

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 21, 2024

Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Mayorkas,

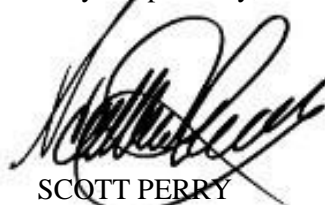
The entry - and subsequent arrest - of eight (8) Tajik foreign nationals allegedly connected to ISIS-K highlights - yet again - the dangers of a virtually wide-open southwest border. According to media reports, U.S. officials monitored rhetoric from these foreign nationals, who were arrested in a coordinated, multi-agency sting.¹

Far too many questions, however, remain unanswered about the process - and potential failures therein - that allowed these foreign nationals to enter the United States in the first place. U.S. Border Patrol's own statistics showed a stark increase in encounters with individuals in the Terrorist Screening Dataset (TSDS) - from 98 in FY22, to 169 in FY23.² Furthermore, at least one of the foreign nationals was reported to have entered the United States using the CBP One app,³ which has been exploited already by the Mexican cartels.⁴

I request answers no later than June 30, 2024, to the following questions with regard to the aforementioned eight (8) Tajik foreign nationals:

- What was the immigration status of each individual?
- Where and by which process did they enter the United States?
- What is the process by which individuals are screened against the TSDS?
- Did any of these individuals have information in the TSDS?
 - If so, did the screening process flag the information for DHS for each of them? If so, why did DHS grant them entry into the United States?
- Please detail any changes you made to the CBP One app screening questions; specifically, any reduction in the number of screening questions.

Very Respectfully,



SCOTT PERRY
Member of Congress
10th District, Pennsylvania

¹ Jennie Taer, *Terror Suspect from Tajikistan illegally crossed border into San Diego, was let in by officers: sources*, The New York Post (Jun. 12, 2024), <https://nypost.com/2024/06/12/us-news/terror-suspect-from-tajikistan-entered-us-at-san-diego-sources/>

² U.S. Customs and Border Protection, CBP Enforcement Statistics, <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/cbp-enforcement-statistics>

³ Taer, *supra* note 1.

⁴ Anna Giaritelli, Mexican cartels exploit US government's CBP One app (Aug. 4, 2023), <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/2144244/mexican-cartels-exploit-us-governments-cbp-one-app/>