

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-2308**

October 5, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Mayorkas,

I write to express my concern and outrage over the recent events in Bemidji, Minnesota, a beautiful northern town in the congressional district I represent. The news stories and police report highlight the deplorable consequences of the Biden Administration's recklessly lax border and failing immigration policies. Nearly a dozen illegal immigrants were found at a home where, according to the local police department press release, a sexual assault of a minor occurred.<sup>1</sup> I demand immediate action from your agencies and answers to several questions myself and the communities I represent have regarding this horrific incident. It is your duty to fully protect all citizens from this ongoing onslaught of illegal immigrant criminal activity, which is a direct result of your failure to secure our border and fully track illegal immigrants and their whereabouts.

The unspeakable violence in Bemidji perpetrated against at least 1 eleven-year-old girl, and potentially two more, demonstrates your complete and total failure to follow the laws of this country.<sup>2</sup> As a result, these failures are impacting little children, over a thousand miles from the southern border, and will have real, long-lasting, ramifications. The victim(s) in this case deserves justice. More importantly, however, the victim(s) deserved your protection from the beginning. You were appointed to serve the people of this sovereign nation, and it is your duty to ensure our border is secure and innocent lives are safeguarded.

As a former police officer, I find it especially disheartening to have these evil, violent activities occur in our country. These revolting acts have terrorized communities in the congressional district I represent, and these stories are occurring at a more frequent pace and violent level than ever before. As the Secretary of your Department, you have the moral and legal obligation to address the porous southern border. Under your lack of leadership, the United States has seen nearly 7 million undocumented immigrants crossing the border into our country.<sup>3</sup> Many of them are bringing terror and the most heinous of crimes to our small, rural communities.

It is incumbent upon you to take immediate and decisive action to address this critical situation. We need a comprehensive approach to be made effective immediately to secure the border and enforce our

<sup>1</sup> Bemidji Police Department. (2023, September 28). Press Release On 09/23/23, the Sanford Bemidji Medical Center's Emergency Department called the Bemidji Police Department for an assault complaint. Facebook. [https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story\\_fbid=711813630973113&id=100064334485552&\\_se\\_imp=1rxzReM5yJrxoiQcb#\\_ =](https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=711813630973113&id=100064334485552&_se_imp=1rxzReM5yJrxoiQcb#_=)

<sup>2</sup> KARE 11 Staff. (2023, October 2). Man charged in alleged gang rape of 11-year-old girl at Bemidji home. KARE 11. Retrieved from <https://www.kare11.com/article/news/crime/man-charged-alleged-gang-rape-bemidji/89-ce61a39e-d111-455b-9cea-a249e04e>

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Customs and Border Protection. (2023). CBP enforcement statistics for fiscal year 2023. Retrieved from <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/cbp-enforcement-statistics>



immigration laws. We must prioritize the safety and well-being of American citizens and the enforcement of our immigration laws above all else. Our communities are being forced to endure the consequences of your inaction, which has emboldened drug and sex trafficking cartels and put the lives of citizens at risk.

The people of Minnesota, and indeed all Americans, are looking to their government to protect them from such atrocities. It is your responsibility to take the necessary actions to restore confidence in our immigration and border enforcement; ensuring the safety of our citizens remains paramount.

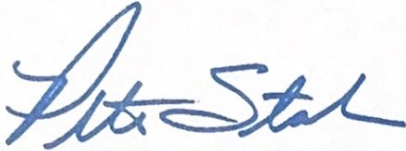
Based on this incident and the countless incidents over the past two years, it is evident that without our federal agencies providing proper vetting and oversight of migrants, communities throughout this nation are less safe. To help Congress and the American people understand how the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Customs and Border Patrol (CBP), and Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) plan to correct these systemic failures and address the epidemic of migrant violence, we request answers to the following questions:

1. To date, how many illegal immigrants have crossed the border?
  - a. How many of these illegal immigrants are men between the ages of 18-65?
  - b. How many of these illegal immigrants are minors?
  - c. How many illegal immigrants have been released into the United States?
  - d. Do you know their exact locations?
  - e. Do we know the criminal history of these individuals?
2. How many of these illegal immigrants have been transported by DHS to the state of Minnesota?
  - a. How many of these illegal immigrants are men between the ages of 18-65?
  - b. How many of these illegal immigrants are minors?
  - c. Do we know their exact locations?
  - d. Do we know the criminal history of these individuals?
3. Besides the 11 illegal immigrants found at the crime scene in Bemidji, how many other illegal immigrants currently reside in Minnesota's Eighth Congressional District?
  - a. How many of these illegal immigrants are men between the ages of 18-65?
  - b. How many of these illegal immigrants are minors?
  - c. Do we know their exact locations?
  - d. Do we know the criminal history of these individuals?
4. How did the 11 illegal immigrants travel to Bemidji? Were they specifically relocated to Bemidji as a directive of this Administration? Who paid for their transportation?
5. When are the court dates for the 11 illegal immigrants if they are seeking asylum?
6. Are any of these 11 illegal immigrants being charged with rape/sexual assault of a minor(s)?
7. Where are the 11 illegal immigrants being detained in until their court cases?
  - a. How many court cases do they have pending?
8. Is the primary suspect, Oscar Ernesto Luna, an American citizen?
9. Are you aware if Oscar Ernesto Luna or any of the 11 illegal immigrants are connected to a cartel?
10. Were any minors traveling with these 11 illegal immigrants when they crossed the border? If so, where are they now?
11. What are your agencies doing to locate the other victims that have reportedly gone missing?
12. What coordination is occurring with other law enforcement agencies to investigate and address incidents like the one in Bemidji, Minnesota, and to prevent such incidents from happening in the future?

13. Have you been adequately funding the salaries of CBP and INS officials at the border and throughout the nation and in Minnesota? Does your CBP office in Minnesota believe they have adequate staffing and resources?

Given the urgency of this situation, I demand a response to these questions by October 12, 2023.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Pete Stauber". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Pete" and last name "Stauber" clearly distinguishable.

Pete Stauber  
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Troy Miller, Acting Commissioner  
U.S. Customs and Border Protection

The Honorable Ur Mendoza Jaddou, Director  
United States Citizenship and Immigration Services