

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

January 4, 2019

The Honorable Kirstjen M. Nielsen  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Nielsen:

Your border security presentation submitted to Congress today is yet another example of the misinformation and outright lies the Trump Administration has used to make the case for the President's boondoggle border wall, defend the government shutdown, and distract the American people from a border policy so flawed that children have died in Department of Homeland Security custody. Squandering American taxpayer money on a wall may satisfy a segment of the President's political supporters, but it will not solve the real border security challenges facing our Nation.

As Chairman, I intend to ensure the Committee on Homeland Security fulfills its constitutional responsibility to conduct oversight of your Department, including its implementation of President Trump's border policy. In your year-long tenure, you have testified before the Committee only once. Another appearance is overdue.

The Committee's first hearing will focus on critical border security matters, to include the border wall, metering of individuals seeking asylum at ports of entry, and the treatment of children in U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) custody. As such, I request your participation. In advance of the hearing, please provide to the Committee the following information in writing no later than January 18, 2019:

- Any documents, contracts, records, memoranda, correspondence, or other communications related to ongoing or planned construction of a border wall, including operational requirements assessments, cost estimates, and schedules.
- Any documents, records, memoranda, correspondence, or other communications related to metering individuals at land ports of entry, including the number of CBP officers processing such individuals; directives or guidance from Headquarters to the field regarding the number of individuals to be processed; and the number of individuals processed by port of entry.

- Any document, record, memo, correspondence, or other communication related to the interdiction of families between ports of entry by U.S. Border Patrol from June 1, 2016, to the present, including the ages of children interdicted and actions taken with respect to such children.
- Any document, record, memo, correspondence, or other communication related to the care and treatment of children in CBP custody from November 1, 2018, to the present, including documents related to the deaths of Jakelin Caal Maquin and Felipe Alonzo-Gomez.

I look forward to the timely production of the requested materials and to your testimony before the Committee on Homeland Security.

Sincerely,



BENNIE G. THOMPSON  
Chairman  
Committee on Homeland Security  
U.S. House of Representatives