



FREEDOM FOREVER

4/26/22

To Members of the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security,

Freedom Forever is a non-profit combatting exploitation & trafficking in Nashville, Tennessee. Members of our organization visited the southern border last year and were horrified at the circumstances we discovered. At the border we rallied to advocate for victims, survivors and families impacted by the border crisis. Our rally brought national awareness to the need for crisis intervention. We partnered with other organizations who rendered medical aid and provided essentials to children who were illegally brought across the border. What we all saw there and had recounted to us by Border Patrol was horrifying. The consequences of having essentially open borders right now will reverberate for many years to come. The cartels (who still haven't been designated terrorist organizations) have been gifted a pipeline for their criminality enabled by the lawlessness of our southern border situation. Un-enforced or revoked border security policies and a lack of effective deterrents are to blame for this lawlessness. We also have a lack of training resources available to humanely provide care to trafficking and sexual assault survivors, many of whom are sadly children. During COVID-19, when many Americans were forced home and out of work, illegal immigrants were not subjected to the same level of COVID mandates as citizens. On our flight back from the border, a very sick child was coughing profusely. He had soiled pants and vomited on the floor of the airport. He had no shoes, no face covering nor any clean clothing. We stopped the Mother who informed us that they had just left Catholic Charities where they were never tested for COVID despite having negative COVID test results in their folder. This was a question we later asked other illegal immigrants. We again were told repeatedly that they hadn't been tested yet these folks all had test results in their DHS folders from Catholic charities. This may be a line of responsible inquiry for members of this committee. We've seen little to no oversight or accountability for the various reports of abuse and inhumane conditions in the care of subcontracted care providers. Concerns about where the money is being spent seem to be going unanswered. Countless reports of sexual assault have gone unchecked. This administration has reportedly lost contact with 1/3 of more than 300,000 unaccompanied minor children who've entered our country on their watch. What efforts are in place to locate these minor children and ensure their safe, timely reunification with family members in their countries of origin? Far too often children who come here unaccompanied have been used by cartels who took them from their families by force. What is being done to ensure those children are returned to their families in their home country instead of being rushed into our crowded foster care pipeline? Our research indicates that significant contracts and efforts to funnel these children into the foster care system are underway. The Foster care system currently is unsustainable with over 400,000 children. What system of prioritization is in place to home the American children who

have been waiting for a home versus children who likely have family in other countries? Currently to our knowledge, there's no serious oversight or funding to get to the bottom of sexual abuse, exploitation and trafficking occurring while children are entrusted to the Government's care. The border crisis is an extension of that inhumane, reckless, negligent and exploitive failure. All of the problems laid out above are preventable with intervention, both at the border and at the source of the problem. If we don't intervene and protect our border — Cartels will continue to operate and profit with almost total impunity. The designated Border Czar, Vice-President Kamala Harris has failed to visit the areas of the border where the crisis is taking place. This is gross negligence. Members of Congress and border patrol have been sounding the alarm on this crisis to no avail and now with the impending revocation of Title 42 we face the reality that this crisis will only increase. We're writing on behalf of the people who can't speak for themselves who've been harmed or killed as a result of these failures to act in a national emergency. That includes many Americans who've been killed by Fentanyl flooding through our border. It's now the #1 cause of death among 18-45 year old Americans and a serious vulnerability to experiencing exploitation. This crisis is unsustainable and we firmly believe it will result in the greatest crime increase and human trafficking increase that we've ever seen. We also believe it will drive the historic number of Fentanyl deaths we've seen to skyrocket to new all time highs. This transit of Fentanyl, aided in part by China but carried out largely by Cartels, needs to be treated as the biowarfare that we all know it is. If our enemies killed the same number of people with a bomb as they have with Fentanyl, we'd be posturing ourselves very differently as a nation. We urge you to prioritize the prevention of trafficking, child exploitation and illegal activities immediately. We implore you to disclose relevant statistics to the American public that have been suppressed by Secretary of DHS, Alejandro Mayorkas despite being asked for this information by Senator Ted Cruz. The collective failure to act from various arms of our Government is grossly negligent at the least and could be construed as evidence of participating in and enabling human trafficking and drug trafficking at worst. Countless criminals on the National Terrorist watchlist have crossed our border illegally. We only know about those who've been caught. Who's here right now from that list that we don't know about? How many Americans will die as a result? Convicted child rapists, murderers and gang members have also crossed our largely open border. In far too many cases, these sex offenders re-offend and even murder Americans. How many Americans need to suffer such horrific fates before the Government will act with its full authority and power to stop this crisis? If the majority will not act today, I hope that a bi partisan coalition will act to find the answers to the following questions at the very least:

- How many reports of sexual assault were there of unaccompanied minors?
- How many reports of sexual assault for Accompanied minors were reported?
- How many children are screened for sexual assault after being detained? (Both UC and accompanied)
- How many children die in custody? How many die crossing the border or are found dead by border patrol?
- How many children come with single adult males?

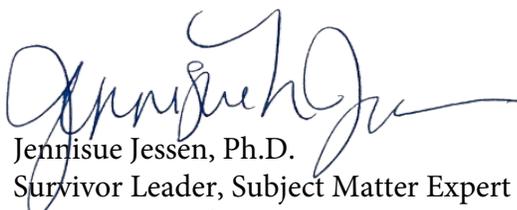
- In what ways has the process changed in regards to screening illegal immigrants for smuggling or trafficking since the new administration took over?
- Are children still separated from potential traffickers for questioning?
- How many children have been brought under duress, presumed to be smuggled or trafficked? Are they required to report this to HHS?
- How many children have been separated/lost from their families crossing?
- How many known sex offenders from any country have entered the US illegally?
- How many children of the 150,000+ unaccompanied minors have been placed with verifiable family members?
- How many are now in the foster care system or under the care of a subcontracted childcare entity?
- How much money has been allocated or is currently designated specifically towards unaccompanied minor family reunification efforts in their home country and how much has been allocated toward placing unaccompanied minors in temporary placements?
- - What kind of oversight is there over subcontractors who are caring for unaccompanied minors?
- How many sexual assaults or physical assaults have been reported from subcontractors?

Certain actors have put a large emphasis on the morality of how you enforce a border and so we feel compelled to speak up as an organization to say that our experience in combatting trafficking and exploitation leads us to believe that there's nothing more immoral than continuing to operate with what's essentially an open border. Open borders foment human trafficking in various forms. It allows the demand to increase. The permissiveness of the situation on the ground is WHY we see record numbers in every category you don't want to see record numbers in. If the government wants this crisis to stop, they can take action today to stop it by funding the training, resources, physical deterrents and technological deterrents needed to end this crisis and by using their collective power to stop this administration from revoking Title 42.

Thank you,



Landon Starbuck
 Founder, Freedom Forever
 Landon@FreedomForever.us
 FreedomForever.US



Jennisue Jessen, Ph.D.
 Survivor Leader, Subject Matter Expert
 Jennisue@FreedomForever.us
 FreedomForever.US