

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0908

May 26, 2023

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
3801 Nebraska Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20016

Dear Secretary Mayorkas:

Recent reporting indicates that U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) plans to end “all familial DNA testing” at the U.S. southern border on May 31, 2023.¹ We write to demand that CBP continue to conduct familial deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) testing at the U.S. southern border.

As you know, familial DNA testing has played a vital role in combatting child trafficking and family fraud. According to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General (OIG), from June 2019 to September 2021, 8.5 percent of all rapid DNA tests came back as “negative for claimed parent-child relationships.”² Further, in fiscal year 2019, CBP noted that “Board Patrol agents identified more than 6,200 fraudulent family members.”³ This action also follows recent reports and Congressional inquiries pertaining to the Biden Administration’s willful neglect of migrant children who have fallen victim to labor trafficking in the United States.

After years of consistent inadequacy in addressing the crisis at the U.S. southern border and unwillingness to protect migrant children from exploitation, the decision to end “all familial DNA testing” will inevitably result in further exploitation of these desperate children. Specifically, it will enable human smuggling and trafficking and will deepen the pockets of criminal enterprises seeking to traumatize and take advantage of vulnerable families and children. This result is unacceptable and your agency has a responsibility to mitigate and prevent such outcomes.

Given these concerns, we demand that CBP continue to conduct familial DNA testing at the U.S. southern border. Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



Marco Rubio
U.S. Senator



Tom Cotton
U.S. Senator

¹ [CBP Memo](#)

² [CBP Officials Implemented Rapid DNA Testing to Verify Claimed Parent-Child Relationships](#)

³ [Border Crisis: CBP Fights Child Exploitation](#)



Shelley Moore Capito
U.S. Senator



Ted Budd
U.S. Senator



Rick Scott
U.S. Senator



Cynthia Lummis
U.S. Senator