



# COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

Ranking Member Bennie G. Thompson

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Hearing Statement of Border Security & Enforcement Subcommittee Ranking Member Lou Correa (D-CA)**

### ***“Consequences of Failure: Republicans Obsess Over Biden as Trump's Policies Make Our Communities Less Safe”***

**March 25, 2025**

Today’s hearing is our first subcommittee hearing of the 119th Congress, though, its topic—selected by my Republican colleagues—seems to be focused on the past. They appear to not want to conduct oversight of how the Trump administration is ripping away legal status and work permits from immigrants lawfully in the United States, like ending parole for Ukrainians, Venezuelans and Cubans in addition to Afghans who helped our troops.

They don’t want to talk about ICE agents questioning or arresting U.S. citizens, or their efforts to deport veterans who served our country in Iraq and U.S. citizen children with brain cancer.

My Republican colleagues don’t want to hear from their constituents about this—they’ve been directed to cancel town halls. They know their actions are unpopular.

We can’t ignore the concerns of the people we were sent here to represent. No matter how tough it is to hear sometimes.

I recently met with front line CBP officers who expressed deep frustration with how this administration has handled their so-called efficiency initiatives. Their frustration is understandable and warranted. Yet we won’t be discussing their needs or remedies to this mismanagement here today.

Instead, Republicans set up a hearing to relitigate the past. The Biden administration left President Trump with declining border crossings numbers, a record number of fentanyl seizures, and—despite some of my colleagues not wanting to admit it—a higher daily rate of deportations than what we see now.

I hope my colleagues don’t ignore that, or the conditions that the first Trump administration left the border.

When President Trump first left office, illegal crossings were on the rise, gotaways were on the rise, and synthetic opioids deaths were on the rise.

In fact, they were already calling it a crisis on President Trump’s first watch. Now that he’s back in office, I thought they’d focus on conducting oversight of what’s happening now at the border. It’s hard to fix things when the Administration refuses to tell our staff what’s happening at the border. I hope we’ll have the Administration here to answer our questions soon.

Or maybe, now that they are no longer set on blocking border security legislation to score points against President Biden, maybe they would have hearings aimed at fixing severe staffing shortages at ports of

entry, stopping the cartels from getting American-made weapons, or authorizing more resources for our Homeland Security Investigations Special Agents investigating human traffickers and drug smugglers.

Instead, they've doubled down on cutting the federal work force and gutting DHS in the name of apparent "cost savings."

It seems that they must've completely missed the news about Secretary Noem spending \$200 million on TV ads praising President Trump.

Or, that the administration spent \$16 million dollars to fly and detain only 300 migrants in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba just to send them back to detention facilities in the U.S.

It's my understanding that the administration also directed our soldiers to construct tents to hold detained migrants in Guantanamo.

These tents cost over \$3 million dollars to build and failed to meet basic DHS standards, so they weren't operational.

This administration then forced DEA, ATF, HSI, and FBI agents to put their investigations into the worst of the worst on hold in order to help ICE arrest as many noncitizens as possible—many of whom have been here for years working and have no criminal history.

Now, this administration is reopening family detention centers. At one facility in Texas, we're spending thousands of dollars to detain a working family and their six and eight-year-old children.

Is this what making America safe looks like?

With all the law enforcement agents being forced to become deportation officers, it's possible that some of the cases that they were working will go unsolved. Leads will go cold while they help round up migrants convicted of driving their bicycle on the wrong side of the road.

In this administration's push to inflate ICE arrests and deportations, DHS ended up rounding up a Venezuelan American family, whose U.S. citizen child was recovering from brain cancer. That's right - a ten-year-old American with brain cancer was deported by this administration.

The parents had no criminal record and have been here for quite a long time. Yet, this administration made sure to prioritize their deportation.

Again, is this what making America safe or securing the border looks like?

Mr. Chairman, I urge you to focus future hearings on what this subcommittee can actually do together in a bipartisan way—to secure the border, improve international trade, and keep fentanyl off our streets.

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