to-central-americans-to-stem-migration/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2021/apr/8/us-taxpayers-pay-reunite-illegal-immigrant-familie/>