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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

April 9, 2021

The Honorable Chuck Grassley  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on the Judiciary

The Honorable John Cornyn  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, and Border Safety

Dear Senator Grassley and Senator Cornyn:

We have received your April 1, 2021 letter requesting Judiciary Committee hearings regarding migration at the southern border and oversight of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). We appreciate the interest in immigration oversight from Senate Republicans, which was largely absent over the previous four years.

Rest assured, we intend to restore the Committee's traditional role as a standing committee of an independent and co-equal branch of the federal government conducting oversight of the agencies over which we have jurisdiction. Under Democratic leadership, the Committee has already held its first Federal Bureau of Investigation oversight hearing since July 2019. Chair Durbin also plans to reinstitute the Committee's longstanding tradition of holding annual Department of Justice (DOJ) and DHS oversight hearings, which will be scheduled in due course. The Committee's last DHS oversight hearing was held more than three years ago, on January 16, 2018, and the Immigration Subcommittee only held two hearings during the entire 116th Congress, despite unprecedented chaos and crisis at the agency. The Committee stood by while the Trump Administration implemented immigration policies that put our nation's values and security at risk.

Over the last four years, the Committee ignored the worst abuses of President Trump's Administration, including the cruel separation of thousands of children from their parents at the border, a travel ban targeting mostly Muslim-majority countries, and the attempted termination of deportation protections for more than 800,000 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients who grew up in this country. During the past four years, then-Immigration Subcommittee Ranking Member Durbin repeatedly asked then-Chairman Cornyn to hold Subcommittee hearings on these harmful Trump Administration policies. Then-Chairman Cornyn never responded.

In addition to seeking oversight hearings, your letter states that you look forward to working with us on bipartisan solutions. We welcome you to this effort, as we believe the Senate has a responsibility to act on long-overdue immigration reform legislation on a bipartisan basis.

Sincerely,



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Senator Richard J. Durbin  
Chair  
Senate Committee on the Judiciary



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Senator Alex Padilla  
Chair  
Senate Subcommittee on Immigration,  
Citizenship, and Border Safety