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September 23, 2016

The Honorable Jeh Johnson  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
300 7<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20024-2511

Dear Secretary Johnson,

I am writing in regards to the September 8, 2016 report issued by the Department of Homeland Security, Office of the Inspector General (#OIG-16-130). The OIG report documented systemic and repeated lack of coordination, information sharing, and prioritization of the security of our nation and the integrity of our naturalization process. The report spelled out the numerous failures and lack of leadership that resulted in U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) failure to digitize 148,000 fingerprint records of aliens with final deportation orders or who are criminals or fugitives into the Automated Biometric Identification System (IDENT). The ability to prevent individuals to enter or remain in our country fraudulently is critical to keeping our nation safe and secure.

According to the report, your agency granted citizenship to 858 individuals who had been ordered deported or removed under another identity but "their digital fingerprint records were not available" during the naturalization process and as of November 2015, an additional 953 individuals had previously been granted citizenship fraudulently for reasons not identified. Not only did your agency fail to prevent such fraud in *at least* 1,811 instances, but citizenship and all the rights and privileges thereof were granted to these individuals.

The Department of Homeland Security's statement that the agency would review these 1,811 individuals "out of an abundance of caution" is insufficient and fails to reflect the seriousness of the report's findings. Questions remain as to the decisions and leadership-or lack thereof- that allowed even previously deported individuals to receive citizenship. As Chairman of the House Rules Committee, I take seriously my responsibility to the 32<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District, and our nation. To that end, I respectfully request that you respond to the below questions no later than September 30, 2016.

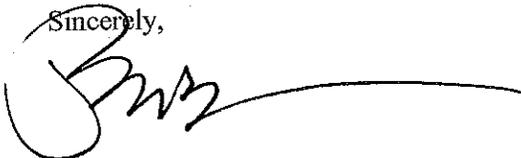
1. Congress previously appropriated \$5 million dollars in 2012 to update IDENT. White House spokesman Josh Earnest stated that "[A]dditional progress would have been made if additional resources had been appropriated by Congress." At any point did the Department of Homeland

Security communicate to the White House or Congress a specific need beyond the \$5 million dollars for updates to IDENT? If yes, please provide the date, amount, and any supporting documentation.

2. The OIG report stated that 858 individuals from "special interest countries" -- or countries that are considered to be "of concern to the national security" of the U.S. -- were granted US citizenship because they were not properly identified. Please provide a complete list of the special interest countries that these 858 individuals originated from including the total number from each country.
3. What steps is the Department of Homeland Security taking-if any- to use their statutory INA 340 authority to revoke citizenship of any spouse or parent who received a green card based on naturalization of the identified 1,811 individuals? To date, how many spouses or parents of the 1,811 individuals have received a green card? Has the Department of Homeland Security reviewed these green card holders to ensure fraud did not occur with their applications?
4. What is the expected date of completion for the fingerprint digital upload? It is my understanding that the Department of Homeland Security plans to award the contract by the end of the current fiscal year.
5. In 2008, the Department of Homeland Security commenced Operation Janus. My understanding is that the goal of Operation Janus was to address the problem of aliens from special interest countries receiving immigration benefits after changing their identities and concealing their final deportation orders. It is also my understanding that Operation Janus was disbanded earlier this year and had identified 120 of the 858 immigrants referenced above that were granted citizenship. Why was Operation Janus disbanded and who approved this decision? Do you plan to reassemble Operation Janus or create a working group with a similar function? If not, please explain why. If so, please provide additional details on the timeline and function.

Thank you for your prioritization of my request for basic information on the extent of the fraud. Given the serious nature of the report's findings, I strongly urge you to be forthright and responsive to this and other Congressional inquiries so we can ensure the risk to our national security is minimized and the systemic failures that led to these events are understood and prevented in the future.

Sincerely,



Pete Sessions