

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

2138 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6216

(202) 225-6906
judiciary.house.gov

December 1, 2025

The Honorable Kash Patel
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
935 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Director Patel:

The Committee on the Judiciary is conducting oversight of the Biden-Harris Administration's open-borders policies, including how these policies led to violent crime and the presence of transnational drug cartels in Indian Country. You testified earlier this year that addressing crime on tribal lands is a priority for the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).¹ We support your commitment to addressing safety and security in Indian Country and we respectfully write to request information to advance the Committee's oversight.

For four years, the Biden-Harris Administration abandoned America's borders and failed to enforce immigration laws. As a result, eight million illegal aliens entered the country, including at least six million illegal aliens who were released into American communities and nearly two million illegal alien "gotaways" who evaded U.S. Customs and Border Protection at the southwest border.² Although the Trump Administration has secured the border and prioritized

¹ *Oversight of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Hearing Before H. Comm. on the Judiciary*, 119th Cong. at 183 (2025) (testimony of the Hon. Kash Patel, Dir., Fed. Bureau of Investigation).

² Info. provided to the H. Comm. on the Judiciary by U.S. Dep't of Homeland Sec., Table 1: Detention Histories of CBP Encounters, January 20, 2021 – March 31, 2024 (Aug. 16, 2024); U.S. Customs and Border Prot., *Custody and Transfer Statistics*, U.S. DEP'T OF HOMELAND SEC. (last accessed Jan. 6, 2025); Camilo Montoya-Galvez, *Biden administration has admitted more than 1 million migrants into U.S. under parole policy Congress is considering restricting*, CBS NEWS (Jan. 22, 2024); *Latest UC Data, Total Monthly Discharges to Individual Sponsors Only*, U.S. DEP'T OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVS. (last accessed Mar. 22, 2024); Off. of Refugee Resettlement, *Unaccompanied Children Released to Sponsors by State*, U.S. DEP'T OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVS. (last accessed Jan 15, 2025); U.S. Customs and Border Prot., *CBP Releases December 2024 Monthly Update*, U.S. DEP'T OF HOMELAND SEC. (Jan. 14, 2025); Immigr. and Customs Enf't, *Daily SWB Placemat*, U.S. DEP'T OF HOMELAND SEC. (May 2024-Jan. 2025) (on file with Comm.); Off. of Homeland Sec. Statistics, *Immigr. Enf't and Legal Processes Monthly Tables – Apr. 2024*, U.S. DEP'T OF HOMELAND SEC. (last accessed Aug. 19, 2024); Casey Harper, *Border crisis creates national security threat for U.S., observers say*, WASH. EXAM'R (Aug. 7, 2023); Bill Melugin (@BillMelugin_), X (June 20, 2024, 10:22 AM).

immigration enforcement, national security risks from the Biden-Harris border crisis remain a threat to U.S. communities, including in Indian Country.³

The complex jurisdictional authority for tribes to prosecute certain criminal offenses on reservations and the shortage of tribal law enforcement officers make Indian reservations prime locations for dangerous cartel operations.⁴ Criminal aliens who illegally entered the country under the Biden-Harris Administration work alongside dangerous cartels to smuggle drugs, including fentanyl and methamphetamine, and perpetuate an opioid epidemic and violent crime in Native American communities.⁵

In Indian Country, cartel operatives recruit and take advantage of vulnerable tribal members—those facing unemployment, addiction, or financial strain—and offer these individuals quick cash to transport or distribute narcotics.⁶ Over time, drugs take hold in the community as addiction spreads. Violence often follows. When someone reports drug cartel activity to the tribal police or refuses to cooperate with the cartels' demands, the cartel responds with threats, intimidation, and violence to maintain control.⁷ The effects on the community include more overdoses, more missing persons, rising fear, and resources stretched thin.⁸ Meanwhile jurisdictional limitations—tribal law enforcement can only prosecute tribal members and state/local law enforcement often lack authority on reservation land—leave tribal communities vulnerable to rapid cartel infiltration and little proactive federal assistance.⁹ The cartels exploit these vulnerabilities intentionally, leaving tribal communities to bear the consequences.¹⁰

On April 1, 2025, the Department of Justice (DOJ) launched Operation Not Forgotten to address unresolved cases of violent crime in Indian Country.¹¹ DOJ announced that it would “surge resources,” including 60 FBI personnel to 10 FBI field offices to support these pending

³ Jessica M. Vaughn, *Tribal Leaders Seek Help to Oust Mexican Drug Cartels*, CENTER FOR IMMIGR. STUDIES (Apr. 16, 2024).

⁴ Bennett Watts and Wilson Beaver, *Drug Cartels 'Are Winning': Border Crisis Ravaging Arizona, Montana Indian Reservations*, DAILY SIGNAL (Oct. 31, 2024); Emma Jane, *Crow Tribe Chairman testifies about cartel threat in Indian Country*, EASTERN PROG. (July 25, 2025); Lisa Cavazuti et al., *Mexican drug cartels are targeting America's 'last best place'*, NBC NEWS (Feb. 10, 2024).

⁵ Clair McFarland, *FBI, ICE Nab Suspected Mexican Cartel Member Working on Wyoming Reservation*, COWBOY STATE DAILY (Feb. 26, 2025); Press Release, U.S. Drug Enf't Admin., *Mexican National With Ties to the Jalisco Cartel Sentenced to 19 Years in Federal Prison for Trafficking in Hundreds of Pounds of Fentanyl, Heroin, Meth, and Cocaine in Eastern Washington and Montana* (July 18, 2025).

⁶ Drug Enforcement Administration, *2025 National Drug Threat Assessment*, U.S. Dep't of Justice (May 13, 2025), <https://www.dea.gov/sites/default/files/2025-07/2025NationalDrugThreatAssessment.pdf>.

⁷ Press Release, U.S. Drug Enf't Admin., *Mexican National With Ties to the Jalisco Cartel Sentenced to 19 Years in Federal Prison for Trafficking in Hundreds of Pounds of Fentanyl, Heroin, Meth, and Cocaine in Eastern Washington and Montana* (July 18, 2025).

⁸ Emma Jane, *Crow Tribe Chairman testifies about cartel threat in Indian Country*, EASTERN PROG. (July 25, 2025).

⁹ Bennett Watts and Wilson Beaver, *Drug Cartels 'Are Winning': Border Crisis Ravaging Arizona, Montana Indian Reservations*, DAILY SIGNAL (Oct. 31, 2024).

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ Press Release, U.S. Dep't of Justice, *Justice Department to Surge Resources to Indian Country to Investigate Violent Crimes* (Apr. 1, 2025); Louis Casiano, *FBI to increase personnel in field offices to address violent crimes in Native American communities*, FOX NEWS (Apr. 1, 2025).

investigations.¹² For the past six months, FBI personnel have rotated in 90-day temporary duty assignments to help resolve cases.¹³ The FBI concluded the operation on October 1, 2025.

On September 17, 2025, you testified before the Committee that of the reported 1,900 open cases in Indian Country, the FBI already helped to issue “600 indictments this year alone.”¹⁴ Now that Operation Not Forgotten has concluded, we write to request the following documents and information:

1. Data relating to the number, location, and assignment of FBI personnel deployed or reassigned to Indian Country to work pending violent crime investigations from April 1, 2025, to the present;
2. Data relating to violent crime rates in Indian Country, including but not limited to statistical data of case openings and case resolutions, for the period of January 20, 2025, to the present;
3. Data relating to violent crime rates in Indian Country, including but not limited to statistical data of case openings and case resolutions, for the period of January 20, 2021, to January 20, 2025; and
4. Data reflecting the types and categories of violent crime that the FBI has addressed on tribal reservations where it has allocated investigative or enforcement resources. This request includes, but is not limited to, data on drug trafficking, homicide, missing persons, assault, and other violent crimes.
5. An explanation of the budgetary resources that the FBI has dedicated to addressing violent crime on tribal lands, and how that allocation has changed over time.

We respectfully ask that you produce the requested materials by December 15, 2025. The Committee is authorized to conduct oversight of the FBI pursuant to the Rules of the House of Representatives.¹⁵ If you have questions about this matter, please contact Committee staff at (202) 225-6906.

¹² Press Release, U.S. Dep’t of Justice, Justice Department to Surge Resources to Indian Country to Investigate Violent Crimes (Apr. 1, 2025); Louis Casiano, *FBI to increase personnel in field offices to address violent crimes in Native American communities*, FOX NEWS (Apr. 1, 2025).

¹³ *Id.*

¹⁴ *Oversight of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Hearing Before H. Comm. on the Judiciary*, 119th Cong. at 184 (2025) (testimony of the Hon. Kash Patel, Dir., Fed. Bureau of Investigation).

¹⁵ See Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, R. X., cl.1(7) (2025).

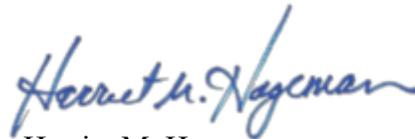
The Honorable Kash Patel
December 1, 2025
Page 4

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Jim Jordan
Chairman



Harriet M. Hageman
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member