## Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 13, 2021

Mr. Jon Allman President and CEO Endeavors, Inc. 6363 De Zavala Rd. San Antonio, TX 78249

Dear Mr. Allman:

On March 20, 2021, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) announced that they had signed a contract with Endeavors, Inc., worth nearly \$87 million to provide "shelter and processing services" to families that had illegally entered the United States. Reportedly, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) also awarded Endeavors a contract worth \$530 million to house unaccompanied alien children (UACs) in hotels. News reports later indicated that shortly before ICE and HHS awarded the no-bid contracts to Endeavors, the company hired a former ICE official and advisor to the Biden-Harris transition team to be its senior director for migrant services and federal affairs. Because of the unusual nature of this contract, we write to request additional information about this matter.

ICE and HHS's no-bid contracts raise several concerns. Not only did ICE and HHS award contracts to Endeavors after recently hiring a former ICE official and Biden-Harris transition team adviser, but ICE and HHS had never before contracted with Endeavors and the contract was allegedly awarded without soliciting any other bids. Contrary to President Biden and Vice President Harris's effort to ignore the crisis at the border, ICE cited "unusual and compelling urgency" as the reason for the no-bid contract. ICE and HHS's decision to avoid the contracting process—and to cite a compelling urgency at the same time the Biden Administration has downplayed the crisis—raises serious questions about the propriety of the contract.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Press Release, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Statement attributable to ICE Acting Director Tae D. Johnson (Mar. 20, 2021), https://www.ice.gov/news/releases/statement-attributable-ice-acting-director-tae-d-iohnson.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Lachlan Markay & Stef W. Kight, *Exclusive: Texas nonprofit got massive border contract after hiring Biden official*, AXIOS (Apr. 14, 2021), https://www.axios.com/texas-nonprofit-border-contract-biden-official-23a493f4-6779-44f0-a5d4-db8690f11aec.html.

 $<sup>^{3}</sup>$  Id.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Anna Giaritelli, *Exclusive: ICE gave \$87M no-bid contract to business with Biden ties, raising conflict of interest question*, WASHINGTON EXAMINER (Apr. 07, 2021), https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/biden-ice-gave-87m-no-bid-contract-conflict-of-interest.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> *Id*.

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Therefore, to assist the Committees with oversight of this issue and to better understand the nature of the contract, we request you provide the following information:

- 1. A list of all hotels used by Endeavors to hold illegal alien families and UACs including the following details:
  - a. The address of each hotel;
  - b. The number and type of rooms by category booked and used by illegal alien families and UACs at each hotel;
  - c. The number of meals provided to illegal alien families and UACs at each hotel; and
  - d. The date on which illegal alien families and UACs stayed at each hotel;
- 2. A full accounting of all expenses paid by Endeavors to hold the illegal alien families and UACs at the hotels; and
- 3. All documents and communications between or among employees of ICE and HHS and employees, representatives, or contractors of Endeavors for the period of January 1, 2021, to the present.

Please provide this information as soon as possible but no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 27, 2021. Additionally, we request that you arrange a staff briefing on this matter.

If you have any questions about this request, please contact Judiciary Committee staff at (202) 225-6906 or Oversight Committee staff at (202) 225-5074. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely

Jim Jordan

Ranking Member

Committee on the Judiciary

James Comer

Ranking Member

Committee on Oversight and Reform

Tom McClintock

Ranking Member

Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship

Committee on the Judiciary

cc: The Honorable Jerrold L. Nadler, Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
The Honorable Carolyn Maloney, Chairwoman, Committee on Oversight and Reform
The Honorable Zoe Lofgren, Chair, Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship,
Committee on the Judiciary