

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

April 2, 2024

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas  
Secretary of Homeland Security  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
300 7th St SW  
Washington, D.C. 20024

Dear Secretary Mayorkas:

In January 2024, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) apprehended a known Al-Shabaab terrorist in Minneapolis, Minnesota, who entered the United States illegally through the southern border. It is unclear how this terrorist traveled to Minnesota and how long he resided in the state before ICE apprehended him. We seek to collect information on any third-party organizations that were involved in facilitating this terrorist's travel and residency in the United States, so we can identify if these organizations partner with federal, state, or local government or receive taxpayer resources.

On February 2, 2024, we wrote to you requesting information pertaining to how this Al-Shabaab terrorist was able to evade the Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) at the southern border in March 2023 and illegally enter the United States, live here for almost a year, and ultimately at some point travel to Minnesota. The Terrorist Screening Center initially determined that the individual was a member of the Al-Shabaab terrorist organization, but later concluded that it was a misidentification and released the individual. On January 18, 2024, the Terrorist Screening Center discovered that their initial determination of the individual was correct, and the individual was apprehended in Minneapolis later that month.

As a result of Minnesota's immigration policies, such as providing free health insurance through MinnesotaCare, the state has become a popular designation for illegal immigrants and migrants.<sup>1</sup> Recent reports estimate there are approximately 81,000 illegal immigrants living in Minnesota, a drastic figure given the state's 5.4 million population.<sup>2</sup>

Due to Minnesota's far distance from the border, it is not an easy task for these migrants to travel to the state. While there have been reports on different avenues about how migrants are arriving in Minnesota, such as being flown for free from the City of New York, current reports do not account for the 81,000 illegal immigrants that are currently living in Minnesota. It is necessary that Minnesotans have information about how these migrants, including a known terrorist, end up in their state.

We are aware many migrants are utilizing non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to travel to states away from the southern border. When over capacity, CBP releases the migrants that have already been processed and permits NGOs to provide services, including travel to alternative destinations.<sup>3</sup> NGOs

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<sup>1</sup> Nesterak, M. (2023, May 20). Minnesota to allow all undocumented residents to enroll in MinnesotaCare. Minnesota Reformer. <https://minnesotareformer.com/2023/05/20/minnesota-to-allow-all-undocumented-residents-to-enroll-in-public-insurance/>

<sup>2</sup> Murphy, E. (2023, September 20). Talking Points: Life-changing law for thousands of undocumented Minnesotans. CBS News. <https://www.cbsnews.com/minnesota/news/talking-points-life-changing-law-for-thousands-of-undocumented-minnesotans/>

<sup>3</sup> Ventura, J. (2023, June 7). NGOs use American tax dollars to relocate migrants. News Nation. <https://www.newsnationnow.com/us-news/immigration/border-coverage/ngos-american-tax-dollars-migrants/#:~:text=In%20the%20past%20two%20years,migrants%20to%20their%20final%20destination.>

receive billions in funding from the federal government. For example, in fiscal year 2023, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) provided \$363.8 million in funding to assist non-federal entities with the influx of migrants in their communities.<sup>4</sup>

However, some reports conclude that NGOs are not spending taxpayer funds in ways that are congruent with the federal government.<sup>5</sup> Your department conducted an oversight report on the \$100 million that was appropriated to the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide humanitarian relief to individuals encountered by DHS. They found that NGOs that received the federal funding did not spend the funds to Congress's intent.<sup>6</sup>

To prevent the future facilitation of terrorist travel to Minnesota from the southern border, we are requesting additional information about how the terrorist from Al-Shabaab arrived in Minnesota. We respectfully request that you provide us with answers to the following questions by April 17, 2024:

1. Does DHS have any record, including receipts for bus, plane, or other record of travel, evidencing how the individual traveled to Minnesota?
2. Did the Al-Shabaab terrorist travel to Minnesota with the assistance, either direct or indirect, of a NGO? If so, which NGO was responsible for transporting the individual to Minnesota?
3. If the individual received entry to Minnesota from the direct or indirect assistance of a NGO, how much government funding did this NGO receive between fiscal year 2020 and fiscal year 2023 from all sources?
4. Did ICE use travel records to the state of Minnesota to track and apprehend the individual? If so, please provide details of those records including, but not limited to, purchaser, source of funds, dates of travel, and method of travel.
5. What date did the Al-Shabaab terrorist arrive in Minnesota, and how long was he in the state?

We look forward to hearing your response that will provide answers to Minnesotans and American taxpayers about the transportation of a known terrorist.

Sincerely,



Tom Emmer  
Member of Congress



Brad Finstad  
Member of Congress



Michelle Fischbach  
Member of Congress



Pete Stauber  
Member of Congress

<sup>4</sup> Federal Emergency Management Agency. (September 27, 2023). Shelter and Services Program Awards.

<https://www.fema.gov/grants/preparedness/shelter-services-program/awards>

<sup>5</sup> Department of Homeland Security. (2023, March 28). FEMA Should Increase Oversight to Prevent Misuse of Humanitarian Relief Funds. <https://www.oig.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/assets/2023-03/OIG-23-20-Mar23.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> Department of Homeland Security. (2023, March 28). FEMA Should Increase Oversight to Prevent Misuse of Humanitarian Relief Funds. <https://www.oig.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/assets/2023-03/OIG-23-20-Mar23.pdf>