April 16, 2019

(A) Secretary Kevin McAleenan
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Dear (A) Secretary McAleenan:

The Homeland Security Advisory Council (“Council”) was established to provide you and senior leadership at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) with advice and recommendations on matters relating to homeland security.

On April 16, 2019, the Council met in an emergency public teleconference meeting to discuss matters relating to tasks given to the bipartisan CBP Families and Children Care Panel Subcommittee.

The enclosed Emergency Interim Report, which stems from these tasks and mounting urgency of the border crisis, was voted on and approved by the Council. Leading up to this emergency meeting and development of the recommendations for the Council’s review and approval, the subcommittee held numerous conference calls, conducted 3 site visits to CBP facilities across the Southwest Border, held 2 in-person meetings, reviewed a prodigious amount of written material, and was briefed by 106 subject matter experts, to include non-governmental organizations and medical professionals. The Emergency Interim Report is attached for your consideration.

On behalf of the Council, we appreciate the opportunity to provide you with these urgent recommendations. It has been an honor to serve you, the members of this Department, and the American people in this advisory role.

I thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

William H. Webster
Chair, Homeland Security Advisory Council