

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

December 8, 2023

The Honorable Gene L. Dodaro
Comptroller General of the United States
Government Accountability Office
441 G Street NW, Room 7100
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Comptroller General Dodaro:

In FY2023, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) encountered 2.48 million migrants nationwide.¹ Over the past three years, an estimated 1.7 million migrants evaded U.S border control and have entered the U.S undetected.² The possible correlation between uncontrolled immigration and rising crime in major cities across the U.S is a major concern for Congress, local law enforcement, and everyday Americans. Congress needs data outlining incarcerations, arrests, crimes, convictions, costs, and removals of noncitizens to properly evaluate the relationship between increased illegal immigration and current criminal alien population.

On July 17, 2018, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) published *Criminal Alien Statistics: Information on Incarcerations, Arrests, Convictions, Costs, and Removals* (GAO-18-433).³ This report provided valuable information on noncitizens incarcerated in the United States. Specifically, this report provided data on the number and nationality of noncitizens incarcerated in federal and state prisons and local jails; the number of arrests and convictions of these noncitizens, the offense for which a noncitizen was arrested, and the estimated costs associated with incarcerating them. In addition, the report provided data on the removability of noncitizens from the United States after their incarceration in federal prison.

It has been about 5 years since GAO published the initial report. While the Department of Homeland Security published some data on noncitizens incarcerated in federal and state prisons from 2017 through 2019, it did not include all the same data elements included in GAO-18-433.⁴ We ask that GAO update its study on noncitizens incarcerated in federal and state prisons and local jails. Specifically, we request that the study include the most recent data available since GAO last reported on this issue.

The undersigned Members would appreciate periodic updates as your office conducts its work. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

¹ Customs and Border Patrol, *Nationwide Encounters data, Fiscal Year 2023*, (Washington, DC; Nov. 14, 2023). www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/nationwide-encounters.

² House Judiciary Committee, *The Biden Border Crisis: New Data and Testimony Show How the Biden Administration Opened the Southwest Border and Abandoned Interior Enforcement*, (Washington, DC; October 9, 2023). <https://judiciary.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/republicans-judiciary.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/2023-10-09-New-Data-and-Testimony.pdf>.

³ GAO, *Criminal Alien Statistics: Information on Incarcerations, Arrests, Convictions, Costs, and Removals*, GAO-18-433 (Washington, DC; July 17, 2018).

⁴ See, for example, Department of Homeland Security and Department of Justice, *Alien Incarceration Report, Fiscal Year 2019*, (Washington, DC; Oct. 16, 2020). <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/departments-justice-and-homeland-security-release-data-incarcerated-aliens> and <https://www.justice.gov/opa/press-release/file/1328316/download>.



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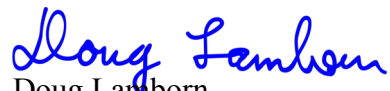
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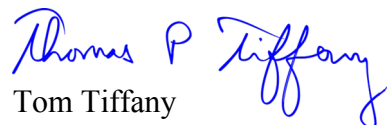
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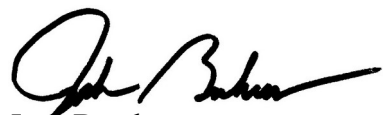
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