

Background

- On July 5, 2018, then-Ranking Member Cummings and then-Subcommittee Chairman Mark Meadows sent a [letter](#) to DOJ, DHS, and HHS requesting key information about the Trump Administration's actions in separating children from their families at the border. Their letter followed a similar [request](#) from Committee Democrats on June 22, 2018. The agencies did not provide the requested information.
- On August 2, 2018, Cummings sent a [letter](#) to the three agencies, stating: "I am writing today to insist on your full and immediate compliance with our bipartisan request for documents and information." They did not produce the information.
- On September 17, 2018, Rep. Cummings sent a [letter](#) asking then-Chairman Trey Gowdy to allow the Committee to vote on a motion to issue subpoenas to HHS, DHS, and DOJ for the information requested. Rep. Gowdy did not respond to this request.
- On September 25, 2018, Rep. Cummings and then-Vice Ranking Member Connolly [wrote](#) again to Chairman Gowdy, requesting that a motion to subpoena the agencies be added to the Committee's business meeting scheduled for September 27, 2018. Rep. Gowdy did not respond to this request.
- On December 19, 2018, Cummings sent a [letter](#) as the incoming Chairman of the Committee stating that "I intend to continue this investigation in the next Congress" and requesting that each agency "fully comply" with the Committee's bipartisan request from July 5, 2018. The agencies produced none of the information requested.
- On February 5, 2019, Chairman Cummings sent a [letter](#) inviting the top legislative affairs officials at each agency to testify the following week about why they produced none of the requested information. The letter stated that if they promptly provided a "schedule by which your agencies will respond in full to the Committee's July 5, 2018, request," the Committee would consider whether testimony at a hearing was necessary. On February 8, 2019, the Chairman postponed the hearing in order to accommodate the agencies' request for additional time to respond.
- To date, none of the three agencies has agreed to produce any of the requested information to the Committee.
- Multiple independent reports have found that the Trump Administration has failed to account for separated children:
 - Last fall, reports from the [Department of Homeland Security Inspector General](#) and the [Government Accountability Office](#) found that the Trump Administration had no plans to track separated children, made false statements about the ability to track these children, and did not plan for higher numbers of children in HHS custody despite HHS officials raising alarms for more than a year.

- On January 17, 2019, the Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services [issued](#) a report warning that “thousands” of additional children may have been separated than previously known. The Inspector General stated: “The total number of children separated from a parent or guardian by immigration authorities is unknown.” The Inspector General also found that the Trump Administration still lacks an “existing, integrated data system to track separated families across HHS and DHS.”