

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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May 14, 2026

Dr. Julio César Novoa  
Medical Director and Owner  
International Maternity Services  
10781 Pebble Hills, Suite A  
El Paso, TX 79935

Dear Dr. Novoa:

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is investigating entities and firms engaged in birth tourism. Birth tourism, or maternity tourism, is the practice of foreign expectant mothers traveling to the United States on temporary visitor visas for the specific purpose of giving birth to obtain U.S. citizenship for their child.<sup>1</sup> The benefits of U.S. citizenship are a unique privilege. However, as foreign expectant mothers traveling for this purpose come predominantly from China and Russia,<sup>2</sup> there are concerns that the birth tourism industry is giving rise to potential national security and election integrity threats<sup>3</sup> posed by adversarial nations that challenge U.S. interests.<sup>4</sup> The Committee therefore requests documents and information from International Maternity Services to assist its investigation.

While it is not inherently illegal for a foreign traveler to give birth in the United States, willfully misrepresenting one's intentions to enter the country on a temporary visitor visa is a

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<sup>1</sup> See Lora Ries, *State Department Right to Tackle "Birth Tourism"*, THE HERITAGE FOUND. (Jan. 24, 2020), available at <https://www.heritage.org/border-security/commentary/state-department-right-tackle-birth-tourism>.

<sup>2</sup> See Associated Press, *US Imposes Visa Rules for Pregnant Women on 'Birth Tourism'*, WTTW (Jan. 24, 2020), available at <https://news.wttw.com/2020/01/24/us-imposes-visa-rules-pregnant-women-birth-tourism>; see generally also Minority Staff Report, S. COMM. ON HOMELAND SEC. & GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS, *BIRTH TOURISM IN THE UNITED STATES*, 117<sup>th</sup> Cong. (Dec. 20, 2022).

<sup>3</sup> See generally Max Bacall, *China exploiting 'birth tourism' to gain long-term political influence in US, author warns*, FOX NEWS (Jan. 21, 2026), available at <https://www.foxnews.com/media/china-exploiting-birth-tourism-gain-long-term-political-influence-us-author-warns>; see also Peter Schweizer *unveils Chinese birth tourism scheme and impact on US population*, FOX NEWS (Jan. 31, 2026), available at <https://www.foxnews.com/video/6388591780112>; and see also Chadwick Moore, *US territory turned tropical maternity ward has produced thousands of 'American' babies for parents living in China*, NEW YORK POST (Mar. 19, 2026), available at <https://nypost.com/2026/03/19/us-news/us-territory-where-thousands-of-chinese-moms-give-birth-to-american-babies/>.

<sup>4</sup> See generally OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE, *Annual Threat Assessment of the U.S. Intelligence Community* (Mar. 25, 2025), available at <https://www.dni.gov/files/ODNI/documents/assessments/ATA-2025-Unclassified-Report.pdf>.

violation of current law and considered visa fraud.<sup>5</sup> The birth tourism industry relies on exploiting birthright citizenship<sup>6</sup> as currently interpreted under the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. In 2020, responding to the exploitation, the U.S. Department of State issued a final rule that restricted the issuance of temporary visitor visas to foreigners traveling to the United States to give birth.<sup>7</sup> In January 2025, President Trump issued an executive order limiting birthright citizenship by restricting eligibility for citizenship of children born in the United States to parents who are unlawfully present in the United States or lawfully present but only temporarily in the country at the time of birth such as an alien visiting under the Visa Waiver Program or on a nonimmigrant visa.<sup>8</sup> A federal court issued a preliminary injunction in July 2025 preventing the executive order from taking effect,<sup>9</sup> and it remains enjoined pending a final ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court.<sup>10</sup>

Unfortunately, the birth tourism industry continues to thrive. Analysis by the Center for Immigration Studies in 2020 estimated that nearly 26,000 babies were born to women on tourist visas annually.<sup>11</sup> A more recent estimate reports that approximately 70,000 births are attributable to temporary visitors in 2023 alone,<sup>12</sup> suggesting the industry has grown significantly in recent years.

The International Maternity Services website suggests that the firm is engaged in birth tourism. First, the firm explicitly markets its services to international patients, inviting prospective clients to “consider our services” if they wish to have a child born a United States citizen.<sup>13</sup> Additionally, prospective foreign clients may choose from three pricing packages – covering vaginal delivery, caesarean section, and vaginal birth after caesarean section – though these prices do not include additional fees, such as registration, extended hospital stays, and

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<sup>5</sup> U.S. DEP’T OF HOMELAND SECURITY, U.S. CITIZENSHIP & IMMIGRATION SERV., POLICY MANUAL, VOL. 8, PT. J, CHAPT. 2 – OVERVIEW OF FRAUD AND WILLFUL MISREPRESENTATION (last updated: Feb. 3, 2026), available at <https://www.uscis.gov/policy-manual/volume-8-part-j-chapter-2>.

<sup>6</sup> See Aliza Chasan, *Woman sentenced for helping pregnant Chinese women get to U.S. as part of “birth tourism” scheme*, CBS NEWS (Jan. 27, 2025), available at <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/jing-dong-sentenced-chinese-birth-tourism-scheme/>; see also Press Release, U.S. DEP’T OF JUSTICE, *Rancho Cucamonga Man and Woman Found Guilty of Federal Criminal Charges in Connection with ‘Birth Tourism’ Scheme* (Sep. 13, 2024), available at <https://www.justice.gov/usao-cdca/pr/rancho-cucamonga-man-and-woman-found-guilty-federal-criminal-charges-connection-birth>; and see also Press Release, U.S. DEP’T OF JUSTICE, *Turkish National Sentenced to 27 Months for Orchestrating “Birth Tourism” Health Care Fraud Scheme on Long Island* (Mar. 8, 2022), available at <https://www.justice.gov/usao-edny/pr/turkish-national-sentenced-27-months-orchestrating-birth-tourism-health-care-fraud>.

<sup>7</sup> 22 C.F.R. § 41.31(b)(2).

<sup>8</sup> Exec. Order No. 14160, 90 Fed. Reg. 8449 (Jan. 20, 2025).

<sup>9</sup> *Barbara, et al. v. Trump*, No. 25-cv-244-JL-AJ, 2025 WL 1904338 (D. N.H. July 10, 2025).

<sup>10</sup> *Trump v. Barbara*, No. 25-365 (U.S. Apr. 1, 2026).

<sup>11</sup> Steven Camarota, *A Revised Estimate of Birth Tourism*, CTR. FOR IMMIGRATION STUDIES (Mar. 13, 2020), available at <https://cis.org/Camarota/Revised-Estimate-Birth-Tourism>.

<sup>12</sup> Jason Richwine & Steven Camarota, *Births to Illegal Immigrants and Long-Term Temporary Visitors*, CTR. FOR IMMIGRATION STUDIES (Feb. 14, 2025), available at <https://cis.org/Richwine/Births-Illegal-Immigrants-and-Long-Term-Temporary-Visitors>.

<sup>13</sup> *About Us*, International Maternity Services, available at <http://drnovoa.com/internationalmaternity/index.html#aboutus>.

medical tests and exams.<sup>14</sup> Furthermore, beyond prenatal and postpartum care, the firm offers foreign expectant mothers a broader suite of services, including logistics support, temporary housing assistance, and legal consultations, provided either directly or through affiliated third-party providers.<sup>15</sup>

To assist the Committee in its investigation into this matter, we request the following documents and information, excluding the personally identifiable information of patients, covering the time period from January 2020 through the present, as soon as possible, but no later than May 28, 2026:

1. All documents and communications regarding marketing, advertising, and promotional materials or plans for prospective foreign expectant mothers, including but not limited to references to securing U.S. citizenship for newborns;
2. All documents and communications regarding childbirth packages, maternity services packages, medical tourism packages, or similar medical services or treatment packages tailored specifically for foreign expectant mothers seeking to give birth in the United States;
3. All documents and communications constituting the firm's standard language for service agreements, financial agreements, or fee-based contracts between the company and prospective patients and/or responsible parties containing relevant terms and conditions of the services expected and to be provided, including but not limited to those related to medical services and non-medical services, such as travel, housing, visa assistance, and legal consultation;
4. Any and all standard service agreements or fee-based contracts between the firm and third parties for referrals including, but not limited to, medical services or treatments, travel, housing, accommodations, visa assistance, and legal consultation;
5. All documents and communications regarding coaching materials or "how to" guides for obtaining a temporary visitor visa at a U.S. Embassy or Consulate;
6. All documents and communications regarding coaching materials or "how to" guides for the screening process by U.S. Customs and Border Protection;
7. All documents and communications containing or comprising aggregate data reflecting the number of clients serviced and amount of fees collected for childbirth packages, maternity services packages, medical tourism packages, or similar medical services or treatment packages tailored specifically for foreign expectant mothers; and

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<sup>14</sup> *Pricing*, International Maternity Services, available at <http://drnovoa.com/internationalmaternity/pricing.html>; see also *Frequently Asked Questions*, International Maternity Services, available at <http://drnovoa.com/internationalmaternity/faq.html#fq5>

<sup>15</sup> *Accommodations*, International Maternity Services, available at <http://drnovoa.com/internationalmaternity/accommodations.html>.

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8. All records related to the entity's registration in the United States, including its legal structure, state of incorporation or formation, filings with the Secretary of State, and any subsidiaries or affiliates under common ownership or control.

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight committee of the United States House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate "any matter" at "any time" under House Rule X. To arrange for delivery of documents or to ask any related follow up questions, please contact the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform Majority staff at (202) 225-5074. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



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James Comer  
Chairman  
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform



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Brandon Gill  
Chairman  
Task Force on Defending  
Constitutional Rights and  
Exposing Institutional Abuses

cc: The Honorable Robert Garcia, Ranking Member  
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform