

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY
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MEMORANDUM

January 11, 2024

To: Members of the Committee on Oversight and Accountability

From: Committee Staff

Re: Hearing titled “The Biden Administration’s Regulatory and Policymaking Efforts to Undermine U.S. Immigration Law”

On **Wednesday, January 17, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. ET in room 2154 of the Rayburn House Office Building**, the Committee will host a hearing titled “The Biden Administration’s Regulatory and Policymaking Efforts to Undermine U.S. Immigration Law.”

I. BACKGROUND:

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) personnel made over 2.47 million encounters of inadmissible aliens on the southwest border in Fiscal Year 2023, of which over 2 million were made by Border Patrol agents of individuals who illegally crossed the border in between ports of entry. These numbers do not include the approximately 600,000 individuals who are suspected by Border Patrol to have evaded apprehension entirely. Preliminary reports indicate that a record-setting 302,000 encounters were made in the month of December 2023, with 250,000 of those apprehensions being made by Border Patrol agents. In October and November 2023, the Administration released over 253,000 individuals—approximately two-thirds of the 379,000 illegal aliens apprehended by Border Patrol during those two months—with a Notice to Appear (NTA) in immigration court on their own recognizance (OR). Those released via NTA/OR will enter an immigration court system currently saddled with over 3 million cases nationwide.

II. HEARING PURPOSE:

This hearing will examine how policy choices made by the Biden Administration contributed to the border crisis, and how the resulting unprecedented rise in illegal immigration has impacted the U.S., including by undermining the effective and timely enforcement of U.S. immigration law.

III. WITNESSES:

Joseph Edlow

Former Acting Director and Chief Counsel
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Founder, Edlow Group LLC

Tom Homan

Former Acting Director
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Liz Murrill

Attorney General
State of Louisiana