

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4502

November 15, 2019

The Honorable Chad Wolf
Acting Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

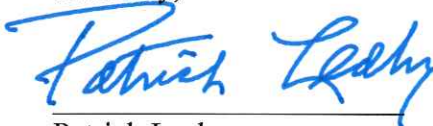
Dear Acting Secretary Wolf:

Yesterday, *Buzzfeed News* published an article detailing the recommendations contained in an internal Department of Homeland Security (DHS) report, written by senior DHS officials, which describes serious, potentially illegal, and certainly immoral problems in the implementation of this administration's Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP). The DHS report also offers a series of recommendations.¹

According to the news report, former Acting Secretary Kevin McAleenan organized a group of senior DHS officials who were not involved in the creation or implementation of the MPP program to review its implementation. The recommendations coming out of this "Red Team" review suggest the program has significant problems, including Customs and Border Protection (CBP) inappropriately pressuring United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to arrive at negative fear findings, a lack of standardized procedures – and therefore a lack of protection provided to -- vulnerable populations, a lack of legal access for asylum seekers, and unclear roles for CBP and USCIS officers and agents in the MPP process.

In response to the "Red Team" report, former Acting Secretary McAleenan reportedly told DHS agencies to deliver a plan to address the recommendations within one month and implement those changes within three months. Although *Buzzfeed News* identified the "Red Team" report as a draft, the fact that Acting Secretary McAleenan issued a signed, final memorandum in response indicates that the original memo is no longer pre-decisional and should immediately be released. I therefore respectfully request a copy of the report and recommendations. I further request a briefing from DHS and the relevant sub-agencies on the plan to address the recommendations contained in the report and any progress made so far. I ask that you provide me with this material and briefing by December 6.

Sincerely,



Patrick Leahy
United States Senator

¹ Hamed Aleaziz, *US Border Officials Pressured Asylum Officers To Deny Entry To Immigrants Seeking Protection, Report Finds*, *Buzzfeed News*, November 14, 2019, available at <https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/hamedaleaziz/dhs-asylum-report-mpp-immigration-remain-mexico>.