



MARK BRNOVICH
ATTORNEY GENERAL

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF ARIZONA

February 17, 2022

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528
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Dear Secretary Mayorkas,

At the end of every fiscal year, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) releases an annual report showing the American people how the federal government is enforcing existing immigration laws and removing dangerous individuals from our communities. Unfortunately, for the first time in a decade, the Biden Administration has so far withheld this report.

One year ago, upon taking your office, you wrote that the Department of Homeland Security would “*be open, transparent, and accountable*.” The failure to release this report is hardly in line with that pledge. It gives rise to concerns that your Department has something to hide from the American people and has not accomplished its mission to uphold the rule of law.

As you know, Mr. Secretary, our office has led two lawsuits against your Department this past year to stop the implementation of your dangerous Interim and Permanent Guidance, which halted nearly all deportations, even for those convicted of violent crimes. Americans are less safe because of every way that the Biden Administration has failed to secure the border and enforce our laws.

Moreover, this Administration continues in its refusals to meet with key stakeholders in Border States – even though our office and many other members of law enforcement have pleaded with the President, Vice President, and other Cabinet Secretaries to see the crisis at the border firsthand and at least hear our concerns. This is, again, the opposite of transparency and accountability.

Our office would like to work alongside your Department to improve the safety and security of all Arizonans. To date, this Administration has essentially told us to pound sand. We hope that this will change and that you will help Arizona leaders to do what is necessary to secure our communities. We also call on your office to immediately release the ICE annual report for Fiscal Year 2021. Your transparency and accountability should be more open than any area of our border.

Sincerely,

Mark Brnovich