

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

August 1, 2024

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Washington D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Mayorkas,

In June, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced plans to parole certain illegal aliens who are married to American citizens. While the continued expansion of parole for illegal aliens by this administration is not surprising, this latest expansion is likely to result in the growth of an existing international criminal network used to allow aliens to illegally enter the country through fraudulent marriages, including individuals connected with terrorist organizations.

Even before DHS announced this new parole program, marriage fraud has been one of the major avenues used by aliens to illegally enter the country under the guise of legitimacy. In fact, its use is so common that Homeland Security Investigations has investigated and prosecuted numerous criminal rings, some based on familial relationships and friendships while others were fueled by organized criminal enterprises charging hefty fees for arranging fraudulent marriages.

Marriage fraud is also known to be a tool used by terrorist organizations. Members of both Al Qaeda and Hezbollah have used marriage fraud to allow their members to enter the United States under the guise of legitimacy. Additionally, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the architect of 9/11, has said that marriage fraud is “a fantastic mechanism for [terrorist] operatives to acquire valid documents.”<sup>1</sup>

Since the criminal mechanisms for large scale marriage fraud for illegal aliens already exist, we are greatly concerned that the announced plans to parole certain aliens based on marriage status to American citizens will only exacerbate the current problem with detecting fraudulent marriages. Because of this, it is vital that DHS enact greater investigatory procedures and protocols to detect and stop criminals from abusing our country’s immigration system.

Please provide answers to the following questions by August 31, 2024:

1. How many cases of marriage fraud does DHS identify each year?
2. What are the current procedures for identifying marriage fraud?
3. How many cases of marriage fraud does DHS estimate go undetected each year?
4. How much does DHS anticipate instances of marriage fraud schemes to increase due to the implementation of this new parole program?

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<sup>1</sup> *TOP STORY: ICE leading nationwide campaign to stop marriage fraud*, U.S. IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT (April 2, 2014), <https://www.ice.gov/news/releases/top-story-ice-leading-nationwide-campaign-stop-marriage-fraud>.