

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Homeland Security Advisory Council Public Teleconference Call
CBP Families and Children Care Panel Subcommittee
Emergency Interim Report
April 16, 2019

Meeting Minutes
1:00 pm – 2:30 pm ET

The open session of the Homeland Security Advisory Council (HSAC) meeting was convened on April 16, 2019 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. via teleconference call. The meeting was open to members of the public under the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), P.L. 92-463 and 5 U.S.C. § 552b.

The following individual were announced on the call:

HSAC Members:

William Webster, *Chair*
William Bratton, *Vice-Chair*
Steve Adegbite
Jayson Ahern
John Allen
Keith Alexander
Stewart Baker
Mark Dannels
Donald Dunbar
Paul Goldenberg
Michael P. Jackson

Jim Jones
Cathy Lanier
John Magaw
Jeffrey Miller
Jeff Moss
Wendy Smith-Reeve
Robert Rose
Ali Soufan
Chad Sweet
Karen Tandy

CBP Families and Children Custody Panel Subcommittee Participants:

Robert Bonner
Theresa Cardinal Brown
John Clark
Sharon W. Cooper, MD FAAP
Leon Fresco

DHS Participants

Kevin McAleenan, Acting Secretary DHS
Matt Hayden, Deputy Executive Director, Homeland Security Advisory Council
Mike Miron, Deputy Executive Director, Homeland Security Advisory Council
Catherine Fraser, Supervisory CBP Officer, Homeland Security Advisory Council

Operator:

Greetings and welcome to the Homeland Security Advisory Council Conference Call. During the presentation, all participants will be in a listen-only mode.

Afterwards, we will conduct a question-and-answer session. If you have a question, please press star then the number 1 on your telephone keypad. At that time, your line will briefly be accessed from the conference to obtain information. You have one minute to ask a question.

If at any time, during the conference you need to reach an operator, please press star then zero. As a reminder, this conference is being recorded.

I would now like to turn the call over to Matt Hayden. Please go ahead.

Matt Hayden:

Yes. Thank you, Operator. This is Matt Hayden with the Department of Homeland Security. At this time, we have the opportunity for Acting Secretary Kevin McAleenan to give a quick introduction...

Kevin McAleenan:

Good afternoon and thank you, Matt. Judge Webster, Commissioner Bratton, HSAC members and also the subcommittee, the families and children care panel led by Karen Tandy and Jay Ahern. Let me thank all of you for your work supporting the department and your efforts on this specific task. We very much appreciate your hard work to pull forward an interim report recognizing the emergency conditions that we are facing at the border.

So far, in the past three weeks you have seen about 3,500 arrivals at our border. The majority of them are families and children, just highlighting how acute this crisis is. Again, last month we had over 37,000 children come into our processing, and in our care, you know, driven by the prospect of remaining in the United States and by the advertisements of human smugglers who do not care about their welfare or safety.

We really appreciate the steps you took to understand the challenges we are facing across the border, across the DHS Enterprise and caring for children. Now, we very much look forward to hearing your recommendations for immediate actions that we can be taking as a whole of government and along with our Congress to try to address these challenges. And so, without further ado, I'll turn it back to Matt to get to your read out.

Matt Hayden:

Thank you very much. Now I'll turn it over to Judge Webster to begin the call.

William Webster:

Thank you. My name is Judge William Webster and I am the Chair of the Homeland Security Advisory Council or HSAC for short. I welcome you to today's public meeting where we will

receive the draft emergency interim report of the HSAC's CBP Families and Children Care Panel. I'd like to welcome our HSAC members and those of the public we have in the audience today.

A special thank you to the HSAC's staff of Matt Hayden, Mike Miron, Catherine Fraser, Sarahjane Call, and Colleen Silva for their continuous support of the council's hard work. I'd also like to thank Karen Tandy, the chair of the CBP Families and Children Chair Panel and all of the subcommittee members for their excellent work on their interim emergency graft report before us today. Karen, I look forward to hearing your presentation. Thank you.

Now, I'd like to turn it over to the HSAC's Vice Chair Bill Bratton for remarks, Commissioner?

William Bratton:

Thank you, Judge. This is Bill Bratton. I've had the privilege over several administrations to serve as Vice Chair of this committee with Judge Webster. I think I can say without fear of contradiction that the report that we are about to discuss is probably one of the most consequential of any that have been issued during the many years I've worked with the judge on this committee.

It is certainly an issue that is of paramount importance to our country for a variety of reasons including certainly our national security. I'd like to echo the comments from the Judge, thanking Karen Tandy and the members of the committee. The report is incredible; it takes an extraordinary amount of confusing issues, brings clarity to them, and paints a way forward. A way forward that we have not seen in any previous documents that I'm aware of.

So Karen, to you and your committee members, which is a bipartisan committee that has voices from all sides of the issue on it, I want to thank you for working through very difficult issues and coming to a consensus that is quite evident in this report. I look forward to the reaction of the public, the media and the administration to the hard work that you and your team have put into this.

Thank you. It's a privilege to be part of this committee and it's a privilege to be able to introduce this document.

Matt Hayden:

Thank you, Judge Webster and Commissioner Bratton for those marks. I'd also like to thank the HSAC members and the members of the public for joining today's call. As a reminder we are taping today's conference call for the public record. This meeting is convened pursuant to the notice that appeared in the Federal Register on April 9, 2019 as way of background the Homeland Security Advisory Council or HSAC, as the Federal Advisory Committee at the Department of Homeland Security, serving as an important group of outside senior advisor to the secretary and department leadership.

Under the Federal Advisory Committee Act or FACA these meetings are open to the public. Executive summary and meeting minutes will be posted on the DHS website at www.dhs.gov and the public FACA database within 90 days of today's meeting. For members of the public each of you if you wish to do so will have a one-minute comment period. We'll open up for comment roughly at 1:45 this afternoon.

For the record, we have 20 members participating in today's meeting and at this time I'd ask Karen Tandy, Chair of the CBP Families and Children Care Panel to brief their emergency interim report. Once that report is briefed, we will take public comments and have council deliberations and then vote on that report.

Karen, the floor is yours.

Karen Tandy:

Thank you, Matt and Judge Webster, former Commissioner Bratton, the panel is pleased to present its report to the Homeland Security Advisory Council today. And, at this time on behalf of this panel, I present to you the highlights of this report for the HSAC consideration. As you are aware from the original tasking dating back to October by then Secretary Nielsen, the panel was formed, and we were due to present our recommendations and findings in May next month.

We are here today a month or more early because this is an emergency. The view of this panel, and it is unanimous, is that thousands of migrant children and the national security of our country are in danger. The tasking that we received in arriving at this conclusion is set forth in the committee's report -- a tasking that was originally requested by then Commissioner McAleenan of the Customs and Border Protection, and it is the tasking that brought the committee together and ended up in this report.

I want to talk for a second about the committee and I have to enforce --reinforce this is a bipartisan committee. We are non-partisan in this report. The sole focus of this committee was that we get it right. The committee made significant efforts, to study, to review, and to hear and see for ourselves exactly what is going on at the border. The committee as a result of the tasking was asked to understand CBP's unique operating environment and infrastructure and to study from subject matter experts all of the issues related to the care of families and children under these settings.

We also were tasked with making these recommendations regarding any potential additions or changes to CBP policies, procedures or training as a result of the issues involving family and children vulnerable populations at the border. The committee spoke to and interviewed 109 subject matter experts, those experts included multiple medical professionals, stakeholders, and every agency involved in what we have previously reported is a broken immigration process.

It included 17 non-governmental organizations, three global protection organizations, humanitarian organizations and countless representatives of charitable organizations involved

with the care of families and children coming across this border. We reviewed too many reports to number and list, but they are reflected in the report. We certainly reviewed all of the reports by the inspectors general and the government accounting office. We also reviewed many of the congressional hearings involving this topic.

The amount of material that this committee consumed was extraordinary. Over these past five plus months, and I end with this most important background, nine of the ten committee members visited the border. We visited in three separate multi-day visits, every state along the Southwest Border. We visited six of the nine border sectors of the Southwest Border and specifically those that are seeing the greatest surges of migrants coming across this border illegally.

As part of that, the committee visited ports of entry and border patrol stations in every state along the border. The results of those visits were profound. I will advise everyone no matter what your politics are, the committee heard and saw for themselves exactly what this country is dealing with and facing, no matter what your politics are.

The committee ended with 20 findings and seven recommendations and at this point, I will review some of those. But before, I turn to that let me just talk about the committee for a second. First of all, this committee is an extraordinary group of professionals. There are ten people who comprise the committee. They include professionals who are experts in immigration policy and practice. Almost half are lawyers, a former federal judge, two former Commissioners of Customs and Border Protection, two former Administrators of the Drug Enforcement Administration, and a leader and Director of State Emergency Management.

The committee also includes a medical doctor who is a national expert on the maltreatment of children and a developmental forensic pediatrician. It includes the CEO of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and a former US Ambassador to Mexico. These are people who know from their own practice and experience what they're seeing, hearing and reviewing.

So, turning to the findings of the committee. First, we want to commend the men and women of the Customs and Border Protection. All of the Officers of Field Operations and certainly the agents of the US Border Patrol. The illustrations of what this committee saw speaks volumes and I plucked only a couple of them to highlight for the purposes of this call. I commend to all of you the data and findings that are reflected in the report.

In one area, the Customs and Border Protection officers and agents reported that they made three to five hospital transports a day. Each transport requires at least two agents. It was an average stay in the hospital of three to four days. At times, half of the agents from an office on the border were on duty at the hospital. When these migrants come across the border they are in great need of humanitarian care.

One border station reported that because they have no shower facilities -- and I have to talk about what the border facilities look like. These are small stations, this is where the greatest surge is

happening, between the ports of entry, and it is – it's such a remote area, they don't have the ability, the capacity and the supplies at the ready to take care of the phenomenal needs of these migrants and these children.

There are no shower facilities in many of these places. So, to provide a shower for these migrants, it can be, in some locations, a 120 mile round trip, with multiple trips required that take up an entire day and the better part of the staffing of border patrol just to provide a shower. The result to the Border Patrol is they have cannibalized their special units. They have taken away from training, from horse patrol units and many other special units in order to provide humanitarian care.

These actions have come, in part, at the price of our National Security. For example, in one area – there was only one agent to cover 62 miles of border. One agent to protect our National Security at the border for 62 miles. This is what we saw from Customs and Border Protection. We also saw many other examples. The difficulties they have been facing for months.

We saw in one instance where a toddler was propped up on a stool next to a border patrol agent who was processing hundreds of migrants. And why was that toddler next to the border patrol agent -- because her caregiver had been sent to the hospital for injuries related to their crossing. That toddler was left alone because of the medical care required for the adult. The Border Patrol agent was processing and doing his work and had his iPad next to the toddler with something for the toddler to watch to help soothe the emotional trauma of that toddler.

That is only one of so many examples of why the Customs and Border Protection has undertaken valiantly to do what is virtually impossible, that is, to juggle our National Security together with the crushing migrant crisis.

One member of this panel is a medical doctor. As I mentioned, her name is Dr. Sharon Cooper. She is a practicing doctor and is unable to remain on this call. So, I want to give Dr. Cooper a moment to address some of the medical issues that we have seen as part of the work of this committee. Dr. Cooper?

Dr. Sharon Cooper:

Yes, thank you very much. Can you hear me?

Karen Tandy:

Yes, thank you.

Dr. Sharon Cooper:

No problem. It was very striking that there were such a significant number of very young children who made this arduous journey and what is most relevant is that, in addition to the crowding, the Border Patrol agents worked tirelessly in order to keep them gender separated and in a safe manner as well as providing nutrition for them. The biggest issues that we would want

to be concerned about, of course, are communicable diseases with respect to these children as well as their risk for sexual exploitation as they leave the Border Patrol area.

And it is very clear that we need to make sure that we have adequate contracted medical care available for these families shortly after they have been received at the station and as they move forward to their next destination, because their level of medical problems are significantly higher than what we would see in a normal population in the United States.

Karen Tandy:

Thank you, Dr. Cooper. The findings of this committee start with children. The tender age of these children is for the most part less than 12 years of age. When they are undertaking this journey-- the 2,000 mile journey to get to the border crossing - they are in danger, they are traumatized and they're traumatized during their entry to the US. These children, for example, include toddlers who literally have come across the border alone because the journey was so perilous that they were separated from the adult is who was with them.

The endangerment of these children is significant all the way through the journey into the United States. They are exploited. The Border Patrol has seen adults fraudulently claiming parentage. These children have been in some instances recycled by criminal smuggling organizations who are responsible for their perilous journey and for the way they entered the US. They have, some of them, then been placed in indentured servitude once they get into the US. And there remains, as Dr. Cooper mentioned, a risk for sexual exploitation of these children and teens at every stage.

The committee looked specifically to what is happening to these children as they come into the US. We observed the places where these children have been injured, traumatized, and crossing in remote desert areas at freezing temperatures. And, they have crossed rivers in some places, over fences, dropped down from walls and have been shoved through coiled razor wire.

These are the children who increasingly require significant personal and medical care once they get into the US. That care exceeds both the ability and capacity of the Customs and Border Protection. The committee found that these families should not be separated during their detention, but often there are laws that do not give the Customs and Border Protection discretion to keep these children together with family members such as a grandparent or other close relatives.

The committee found that the ability of Customs and Border Protection to provide the kind of medical expertise to these children is unrealistic. The medical personnel for these children need to have an even higher level of expertise in order to deal with some of the infectious disease complications found in this population. Lastly, in terms of these findings, as to the adults who are accompanying these children - the Customs and Border Protection is seeing an increasing number of them who are claiming that they are parents when they are not.

And the reason for that is so that the adults will get into the United States. It also is not uncommon that a single adult who is accompanying a child is unable to care for the child. These are tender aged children, many of them, and they are unable to care for these children as they need.

It was worth the time of the committee to really understand this population and what the Customs and Border Protection is facing as they deal with this population. It is a consequence of our broken immigration system, grossly inadequate detention space for family units, the shortage of transportation resources, and the massive increase in the illegal crossing of our borders.

This crisis is driven almost entirely by the increase in family units from Central America. Judge Webster, the committee has not attempted to deal with the entire tasking before us. We're here as an emergency to address only what the committee views as the recommendations that need to be undertaken immediately to address this crisis. The committee therefore has focused on the key issue.

And right now the key issue is the surge of family units that are coming across this border at a pace we have not seen. And just to give you an example, the surge has been significant. For just this past month in March, the surge has been more than 50,000 family units coming across the border that have been apprehended. A year ago, last March it was approximately 9,000 or less family units.

This is a 600% surge in family units crossing the border, and when we say family units, we're talking about an adult and a tender aged child coming across the border. So, what we have seen is that most of these are coming from Central America. And, as I've described, they are placed in peril by the human smuggling organizations of drug trafficking organizations. The risks that they have undertaken, in large part, are driven by the smuggling organizations.

Those are the organizations that push children through razor wire across the most remote, dangerous areas of this border where the Border Patrol is least able to deal with them. As a result of all of this, the committee has made seven recommendations. These recommendations are not a panacea individually. They have to be undertaken quickly, and it is urgent that they be undertaken together for any hope of ending these surges and the danger to these children and the risk to our National Security because the Customs and Border Protection cannot perform their mission. If there is any hope, it is in our view through these recommendations and the speedy implementation of them. The first recommendation is the immediate establishment of three to four processing centers – regional processing centers.

The goal here is that there will be three to four across the Southwest Border and that these processing centers would be the ecosystem to deal with the medical and personal care needs of these children coming across the border. So, all family units, whether they come through a port of entry or across a remote area between the ports of entry, would be transported to these processing centers scattered along the southwest border.

It is critical that they be transported within 24 hours because the Customs and Border Protection is not in a position to diagnose medically or to handle the medical and care needs of this population. So, they would be transported within 24 hours to these three to four processing centers. It is at these centers that there will be a full ecosystem to provide safe and sanitary shelter, medical screening, care, and officials to conduct credible fear examinations for those who (almost all of them) claim asylum. They would receive the processing that CBP is responsible for – to assess who are these people, is there a child being brought across by someone who is not their parent, evaluations for public health and safety and for national security risk. In addition, doctors would care for the medical needs of this population. The transportation to these regional processing centers would require someone other than CBP, either a contract or a government emergency service.

Important to every recommendation is that the men and women at Customs and Border Protection be returned to their national security mission, and that all of the other responsibilities that they have juggled and assumed be undertaken by the professionals who provide these services, the people who can provide the care, feeding and medical relief that is required. These regional processing centers also should have attached to this ecosystem an increase of almost double the current number of immigration judges.

It would require that asylum processing and asylum procedures be applied, and that the officials from USCIS be collocated at these regional processing centers so that there could be a rapid, rocket docket to handle these claims. This requires legislative fixes that include not only the substantial increase of immigration judges but also rolling back a court decision that added a restriction of how long children could be held. It was the *Flores* decision that held that the Customs and Border Protection could detain unaccompanied children for only 20 days. That decision was effect in 1997.

More recently, the *Flores* court added to the 20 day detention limit not just unaccompanied children but these children who are accompanied by a parent, a guardian or adult. That decision has also been linked to this crisis. This decision of *Flores* needs to be rolled back by legislative action and potentially emergency regulatory action so that children who are accompanied by a parent or relative do not fall under the *Flores* 20 day limitation.

The committee also recommends other legislative changes to the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act so that the government would be able to repatriate any child when the custodial parent residing in another country requests the reunification of their child. Currently, that's not permitted by statute. We also recommend for other reasons that the Congress make legislative changes to require that asylum claims occur only at the ports of entry.

There are other limitations on Customs and Border Protection that require regulatory fixes and that includes the ability to take photographs or any biometrics of these children. They are not permitted to do that for children under age 14. It is impossible to swiftly determine whether a

child is being exploited and is being brought into the country by someone other than their parents unless Customs and Border Protection is able to do that.

On the international front, the recommendations of the panel are that a North American Family Protection Initiative be negotiated with Mexico that includes the elements of SafeThird Agreements. We have recommended that that be considered with Mexico to enable families and children to avoid a 2,000 mile desperate trip to the US., so that when Central Americans make it to the first safe country where they can assert a asylum claim, that they do so in that first country. In this case, it is often Mexico for the Central Americans who are coming from that region. In addition, the committee has recommended that a regional processing center also be established in Guatemala near the Guatemala-Mexico border and that international negotiations be undertaken with the country of Guatemala. Such a center could handle the asylum claims from people through the US asylum officers and judges who would be collocated there, or through video process, enabling them to review those asylum claims in Guatemala. Again, to protect children and families from the treacherous journey to the US and the trauma associated with that.

There are many recommendations of this committee, and they all fall within those key elements as I described. At the end of the day if these recommendations are undertaken swiftly in the next 45 days with the necessary funding associated with those, the panel believes that you will see a sharp decline in the crisis at our border because it is fueled right now by the surges that we have been seeing of family units crossing this border.

It is the view of this committee that these recommendations need to be pursued swiftly and with others that will follow by the committee in the months to come when our final report is filed with the HSAC. We appreciate the opportunity to provide this emergency report out of the sequence of the final report, and commend to the members of the Homeland Security Advisory Council the recommendations and the findings of this committee. We urge you to adopt this report in full. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Matt Hayden:

Thank you Karen. I will open up the meeting for comments, comments to be limited one for each, the comments should be requested to the date of the event, operator can you please call the members of the public and determine if there are any public comments?

Operator:

Yes thank you. If you would like to register a question or a comment, please press star and then number one on your telephone keypad. Your line will then be accessed from the conference to obtain information. If your question has been answered, and you would like to withdraw your registration please press pound on your keyboard and withdraw your question. One moment for the first one.

Operator:

We do have a question from Michaela Ross.

Michaela Ross:

Wonderful, I am a reporter with Bloomberg Government. I was interested the Flores I know that the American Academician of Pediatrician concerned that any amount of detention for children can be psychologically traumatizing and detrimental health conditions, so I am wondering if that was considered in the recommendations even though it would be with the family unit. I was also interested in where the data came from the talks about the Central, I am having a difficult time in finding the data for affected by any opposite data that does not support that idea if folks get the data, so thank you so much.

Karen Tandy:

Thank you for the questions. I will make sure that you get the data that the committee had on the numbers of family units and others who do not show up for their asylum hearings. With regard to the issues with detention and this population, the country has both the right and the need to ensure that we know who is coming into our country. The processing that's required by CBP to establish that is often done in a matter of only days or less.

Presently, as CBP performs what's a required national security function, this population of families is being detained in grossly inadequate crowded equivalent of local jail cells, and it is, I could tell you frankly, a great concern when you see this population in that setting. These children and adults are separated in this setting not from their adult caregiver, but there are multiple separations required in these local cells in order for the Customs and Border Protection to provide safety for this population.

The end result is -- you have traumatized children who need medical care, who need professional services while they are being processed by the Customs and Border Protection. They need the kind of care professionals need to provide them, not the Customs and Border Protection. It is for that reason, in part, that we have recommended these regional processing centers and the swift transportation to them.

As I mentioned, these processing centers will be the ecosystem that can care for and provide medically for the needs of this population and deal with the situation that they find themselves in with trauma while that processing is undertaken. At the end of that processing, there has to be an examination of their credible fear and whether they qualify for asylum.

These families right now are not receiving credible fear examinations. These families are being dropped at bus stations with no ability to care for themselves. If they are not dropped at a bus station they are being shoved onto overwhelmed charitable organizations who cannot handle the flow and the surge of what we are seeing.

These regional processing centers will give them that same pathway for entry into the country, and they will not be dropped and abandoned. So, I think the RPCs will provide a great deal of value to these migrant families and children and should not be considered as a detention facility

where they are simply being held and detained. That was a particular concern, not the regional processing centers we have described. We heard from humanitarian organizations, both medical and humanitarian organizations, that said this is exactly what this population needs.

So, we are requesting in our recommendation that kind of regional processing center, not the detention center where these populations are simply dumped and held. Thank you.

Matt Hayden:

Thank you Karen. Operator, do we have any additional comments?

Operator:

Yes, we do have a question coming from Joann Bautista.

Joann Bautista:

Yeah my name is Joann Bautista and I am at the National Immigrant Justice Center. I was wondering whether you the council had considered rather than rolling back forward and calling for these other congressional fixes, whether there was a consideration of using alternatives to detention rather than detaining these families and kids.

Karen Tandy:

Thank you. We spent a lot time on alternatives to detention. When you speak about “alternatives to detention” in common parlance, you’re really talking about ankle bracelets, monitoring the movements of these individuals. What we found was at bus stations there are overflowing bins of ankle bracelets that were cut off. There are not even enough ankle bracelets assuming that you can place them on this population.

Furthermore, even the component agency of DHS that is responsible for handling these ankle bracelets removes them after a year because of the need for more ankle bracelets. But you could have all of the ankle monitoring bracelets in the world, and be able to put those on the ankles of every adult and child, and they would not remain. What you would see is what we saw with bins of discarded of ankle bracelets. But thank you so much for that question.

Matt Hayden:

All right, operator we have time for some more, are there any additional questions or comments?

Operator:

Yes, the next question comes from the line of Erin Banco.

Erin Banco:

Hi there, thank you so much for having this call. My name is Erin Banco and I am the reporter at the Daily Beast. Can you talk a little bit more about the Flores decision and how you arrived at what the report that Flores did, I wanted to learn a little bit more about how you arrived at that decision and who you talked to, and what sort of stakeholders you conversed within that?

Karen Tandy:

Thank you for the question. I commend the report to you. I realize you just got the report, and it is lengthy, but I commend to you the explanation in the report, and the bibliography of all of those who we spoke to that prompted the committee's recommendation on *Flores*. The recommendation is not to overturn *Flores*. The recommendation is that to the extent that *Flores* in 1997 applied only to unaccompanied children, it should be limited to unaccompanied children as originally held.

It is only more recently that the court grafted onto that decision -- the expansion of *Flores* to include the children who are coming across with an adult, who are coming across with a guardian. The net result that was very powerful to the committee is that that is the greatest pull factor. The pull factor that is the bringing the surges of family units from Central America is that under *Flores* if they bring a child with them, they will be able to enter the country, assert asylum, get priority over other populations, and get released into this country. And they are getting released into this country without the national security requirements being handled because there are too many of these people who have chosen this path.

In part, they chose this path because *Flores* made it possible, smuggling organizations are making money off of them, and that is the heart of what we are seeing as this emergency. Thank you for your question.

Matt Hayden:

Operator, we have time for one more public comment.

Operator:

Yes, Mr. Hayden there are no further questions at this time.

Matt Hayden:

Perfect, thank you. At this time, this concludes the public commentary, thank you members of the public, and I will turn it back over to Judge Webster.

William Webster:

Thank you, Matt. If there is no more discussion going from there, I'd like to thank Karen and all of the subcommittee members for their excellent work in the secretary tasking. I will now open it up to the members for comments on emergency interim report. And at this time, I'd like to ask the HSAC members if they have additional questions or comments for Karen, now that I will turn it over to you.

Matt Hayden:

At this point we will pause for any HSAC – any members of the HSAC that would like to test the report.

Jim Jones:

Judge, this is Jim Jones, I do not have a question but I do want to say a remarkable job Karen did in shepherding this group of cats who had very different opinions in many respects. Nevertheless, came to a consensus and unanimous agreements, and the committee itself really had some strong expert voices but Karen was able to mesh all of those together and I really want to commend her.

Matt Hayden:

Thank you sir, any other comments or questions from the committee?

John Allen:

Yeah Matt, John Allen here. I'd like to second Karen's comments about the CBP. The elements that we have got from the government that are down on the border working this issue, completely apart from the administration's policies with respect to the crisis that we are facing now. Every single one of those men and women deserve the nation's respect for the work that they are doing down there and I would certainly like to second the comments that Karen offered and the work that was done on the report. Because I do believe that this report gives us the capacity to begin to address some of these difficulties some of which are result of geopolitical problems but some of them are self-inflicted ourselves with the immigration process that we have today.

So, to all those folks that are down in the border that are doing this job every single day and keeping us safe, I don't think that America could thank you enough. I think Karen's points are very important in that regard and I think that this report offers us real options to get some of these problems solved.

Matt Hayden:

Thank you very much sir. Are there any other comments? All right if there are no more discussion items, is there a motion for the HSAC to approve the emergency interim report to the secretary.

Stewart Baker:

Moved.

Matt Hayden:

Is there a second?

Panel:

Second.

Matt Hayden:

And who is the person that voiced the first interim report?

Stewart Baker:

That's Stewart Baker.

Matt Hayden:

Thank you sir, and the second.

Paul Goldenberg:

Paul Goldenberg.

Matt Hayden:

Thank you sir. At this time, those who are in favor in approving the emergency interim report, please indicate aye.

HSAC Members vote:

Aye.

Matt Hayden:

Those oppose please indicate nay. *(There are no votes of nay).*

As a point of record, (Cathy Lanier, Keith Alexander, and General Allen) had to drop off the call and voted aye. At this point I'd like to thank the committee these recommendations are approved. For the record the recommendations chapters by acclamation and we had a unanimous vote. I'll turn this over to you Judge Webster for closing remarks.

William Webster:

Thank you again to our subcommittee chair Karen Tandy for your leadership and the subcommittee's great work. I want to thank the HSAC members and presenters for attending today and again special thanks to Matt, Mike and Catherine for organizing today's meeting. We are now going to bring this session to a close. Members of the public who would like to provide questions or additional comments, and that includes the media may do so by the way of email to hsac@hq.dhs.gov.

I'll do that again hsac@hq.dhs.gov. HSAC information and meeting minutes maybe found at www.dhs.gov/HSAC. I'd like to thank everyone for their participation today. This meeting is now adjourned.

Matt Hayden:

Thank you. Operator, please end the call.

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing minutes are accurate and complete.

Judge Webster signed document on May 2, 2019

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William H. Webster". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "W" and a long, sweeping underline.

Signed and Dated

Judge William H. Webster, Chairman, Homeland Security Advisory Council