

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY  
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**MEMORANDUM**

February 12, 2024

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

**From: Committee Staff**

**Re: Hearing titled “The Consequences of Catch and Release at the Border”**

On **Thursday, February 15, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. ET in room 2154 of the Rayburn House Office Building**, the Subcommittee on National Security, the Border, and Foreign Affairs will host a hearing titled “The Consequences of Catch and Release at the Border.”

**I. BACKGROUND:**

The Administration continues to release most individuals encountered after having illegally crossed the border. 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 on the southwest border during those two months—with a Notice to Appear (NTA) in immigration court on their own recognizance (OR). In December 2023, the Administration released over 191,000 individuals via NTA/OR, representing 76.5 percent of the total 249,785 Border Patrol encounters at the southwest border that month.

**II. HEARING PURPOSE:**

This hearing will examine the causes and consequences of catch and release policies at the border and their resulting impact on the United States.

**III. WITNESSES:**

**Jessica Vaughan**  
Director of Policy Studies  
Center for Immigration Studies

**Matt O’Brien**  
Director of Investigations  
Immigration Reform Law Institute