

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

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MEMORANDUM

June 1, 2023

To: Members, Subcommittee on National Security, the Border, and Foreign Affairs

From: Committee Staff

Re: Subcommittee hearing titled “Help Wanted: Law Enforcement Staffing Challenges at the Border”

On **Tuesday, June 6, 2023 at 10:00 AM ET in 2154 Rayburn House Office Building**, the Subcommittee on National Security, the Border, and Foreign Affairs will host a hearing titled “Help Wanted: Law Enforcement Staffing Challenges at the Border.”

I. BACKGROUND:

On May 3, 2023, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Inspector General (OIG) published a final report of an audit titled *Intensifying Conditions at the Southwest Border are Negatively Impacting CBP and ICE Employees’ Health and Morale*. This report found that “shifts in U.S. immigration and border security policies, migrant surges, COVID-19, and the overall rising number of migrant encounters along the Southwest border have exacerbated staffing challenges” at DHS components carrying out missions related to immigration, trade, and travel. The audit, based on interviews and survey responses from 9,311 law enforcement personnel within U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), found that the use of temporary details and overtime “negatively impacted the health and morale of law enforcement personnel, who feel overworked and unable to perform their primary law enforcement duties.” The OIG made three recommendations to help CBP and ICE better manage resources along the southwest border.

II. HEARING PURPOSE:

This hearing will examine how intensifying conditions at the southwest border are impacting the ability of the DHS to maintain adequate staffing and consequences for employees’ health and morale.

III. WITNESS:

The Honorable Joseph Cuffari
Inspector General, Department of Homeland Security