

**Questions for the Record**  
**Charles E. Grassley of Iowa**  
**Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary**  
**“Another Biden Blunder: Missing Unaccompanied Alien Children and**  
**Criminal Sponsors”**  
**Submitted September 24, 2025**

**Question Submitted to Mr. Chris Clem:**

During your testimony, you stated that the Biden administration prioritized the speed of Unaccompanied Alien Children (UAC) placements despite concerns about the safety of sponsor households. In addition, you stated that the vetting process and verification of sponsors was “abysmal” and that the information and data that ORR possesses on UACs derives, at least in part, from encounters from DHS.

Can you describe in more detail your criticism of the data collection and information sharing processes under the Biden-ORR and DHS? In your response, please list specific types of data where you think there may be accuracy or reliability concerns, including biographical data as well as data used to vet sponsors such as background checks or fingerprinting.

**Clem Responses:**

Previously, there were no standards when it came to identity documents acceptable for taking custody of a child; foreign, expired, and images of documents were all accepted. This created ideal opportunities for fraud as evidenced by internal investigations and exacerbated an already overwhelmed system.

The use of unverifiable documents or copies of copies enabled criminal activities, criminals and traffickers to further exploit the US Government and the children. Furthermore, DNA testing or evidence was not required; oftentimes, a sponsor was never seen in person. Instead, UAC were delivered to airports via contractors and turned over without eyes on a sponsor or physical address.

The database, UAC Portal, is unstructured data that makes queries virtually impossible; the fact that no one fixed the portal for 14 years, begs the question, why hasn't it been fixed? To fix this problem a modernized UAC tracking system must be developed with access granted to all that are involved in the UAC enforcement and immigration continuum. This will ensure real time tracking and accountability for the government, the child and sponsors and allow for quick enforcement actions as needed to protect the child. Additionally, this system should be accessible by State and Local law enforcement and Child Protective Services to aid in ensuring the well-being and care of children.

Lastly, DHS, more specifically US Customs and Border Protection, accounts for the largest portion of UAC turned over to ORR. Therefore, information obtained by ORR on UAC, should be shared timely with other DHS components when suspicious information is discovered to address UAC safety

or criminal activity, however it was an established policy and practice under the Biden/Harris HHS/ORR to not share information with DHS, even when it was originated by DHS. This puts UAC at risk for exploitation and allows traffickers to often act with impunity.

I appreciate the opportunity to expand on my testimony, and it is my hope that common sense will prevail on UAC custody and care issues and enforcement on unscrupulous sponsors.