

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6216

(202) 225-6906
judiciary.house.gov

January 30, 2026

Ms. Shaina Aber
Executive Director
Acacia Center for Justice
1025 Connecticut Ave NW, Ste. 1000A
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Ms. Aber:

The Committee on the Judiciary continues to conduct oversight of the enforcement of federal immigration law. The Biden-Harris Administration created an unprecedented border crisis and released millions of illegal aliens into the United States. Once the illegal aliens are inside the country, organizations like the Acacia Center for Justice provide them with social services and legal representation, largely funded by U.S. taxpayers to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars.¹ We write to request information about the Acacia Center for Justice's efforts to help illegal aliens remain in the United States at the expense of the American taxpayer.

Under a rule promulgated by the Biden-Harris Administration, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) increased the strain on American taxpayers by funding legal representation for unaccompanied alien children (UACs) in both immigration-related and non-immigration-related contexts.² This representation includes assisting UACs in obtaining immigration status, employment authorization, and certain medical services that require parental permission. As millions of taxpayer dollars went to organizations under this rule, the Biden-Harris Administration lost track of an estimated 150,000 UACs entrusted to the care of its Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR).³

¹ Chuck Ross, *Immigration Contractor That Says 'No Immigrant Should Be Detained' Hires GOP Lobbyist as Taxpayer Funding Remains in Limbo*, WASH. FREE BEACON (Feb. 5, 2025), <https://freebeacon.com/politics/immigration-contractor-that-says-no-immigrant-should-be-detained-hires-gop-lobbyist-as-taxpayer-funding-remains-in-limbo/>.

² 45 C.F.R. § 410.1309 (2024).

³ Glenn Kessler, *Trump's claim that Biden lost 88,000 children, with many now 'dead'*, WASH. POST (June 10, 2024), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2024/06/10/trumps-claim-that-biden-lost-88000-children-with-many-now-dead/>; Off. of Refugee Resettlement, *Unaccompanied Children Released to Sponsors by State*, U.S. DEP'T OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVS., <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/grant-funding/unaccompanied-children-released-sponsors-state> (last accessed Nov. 8, 2024). 34 percent of the 443,804 UACs released to sponsors during the Biden Administration equates to 150,893 UACs with whom HHS is estimated to have lost contact.

The Acacia Center for Justice is among those legal services providers funded by the Biden-Harris HHS, even boasting in 2024 that it had served as “the primary contractor for the Unaccompanied [Alien] Children Program.”⁴ The Acacia Center for Justice provides legal counsel to aliens in various circumstances, including some detained adult aliens, UACs in immigration proceedings at certain designated immigration courts, UACs in or released from ORR, UACs who are placed at facilities and locations outside of a network of certain legal service providers, and “other strategic litigation advocacy.”⁵

Illegal immigration serves as a windfall for organizations like the Acacia Center for Justice. According to your website, “Acacia’s goals are two-fold: to support immigrant legal services and defense networks to provide exceptional legal services to immigrants and to advocate for the expansion of these programs and the infrastructure critical to guaranteeing immigrants access to justice, fairness, and freedom.”⁶ In other words, the Acacia Center for Justice benefits financially from the flood of illegal immigration into the country, due to the substantial amount of government contracts and other federal dollars it receives. In fact, according to public information, the Acacia Center for Justice spent some portion of its budget, much of which is derived from taxpayer funding, to lobby Congress in support of programs that benefit those illegal aliens, including programs that the Acacia Center for Justice administers.⁷ Among those programs is the Legal Access Services for Reunited Families program, a program created by the Biden-Harris Administration that allows certain illegal aliens to remain in the U.S. pursuant to a grant of humanitarian parole for up to three years and apply for a work permit, as well as “counseling and other services,” “assistance with certain medical copays,” “certain immigration legal services,” and “housing support.”⁸

Accordingly, to assist the Committee with its oversight of the enforcement of federal immigration law, we ask that you please provide the following information and material:

1. The following data for the period of January 20, 2021, to the present:
 - a. The total amount of federal funding that the Acacia Center for Justice has received (disaggregated by program) by year, as well as the percentage of Acacia’s overall funding made up by federal government contracts or other federal funds;

⁴ *Year in Review 2024*, ACACIA CENTER FOR JUSTICE, <https://acaciajustice.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/ACJ-Year-in-Review-2024.pdf>, (last accessed Jan. 19, 2026).

⁵ *Financial Statements*, ACACIA CENTER FOR JUSTICE (Dec. 31, 2024), <https://acaciajustice.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Acacia-Center-for-Justice-Inc-FS-2024.pdf>.

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ *Id.* See also *Acacia Center for Justice*, ACTION NETWORK, <https://actionnetwork.org/groups/acacia-center-for-justice> (last accessed Jan. 19, 2026).

⁸ *Committed to the safe reunification of families*, TOGETHER.GOV, <https://www.together.gov/> (last accessed Jan. 19, 2026).

- b. The total amount the Acacia Center for Justice spent on “other strategic litigation advocacy”⁹ by year;
 - c. The total amount the Acacia Center for Justice spent on lobbying Congress by year;
 - d. The total number of individuals Acacia has assisted through the Legal Access Services for Reunited Families program, as well as the total amount of expenditures associated with assisting in these cases;
 - e. The total number of cases in which the Acacia Center for Justice represented a UAC for the purpose of helping such UAC obtain an employment authorization document (disaggregated by age of the UAC), as well as the total of expenditures associated with assisting in these cases (disaggregated by year);
 - f. The total number of cases in which the Acacia Center for Justice has represented a UAC seeking “access to certain lawful medical procedures that require the consent of the parent or legal guardian under State law.”¹⁰ For each of these cases:
 - i. Please describe the nature of those cases, without disclosing the identity of the UAC, and provide data disaggregated by the age of the UAC; and
 - ii. Please provide the total amount of expenditures associated with assisting in these cases.
2. For UACs the Acacia Center for Justice represented from January 20, 2021, to the present, provide the total number who attended all of their immigration court proceedings.
 3. All documents and communications for the period January 20, 2021, to the present, referring or relating to the following topics:
 - a. The court appearance or attendance of UACs represented by the Acacia Center for Justice;
 - b. Acacia’s strategic litigation advocacy;
 - c. The *L.G.M.L. v. Noem* litigation; and
 - d. The *Ms. L* settlement and the Legal Access Services for Reunited Families program.

Please provide the information requested as soon as possible but no later than 5:00 p.m. on February 13, 2026. Pursuant to the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to conduct oversight of federal immigration policy and procedures.¹¹

⁹ *Financial Statements*, ACACIA CENTER FOR JUSTICE (Dec. 31, 2024), <https://acaciajustice.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Acacia-Center-for-Justice-Inc-FS-2024.pdf>.

¹⁰ 45 C.F.R. § 410.1309 (2024).

¹¹ Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, R. X (2025).

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If you have any questions, please contact Committee staff at (202) 225-6906. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Jim Jordan
Chairman

cc: The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member