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The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas  
Secretary of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20528

February 2, 2024

Secretary Mayorkas,

I write to you today out of concern for a recently published letter<sup>1</sup> the Department of Homeland Security sent the City of Franklin, Tennessee in the fall of 2023 informing the municipality that 573 migrants “provided an intended destination in your Core Based Statistical Area.” Your office noted that this area included Nashville, Davidson County, Murfreesboro, and Franklin.

As Fentanyl deaths, human trafficking, and other violent crimes are on the rise due to your blatant disregard for following our nation’s immigration laws and leaving our border unsecure, it is of great concern to know that per your letter you are releasing “noncitizens who have been processed for expedited removal.” If these migrants have been processed for expedited removal, why are they being released?

The Congressional Research Service explains<sup>2</sup> that under the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996, requires DHS to remove illegal aliens without hearing or review if they fail to produce proper documentation, attempt to make fraudulent claims in order to gain admission into the United States. It also gives DHS the authority to expedite removal if they crossed into the country without being paroled by proper authorities or cannot establish two years’ residence in the U.S. when apprehended. In the letter your department sent the City of Franklin it was stated that all the migrants released have been properly screened and vetted. How can a migrant without documentation or who makes fraudulent claims be properly screened and vetted? This is a serious and egregious national security risk posed to our Tennessee citizens who may encounter illegal migrant criminals unknowingly.

In order for proper authorities to better be prepared for such an influx of migrants arriving to Tennessee due to a lack of enforcement of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 by the Department of Homeland Security we request you provide us with a response to the following questions.

<sup>1</sup> <https://s3.documentcloud.org/documents/24398980/nashville-intended-destination-data-week-ending-september-16.pdf>

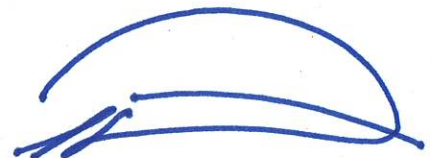
<sup>2</sup> <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/IF/IF11357>

Questions for the Department of Homeland Security:

1. What entities received your letter warning that 573 aliens were headed to the core based statistical area of Davidson County, Nashville, Murfreesboro, and Franklin?
  - a. What is the process of determining which municipality offices, law enforcement agencies, and other state and local authorities receive warning?
  - b. What is your threshold for the number of migrants over what period of time declaring they are headed to a certain area before you send warning of their impending arrival?
2. Since this letter was sent to the City of Franklin how many more illegal migrants have declared their intent to arrive in the Middle Tennessee core based statistical area?
3. Of the 573 migrants how many were required to regularly report to DHS their whereabouts?
  - a. What percentage of those who were required to regularly report their status to DHS complied with all of their required check-ins?
  - b. What are the criteria that would dictate a noncitizen to not have to report status updates?
4. Of the 573 migrants how many noncitizens were released that have been processed for expedited removal?
  - a. How many of those processed for expedited removal were due to lack of proper documentation?
  - b. How many of those processed for expedited removal were due to an attempt to make fraudulent claims in order to enter the country?
5. How many of these 573 migrants are currently receiving benefits of any federal or state welfare programs?
6. How many of the 573 migrants are minors?
  - a. If they are a minor how many are accompanied by a parent or guardian?
  - b. Did DHS deem these minors safe? Is there a potential that they are victims of human trafficking, drug smuggling, or other violent crimes?

I request that you provide answers to this letter no later than Friday February 9, 2024, so that proper authorities may be alerted to potential endangerment of minor migrant children and threats to our great state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Scott DesJarlais', with a large, sweeping arch over the name.

Scott DesJarlais, M.D.  
Member of Congress