

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 17, 2024

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

The Honorable Xavier Becerra
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Becerra:

Title 8 of the United States Code, Section 1523 directs the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) to submit an annual report on refugee resettlement to the House and Senate Committees on the Judiciary.¹ The Biden-Harris administration has failed to submit a report to Congress encompassing their administration of this program, for the fiscal year (FY) 2021 through 2023.² Among other things, this administration is legally required to provide a timely annual update on the following immigration-related expenditures, policies, and statistics:

- 1) Refugee employment and labor force statistics, including refugees who have “shown themselves to be significantly and disproportionately dependent on welfare”;
- 2) The geographic location of refugees;
- 3) A summary of the results and monitoring of assistance programs funded by the State Department and carried out by nonprofit agencies under 8 U.S.C. § 1522(b);
- 4) A description of the activities, expenditures, and policies of ORR and of the activities of States, voluntary agencies, and sponsors;
- 5) Disclosures of any fraud, abuse, or mismanagement that has been reported in the provisions of services or assistance to refugees;
- 6) A description of the assistance provided to refugees under 8 U.S.C. § 1522(e)(5), which provides medical care to refugees;
- 7) A summary of the location and status of unaccompanied refugee children admitted into the United States; and
- 8) A summary of information compiled under 8 U.S.C. § 1522(a)(8), which includes the information supplied by refugees in conjunction with their applications for adjustment of status.

When asked to comply with its legal obligations, HHS’s Congressional Liaison Office responded that HHS had not even finalized the FY2021 report for transmission.³ This

¹ 8 U.S.C. § 1523 (Congressional Reports).

² Email communication on file with Senate Judiciary Committee Staff.

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information is critical to evaluating ORR's performance and HHS's growing funding requests.⁴ Please immediately comply with HHS's statutory obligations and provide the Section 1523 reports for the Biden-Harris administration's term in office.

Please follow up with Colleen Bloss of my Judiciary Committee staff at 202-224-3744 to provide these reports to my office.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley

⁴ See e.g., FY2024 Refugee Support Services Formula Allocations, Dear Colleague Letter 24-14, <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/policy/dear-colleague-letters/24-14>