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9TH DISTRICT, GEORGIA

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March 31, 2021

Acting Director Tae Johnson  
Immigration and Customs Enforcement  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
500 12th St SW  
Washington, DC 20536

Dear Acting Director Tae Johnson:

I write regarding my concerns surrounding a sole-source, non-competitive contract that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) awarded to Endeavors, the non-profit division of Family Endeavors, Inc., to provide family residential processing space for migrants. On March 22, 2021, you announced the agency had awarded an \$86.9 million contract “to provide temporary shelter and processing services for families who have not been expelled and are therefore placed in immigration proceedings for their removal from the United States.”<sup>1</sup> While Endeavors is working with federal and state entities to provide relief services at the Southwest border, and has an admirable mission and reputation, it is my understanding that Family Endeavors, Inc. has no previous history as an ICE contractor.

As you know, as a general rule contracts must be awarded using full and open competition. However, according to the Federal Procurement Data System, the contract was not competed per the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) 6.302-2 which can be applied when the agency’s need for the supplies or services is of such an unusual and compelling urgency that the Government would be seriously injured unless the agency is permitted to limit the number of sources from which it solicits bids or proposals.<sup>2</sup> Though the situation at the border might warrant the use of the FAR 6.302-2, I find it hard to believe that there were no other vendors that could have been at least considered for the award.

Although Endeavors has had contracts with several other federal agencies, such as the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Federal Acquisition Service, these contracts were competed and all for dollars amounts under \$1 million, with one exception that was \$1.4 million.

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<sup>1</sup> “ICE Signs \$86.9 Million Contract with Endeavors for Short-Term Migrant Care,” Homeland Security Today, 21 March 2021, < <https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/border-security/ice-signs-86-9-million-contract-with-endeavors-for-short-term-migrant-care/>>, accessed 25 March 2021.

<sup>2</sup> Federal Procurement Data System accessed 24 March 2021. Contract Summary from USAspending.gov: [https://www.usaspending.gov/award/CONT\\_AWD\\_70CDCR21C00000001\\_7012\\_-NONE\\_-NONE-](https://www.usaspending.gov/award/CONT_AWD_70CDCR21C00000001_7012_-NONE_-NONE-)

Additionally, it appears that the Endeavors organization recently hired a former official of the Biden Campaign and the Administration's transition team, who also served in the Obama Administration.

As a result, I have some specific questions I would like you to address:

1. When did the government identify the need to expand detention capacity to address the reported shortage of bed space for family units?
2. Did the Government post a request for information or a competitive notice requesting additional family unit detention beds?
3. Did the Government receive an unsolicited proposal from Endeavors?
4. What criteria, if any, did ICE use to determine that Endeavors was the only source that could provide these services?
5. To what extent has ICE, the Customs and Border Protection, or other federal agencies contracted with Endeavors for similar services in the past?
6. Did a former ICE Executive and Biden campaign advisor for homeland security, Andre Lorenzen-Strait, have any involvement in securing the \$86 million no bid contract for detention beds?
7. Did Mr. Strait have any discussions with ICE officials or Biden Administration officials pertaining to the \$86 million contract?

I am gravely concerned given that ICE did not compete this contract award, that this is Endeavors' first contract with ICE, and that the contract award amount far exceeds any previous award amounts with this organization.

I look forward to your response about this situation and would appreciate a written response within a week.

Sincerely,

  
Andrew S. Clyde  
Member of Congress