

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 25, 2014

The Honorable Jeh Johnson
Secretary of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Johnson:

As Members of the Southern California Congressional Delegation, we are very concerned about reports that significant numbers of illegal immigrants originally detained outside of California will be transported and processed through the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) facility located in Murrieta, California. We have also learned that the Administration is seeking to establish a facility to house undocumented minors at a former long-term care facility in Escondido, California. Further, we are concerned that flights transiting Air Force bases which have deployment processing facilities, such as March Air Reserve Base, will be used to process illegal immigrants thus impeding readiness.

As you are aware, The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has primary responsibility for administering and enforcing the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), the basis of immigration law. INA Section §212(a)(6)(A) limits the ability of illegal entrants to be legally admitted to the country, stating "An alien present in the United States without being admitted or paroled, or who arrives in the United States at any time or place other than as designated by the Attorney General, is inadmissible." INA Section §237(a) sets forth grounds for deportation from the United States: it states that aliens who are present in the United States in violation of the INA or any other U.S. law, or who were admitted as nonimmigrants but have failed to maintain the conditions of that status, are deportable.

It is incumbent upon the Administration to ensure adherence to the Immigration and Nationality Act. As such, we would like specific answers to the following:

- 1) Is the CBP facility located in Murrieta, CA going to be used to process illegal immigrants originally detained outside of California? If so, when? How often will this facility be used?
- 2) For illegal immigrants that are detained and processed at the Murrieta facility, is it the intention of the relevant agencies to adhere to the INA and repatriate illegal immigrants to their country of origin?
- 3) If illegal immigrants are not going to be immediately repatriated, what will happen to them after processing at the Murrieta CBP station? Is there any intention to process and release illegal immigrants with a summons to report for their immigration hearing?
- 4) What are CBP's plans with regard to notifying and communicating its intentions with local law enforcement and affected communities?

We would also like to express our frustration that we only learned of the possibility of these two facilities being used through news reports and community members who brought it to our attention. We have also heard from local law enforcement and potentially affected cities that they are unable to get clear and consistent information from CBP. This is unacceptable. It is imperative that you apprise our offices, and the local communities affected, of future plans.

We are also concerned that announcements by the Administration that they will not fully enforce immigration law or will use "prosecutorial discretion" to only deport criminal aliens has led to the crisis on the border. It has put people, including children, in danger of exploitation by drug cartels and other criminal actors. We would remind you that immigration policy is not dictated by the President but legislated by Congress. As such, you must enforce current immigration law and deport those found living in the U.S. illegally. Children, especially, should be protected and returned to their family members as soon as possible.

We look forward to your prompt response to this letter and again reiterate that should any facility in our congressional districts be used to process or detain illegal immigrants transported from outside of California, please notify our offices immediately.



KEN CALVERT
Member of Congress

Sincerely,



DUNCAN HUNTER
Member of Congress