

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 03, 2026

The Honorable Markwayne Mullin
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Mr. David Venturella
Acting Director
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Washington, D.C. 20536

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

The Honorable Rodney S. Scott
Commissioner
U.S. Customs and Border Protection
1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 2022

Secretary Mullin, Secretary Rubio, Acting Director Venturella, and Commissioner Scott,

We write to express our fervent disapproval of, and to raise serious concerns about, the Trump Administration's ongoing efforts to coerce immigrants into leaving the country through Project Homecoming and the CBP Home program. Despite recklessly spending hundreds of millions of dollars on the CBP Home program and pressuring immigrants to use it through misinformation, coercion, and intimidation, numerous reports have documented that Project Homecoming is just another nefarious scheme of the Administration to drive its mass deportation campaign.¹

President Trump established Project Homecoming by executive order² and justified the program through xenophobic and nationalistic rhetoric that reflects Great Replacement Theory beliefs about an "invasion."³ Through Project Homecoming, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) claims it provides immigrants support with making travel arrangements, purchasing departure flights, preservation of the chance to return legally to the United States, and a post-departure payment, initially of \$1,000 and later increased to \$2,600.⁴ However, testimonies have repeatedly highlighted that people who have attempted to use the CBP Home app to voluntarily leave the United States were never provided the promised support, leading to the conclusion that the program is farce.⁵

¹ Melissa Sanchez and Mariam Elba, "'I Don't Want to Be Here Anymore': They Tried to Self-Deport, Then Got Stranded in Trump's America," *ProPublica*, October 10, 2025,

<https://www.propublica.org/article/trump-self-deportation-cbp-home-app>; Delaney Nolan, "'They tricked me': Migrants were promised \$1,000 to voluntarily leave the US. Some never received it," *The Guardian*, December 18, 2025, <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/dec/18/migrants-self-deportation-trump-immigration>; Alonso Martinez, "The costly failure of the CBP Home self-deportation app," *El Pais*, September 9, 2025, <https://english.elpais.com/usa/2025-09-09/the-costly-failure-of-the-cbp-home-self-deportation-app.html>.

² The White House, "Establishing Project Homecoming," May 9, 2025, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/05/establishing-project-homecoming/>.

³ Jasmine Garsd, "DHS calls for defending American culture. That leaves some Latinos rattled," *NPR*, October 29, 2025, <https://www.npr.org/2025/10/29/nx-s1-5564025/defend-american-culture-dhs-pledge-leaves-some-latinos-rattled>; Will Ragland, "A List of MAGA Republicans Who Took the 'Great Replacement' Theory Mainstream," *Center for American Progress (CAP)*, May 18, 2022, <https://www.americanprogressaction.org/article/a-list-of-maga-republicans-who-took-the-great-replacement-theory-mainstream/>; Jean Guerrero, "Stephen Miller and White Nationalism," *NPR*, November 14, 2019, <https://www.npr.org/2019/11/14/779208233/stephen-miller-and-white-nationalism>.

⁴ The White House, "Establishing Project Homecoming," May 9, 2025, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/05/establishing-project-homecoming/>; U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), "CBP Home: Assistance to Voluntarily Self-Deport," June 23, 2026, <https://www.dhs.gov/cbphome>.

In particular, immigrants from countries lacking diplomatic relations with the United States and those without consular services—including Cuba, Haiti, and Venezuela—have faced the most difficulty trying to depart through the program. But it is not clear what actions the State Department has taken to assist them. In spite of those challenges, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers have repeatedly pressured immigrants to use the app. Recently, ICE agents have pushed Haitians who were formerly covered by Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to use the app to depart despite the fact that many are pursuing lawful claims for asylum and other immigration benefits.⁶

Yessica Torres downloaded the app believing it would cover the plane tickets for her and her family back to her native Venezuela.⁷ However, after waiting for almost a year for DHS to plan her travel, Yessica was still stuck in Chicago without a passport.⁸ She did not hear back from DHS about flight tickets or her travel documents.⁹ Numerous other constituents have reported the same lack of help, including many who have languished in detention facilities even after signing ICE’s voluntary departure forms.¹⁰ There is a pattern that immigrants who have engaged Project Homecoming and CBP Home app have been stranded by DHS’s broken promises, defrauded of the guaranteed logistical or financial support, and robbed of their promised payments after leaving the United States.¹¹

Beyond DHS’ broken promises, Project Homecoming and CBP Home are mired in corruption. Former DHS Secretary Kristi Noem irresponsibly spent over \$200 million to advertise Project Homecoming, and the State Department potentially impermissibly shifted \$250 million in refugee aid to implement the program in service of President Trump and Deputy White House Chief of Staff Stephen Miller’s goal of removing one million immigrants from the United States annually.¹² In May, a contractor under investigation for corruption, Salus Worldwide Solutions, won a \$200 million extension of its contract to implement Project Homecoming, despite failing to hit the Administration’s targets or deliver the promised assistance to individuals.¹³

⁵ Delaney Nolan, “‘They tricked me’: Migrants were promised \$1,000 to voluntarily leave the US. Some never received it,” *The Guardian*, December 18, 2025, <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/dec/18/migrants-self-deportation-trump-immigration>.

⁶ Arelis R. Hernández, Ted Hesson, and Lauren Kaori Gurley, “ICE begins outfitting Haitian immigrants with ankle monitors, attorneys say,” *Washington Post*, August 3, 2026, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/immigration/2026/08/03/ice-begins-outfitting-haitian-immigrants-with-ankle-monitors-attorneys-say/>.

⁷ Laura Turbay and Laura Rodriguez Presa, “No passport. No flights. No easy way home for Venezuelans who want to leave Chicago,” *Chicago Tribune*, April 10, 2026, <https://www.chicagotribune.com/2026/04/10/venezuelans-chicago-passport-salvoconducto/>.

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ Delaney Nolan, “‘They tricked me’: Migrants were promised \$1,000 to voluntarily leave the US. Some never received it,” *The Guardian*, December 18, 2025, <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/dec/18/migrants-self-deportation-trump-immigration>.

¹¹ *Id.*; Laura Turbay and Laura Rodriguez Presa, “No passport. No flights. No easy way home for Venezuelans who want to leave Chicago,” *Chicago Tribune*, April 10, 2026, <https://www.chicagotribune.com/2026/04/10/venezuelans-chicago-passport-salvoconducto/>.

¹² Mike Bedigan, “Noem spent \$200M on ads to get people to self-deport via a new app. The exact total who have remains a mystery,” *MSN*, September 2025, <https://www.msn.com/en-us/travel/news/noem-spent-200m-on-ads-to-get-people-to-self-deport-via-a-new-app-the-exact-total-who-have-remains-a-mystery/ar-AA1LT2EV?ocid=entnewsntp&pc=LCTS&cvid=ce8d6c5dad604299a84a18124d3702b5&ei=42>; Reuters, “State Department shifts \$250 million from refugee aid to ‘self-deportations’,” *NBC News*, June 4, 2025, <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/state-department-shifts-250-million-refugee-aid-self-deportations-rcna211029>; Brittany Gibson, “How Trump’s ‘self-deportation’ push has ramped up,” *Axios*, July 28, 2026, <https://www.axios.com/2026/07/28/trump-self-deportation-ice>.

¹³ Tom Latchem and Will Neal, “ICE Barbie’s Scandal-Hit Deportation Contractor Handed \$200M Extension Despite Criminal Probe,” *Daily Beast*, June 26, 2026, <https://www.thedailybeast.com/kristi-noems-deportation-contractor-salus-worldwide-solutions-handed-200m-extension-despite-criminal-probe/>; Dan Friedman and Nick Schwellenbach, “Top Homeland Security Democrat Demands Cancellation of Massive DHS Self-Deportation Contract,” *Mother Jones*, July 14, 2026,

Salus Worldwide Solutions has been granted access to immigrants being held at 50 ICE detention facilities at a time when attorneys and loved ones struggle to meet with clients and family needlessly detained by ICE.¹⁴ Faced with deplorable and inhumane conditions, including a lack of access to water, food, and medical care, immigrants in detention are essentially being driven to depart as a means to escape cruel and often life-threatening conditions inside ICE facilities. As a result, about half of the reported registrations through the CBP Home app have involved immigrants held in detention, raising questions about coercion and complicity with immigration judges granting so-called “incentivized voluntary return.”¹⁵

However, the exact number of those who have actually departed through the program remains unknown.¹⁶ DHS has not publicly disclosed how many people have left despite having pending asylum claims or other paths to permanent residence. According to media reports, ICE data shows a steady rise in immigrants signing up to leave through the CBP Home Program.¹⁷ The program has reportedly driven about 132,000 people to leave the United States and an estimated 70,000 more have signed up for the app and are on track to leave.¹⁸

Given the Trump Administration’s ongoing expansion of ICE detention and other measures meant to pressure immigrants to leave, as well as its unabashed overspending on Project Homecoming, we are requesting comprehensive information on the Administration’s actions, how the program operates, and its impact. We are also requesting a briefing from the State Department on its role in funding, overseeing, and facilitating the travel of immigrants who lack access to necessary travel documents. We request that you respond to the following questions no later than September 14, 2026.

1. Please provide a copy of the training resources or program guidance provided to DHS employees and all contractors about how to implement Project Homecoming and coordinate benefits for individuals who choose to enroll in CBP Home.
2. Please provide any written materials or forms that are to be provided to people who sign up for voluntary departure to understand the process, timeline, and troubleshooting, and confirm what languages those documents are provided in.
3. Please provide the grievance or complaint process for program enrollees who do not receive the promised benefits to seek restitution from DHS, and how those grievances or cases are handled and resolved.
4. Please provide information on:

<https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2026/07/bennie-thompson-demands-cancellation-of-massive-department-homeland-security-ice-self-deportation-contract-salus-worldwide/>.

¹⁴ Dan Friedman, Will Sytsma, and Nick Schwellenbach, “As For-Profit Companies Battle Over ICE Contracts, Immigrants Are Caught in the Middle,” *Mother Jones*, August 3, 2026,

<https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2026/08/dhs-ice-self-deportation-salus-csi-aviation-geo-group/>.

¹⁵ Brittany Gibson, “How Trump’s “self-deportation” push has ramped up,” *Axios*, July 28, 2026,

<https://www.axios.com/2026/07/28/trump-self-deportation-ice>; Julia Ingram and Kati Weis, “Voluntary departures hit record high as detained immigrants lose hope of getting released or winning in court,” *CBS News*, February 12, 2026,

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/immigration-detention-voluntary-departures-record-high/>.

¹⁶ Mike Bedigan, “Noem spent \$200M on ads to get people to self-deport via a new app. The exact total who have remains a mystery,” *MSN*, September 2025,

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/travel/news/noem-spent-200m-on-ads-to-get-people-to-self-deport-via-a-new-app-the-exact-total-who-have-remains-a-mystery/ar-AA1LT2EV?ocid=entnewsntp&pc=LCTS&cvid=ce8d6c5dad604299a84a18124d3702b5&ei=42>.

¹⁷ Brittany Gibson, “How Trump’s “self-deportation” push has ramped up,” *Axios*, July 28, 2026,

<https://www.axios.com/2026/07/28/trump-self-deportation-ice>.

¹⁸ *Id.*

- a. How many inquiries for assistance, complaints, or grievances were received from Project Homecoming program participants?
 - b. How many of those were resolved through the receipt of benefits?
 - c. How many of those were closed without resolution?
5. Please provide information on the number of people who have:
 - a. Signed up for departure through the CBP Home app including the number of immigrants who were detained when they signed up or subsequent to their enrollment;
 - b. Physically departed using the CPB Home app process;
 - c. Of those, how many have successfully received its promised benefits of:
 - i. Flights purchased for them; and/or
 - ii. The post-departure payment;
 - iii. Waiver of civil immigration fines.
6. What efforts is the State Department undertaking to assist immigrants who lack access to travel documents due to their home government's lack of diplomatic relations with the United States or a lack of access to consular services?
7. Explain why immigrants have not received the \$1,000/\$2,600 promised payments upon voluntarily leaving the United States and what actions DHS and the State Department are taking to ensure that all immigrants receive the payments?
8. What oversight and accountability measures have DHS put in place to ensure that reckless and wasteful spending associated with Project Homecoming, such as that by Former DHS Secretary Kristi Noem, does not take place again?

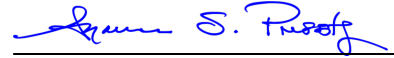
While coercing departures, especially if immigrants are pursuing lawful claims for asylum and other immigration benefits, is repugnant, a credible repatriation support program would deliver on its promised benefits, humanely support immigrants transitioning out of the United States, embrace transparency, and be free of any allegations of intimidation and coercion. By not meeting any of those minimum standards, Project Homecoming proves it is nothing more than a white nationalist, xenophobic scheme meant to defraud our immigrant neighbors and abusively compel them to leave their families, friends, and the communities they have lived in for decades. So long as Project Homecoming and CBP Home app systematically exploit, pressure, deceive, and strand our immigrant neighbors, we as Members of Congress will stand opposed and do everything in our power to hold DHS accountable.

We look forward to reviewing your prompt and thorough response.

Sincerely,



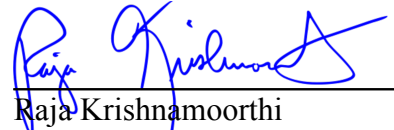
Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress



Maxwell Alejandro Frost
Member of Congress



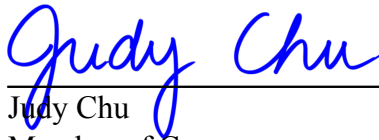
Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



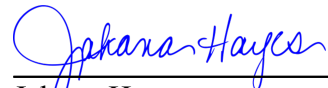
Lateefah Simon
Member of Congress



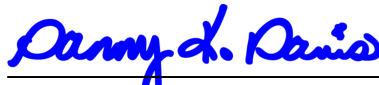
Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



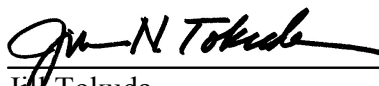
Maxine Dexter, M.D.
Member of Congress



Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



Jim Tokuda
Member of Congress



Emily Randall
Member of Congress



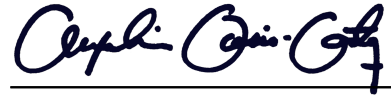
Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Adelita S. Grijalva
Member of Congress



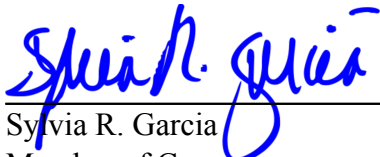
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress



Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Sylvia R. García
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress