



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

Date: July 12, 2022

To: The Majority and Minority Chairs and Members of the Government Oversight Committee

From: Bryan Cutler, Speaker *Bryan Cutler*
Kerry Benninghoff, Majority Leader *Kerry A. Benninghoff*

Re: Committee Referral for Investigation 1-2022

Under the provisions of House of Representatives Rule 45(a), we hereby refer the following to the House Government Oversight Committee for their consideration and investigation.

Background:

There has been reports of nighttime, “ghost” flights landing at northeastern Pennsylvania airports during December and January of 2021. These media and whistleblower reports allege that these flights were chartered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Service (DHHS), and that they contained illegal immigrant children. Media reports and the Governor’s office have expressed that the unidentified individuals arriving on these flights were placed onto chartered busses and driven to unknown destinations outside of Pennsylvania. The identities, ages, countries of origins, immigration status, medical screening, final destinations, and security vetting of the passengers of these flights are all currently unknown.

No information has been made public regarding the individuals on these flights, nor has any Pennsylvania state agency provided any information on the flights in any official capacity. It is troubling that were it not for some “whistleblowers,” public online flight tracking and several grainy photographs capturing the arrival of these flights, their existence would not be known to the citizens of this Commonwealth. We have concerns about the lack of transparency regarding these flights which landed in small Pennsylvania airports under a shroud of secrecy, in literal darkness.

The people of Pennsylvania deserve answers as to what the executive agencies of this commonwealth knew about these flights and why information was not made public prior to or after the arrival of these flights. Transparency regarding government is of paramount concern to this body to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the citizens of Pennsylvania, as well as the safety and wellbeing of those unidentified individuals who were alleged to have been transported into and through the Commonwealth.

Request for Investigation

One of the primary roles of government is to be open and transparent. It is imperative to know what the agencies of the executive branch knew about these flights, when they knew it and why such information was not made public. It is alleged by the current administration that these flights contained unidentified children, without parents, who were then transported to unknown destinations under the care of unknown individuals under the cover of darkness.

We are therefore requesting that the Government Oversight Committee investigate the knowledge, communications and decisions made by the executive branch of this commonwealth regarding these flights, either before or since their landing in the Commonwealth. We further request that the Committee investigate whether any state resources, agencies, employees, or non-governmental agencies within this Commonwealth were involved in the transportation, care, processing, or relocation of these individuals. The legislature has an obligation to learn the facts of what happened, investigate and determine whether legislation is necessary to address the issues raised in this referral.