

MICHAEL R. TURNER
TENTH DISTRICT, OHIO

CHAIRMAN
PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE
ON INTELLIGENCE

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT
AND ACCOUNTABILITY



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

2183 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-6465

DISTRICT OFFICE:

120 WEST 3RD STREET
SUITE 305
DAYTON, OH 45402
(937) 225-2843

September 24, 2024

The Honorable Merrick Garland
Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Attorney General Garland,

In the last 4 years, an estimated 15,000 - 20,000 Haitian migrants have settled in Springfield, Ohio. With a population of 58,000 people, Haitian migrants now make up 30% or more of the city's population. As a result, the City of Springfield, and its law enforcement agencies have faced immense strain on their resources. The influx of Haitian migrants has increased deadly traffic incidents, and ongoing state and local investigations into migrant trafficking organizations expend significant resources for state and local law enforcement. Recent national attention on the City of Springfield has sparked bomb threats targeting government buildings like City Hall and the Bureau of Motor Vehicles. These threats have caused lockdowns in local schools, and universities have canceled in person classes. Increased security measures to combat, prevent and respond to these threats strain already scarce police resources.

The mass migration of Haitian nationals to Springfield is the direct result of the Biden-Harris Administration's reckless and misguided promulgation of immigration policies like the Haitian Parole Program and the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Haitian Migrants. Under parole status, Haitian nationals can live and work legally in the United States for the duration of their assigned parole period. Programs like TPS then allow Haitian nationals to remain in the country indefinitely.

The Biden-Harris Administration has created an immigration crisis in Springfield, Ohio. In April of this year, Congressman Mike Turner, who represents Springfield, brought the City of Springfield Mayor, City Manager, and Public Safety Manager to deliver a clear message to federal agencies: it is the Biden-Harris Administration's responsibility to provide assistance to the City of Springfield, its schools, healthcare centers, law enforcement, and social services agencies as they navigate this immigration crisis.

To that extent, we believe the Department of Justice must deliver funds to law enforcement agencies in and around Springfield, Ohio. Organizations and programs like the Bureau of Justice Assistance's National Training and Technical Assistance Center and Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program exist to provide training and overtime pay to law enforcement agencies, respectively. The Emergency Federal Law Enforcement Assistance Program was created by the Department to assist state and/or local government units in responding to extraordinary law enforcement emergencies.

As Ohio's representatives, we urge the Department of Justice to provide the City of Springfield and its relevant organizations with emergency funding. Please provide our offices, the City of Springfield, and Clark County Commissioners with a strategy to deliver emergency grant assistance to Springfield's law enforcement agencies.

The federal government created this crisis, and Springfield is entitled to a federal remedy. Action is required by your agency, and our offices stand ready to work with you on this critical matter.

Sincerely,



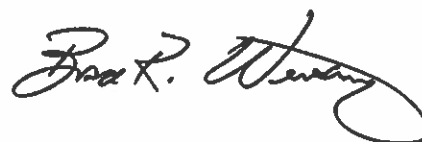
Congressman Michael R. Turner



Congressman Mike Carey



Congressman Michael A. Rulli



Congressman Brad R. Wenstrup



Congressman Warren Davidson



Congressman Robert E. Latta