

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2504

May 9, 2024

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Mayorkas:

We are writing to express our deep concern about the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Venezuela (CHNV) parole program. This program was launched in January 2023, and has resulted in over 400,000 inadmissible foreign nationals flying directly into the United States. DHS has reached far beyond the statutory authority granted to them by Congress. The agency has given preferential treatment to these groups and granted them entry into the United States while also refusing to release information about where these nearly half a million foreign nationals have been placed and how the agency plans to return them to their home countries.

DHS's CHNV parole program was established using the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), a law that gave them limited authority to grant parole to release detainable illegal aliens on a case-by-case basis. The Biden Administration has abused this authority to grant mass parole to foreign nationals based on state of origin, blatantly ignoring the law's case-by-case basis provision. Additionally, the INA explicitly states that granting parole does not change an individual's immigration status, and that the individual must be returned to their home country and that their case shall "continue to be dealt with in the same manner as that of any other applicant for admission to the United States."¹ Despite this provision, DHS has refused to share their plans for returning these foreign nationals to their countries of origin.

The House Committee on Homeland Security sent several letters to DHS requesting information on the CHNV parole program, the first letter being sent in April 2023.² DHS did not respond to the letter until a full year later, in April 2024. Further, in this letter, they only included a list of potential parole beneficiary arrivals under the CHNV parole program for arrivals from January 2023 – August 2023, despite the program's continuation until the present day.

On this list, DHS indicates that two individuals were flown into Missouri, one in February 2023 that landed in Kansas City International Airport and one in April 2023 that landed

¹ Immigr. and Nationality Act § 212(d)(5)(A), 8 U.S.C. § 1182(d)(5)(A).

² Letter from Hon. Mark Green et al., Chairman, H. Comm. on Homeland Sec., to Hon. Alejandro Mayorkas, Sec'y, U.S. Dep't of Homeland Sec. (Apr. 27, 2023)

in St. Louis Lambert International Airport. It is unacceptable for DHS to abuse and circumvent a 70-year-old law to bring otherwise inadmissible foreign nationals into our state. We have grave concerns about bringing in unvetted, and otherwise inadmissible illegal aliens into the United States.

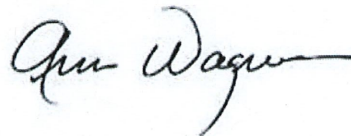
Secretary Mayorkas, please respond to the following questions and requests as soon as possible, but no later than 5:00pm on May 31, 2024:

1. What procedures are in place to track the foreign aliens admitted through the CHNV parole program?
 - a. Specifically, the parolees that were flown into the following airports outlined in the April 2024 DHS response to House Committee on Homeland Security:
 - i. February 2023 into Kansas City International Airport.
 - ii. April 2023 into St. Louis Lambert International Airport.
2. Have any more potential beneficiaries of the CHNV parole program been flown into Missouri after August 2023?
 - a. If so, please provide any and all documentation on determining any individual's eligibility for CHNV parole.
3. Provide any and all information around individuals that were granted entry to the United States through the CHNV parole program that are residing in Missouri.
4. Provide any and all documentation about plans to ensure that foreign aliens admitted through the CHNV parole program be returned to their home countries since the INA specifically states that "such parole of such alien shall not be regarded as an admission of the alien".
5. Provide the statutorily required "case-by-case basis" for each foreign national admitted via the CHNV parole program on the February 2023 flight into Kansas City International Airport and the April 2023 flight into St. Louis Lambert International Airport.

Sincerely,



Mark Alford
Member of Congress



Ann Wagner
Member of Congress



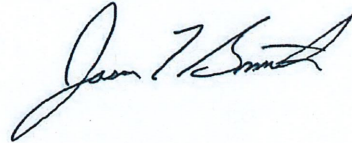
Blaine Luetkemeyer
Member of Congress



Sam Graves
Member of Congress



Eric Burlison
Member of Congress



Jason Smith
Member of Congress