

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 13, 2021

The Honorable Xavier Becerra
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Becerra:

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) reportedly awarded Endeavors, Inc. a contract worth \$530 million to house unaccompanied alien children (UACs) in hotels.¹ On March 20, 2021, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) also announced it had signed a contract with Endeavors worth nearly \$87 million to provide “shelter and processing services” to families that had illegally entered the United States.² News reports later indicated that shortly before ICE and HHS awarded the no-bid contracts to Endeavors, the company hired a former ICE official and advisor to the Biden-Harris transition team to be its senior director for migrant services and federal affairs.³ Because of the unusual nature of this contract, we write to request additional information about this matter.

ICE and HHS’s no-bid contracts raise several concerns. Not only did ICE and HHS award contracts to Endeavors after recently hiring a former ICE official and Biden-Harris transition team adviser, but ICE and HHS had never before contracted with Endeavors and the contract was allegedly awarded without soliciting any other bids.⁴ Contrary to President Biden and Vice President Harris’s effort to ignore the crisis at the border, ICE cited “unusual and compelling urgency” as the reason for the no-bid contract.⁵ ICE and HHS’s decision to avoid the contracting process—and to cite a compelling urgency at the same time the Biden Administration has downplayed the crisis—raises serious questions about the propriety of the contract.

Therefore, to assist the Committees with oversight of this issue and to better understand the nature of the contract, we request you provide the following information:

¹ Lachlan Markay & Stef W. Kight, *Exclusive: Texas nonprofit got massive border contract after hiring Biden official*, AXIOS (Apr. 14, 2021), <https://www.axios.com/texas-nonprofit-border-contract-biden-official-23a493f4-6779-44f0-a5d4-db8690f11aec.html>.

² Press Release, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Statement attributable to ICE Acting Director Tae D. Johnson (Mar. 20, 2021), <https://www.ice.gov/news/releases/statement-attributable-ice-acting-director-tae-d-johnson>.

³ *Id.*

⁴ Anna Giaritelli, *Exclusive: ICE gave \$87M no-bid contract to business with Biden ties, raising conflict of interest question*, Washington Examiner (Apr. 07, 2021), <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/biden-ice-gave-87m-no-bid-contract-conflict-of-interest>.

⁵ *Id.*

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1. A list of all services provided by Endeavors under the contract with HHS;
2. A list of any hotels used by Endeavors to hold UACs including the following details:
 - a. The address of each hotel;
 - b. The number and type of rooms booked by category and used by UACs at each hotel;
 - c. The number of meals provided to UACs at each hotel;
 - d. The date on which UACs stayed at each hotel;
3. A full accounting of all expenses paid by Endeavors to hold UACs at the hotels; and
4. All documents and communications between or among employees of HHS and employees, representatives, or contractors of Endeavors for the period of January 1, 2021, to the present.


Please provide this information as soon as possible but no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 27, 2021. Additionally, we request that you arrange a staff briefing on this matter.

If you have any questions about this request, please contact Judiciary Committee staff at (202) 225-6906 or Oversight Committee staff at (202) 225-5074. Thank you for your attention to this matter.


Jim Jordan
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary

Sincerely,


James Comer
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Reform


Tom McClintock
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship
Committee on the Judiciary

cc: The Honorable Jerrold L. Nadler, Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
The Honorable Carolyn Maloney, Chairwoman, Committee on Oversight and Reform
The Honorable Zoe Lofgren, Chair, Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship,
Committee on the Judiciary