

September 20, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President.

As chief executives of our states, we request a meeting with you at The White House to bring an end to the national security crisis created by eight months of unenforced borders. The months-long surge in illegal crossings has instigated an international humanitarian crisis, spurred a spike in international criminal activity, and opened the floodgates to human traffickers and drug smugglers endangering public health and safety in our states. A crisis that began at our southern border now extends beyond to every state and requires immediate action before the situation worsens.

The negative impacts of an unenforced border policy on the American people can no longer be ignored. Border apprehensions are up almost 500% compared to last year, totaling more than 1.3 million—more people than the populations of nine U.S. states. Approximately 9,700 illegal apprehensions have prior criminal convictions. Cartels and traffickers are making \$14 million a day moving people illegally across the border. More fentanyl has been seized this fiscal year than the last three years combined—almost 10,500 pounds of fentanyl when only 2 milligrams prove fatal. This is enough to kill seven times the U.S. population.

Despite the lack of federal action to reverse the crisis, many states have stepped up and committed unprecedented resources to support the security of our national border. We have heard directly from our constituents about the damage this crisis has caused in our states, and it is our duty as elected officials to act swiftly to protect our communities, as it is yours.

While governors are doing what we can, our Constitution requires that the President must faithfully execute the immigration laws passed by Congress. Not only has the federal government created a crisis, it has left our states to deal with challenges that only the federal government has a duty to solve. Our immigration system may be complicated and complex, but the solution to ending the border crisis is simple and straightforward. As President, you have the ability to take action to protect America, restore security, and end the crisis now.

Therefore, we come directly to you seeking an open and constructive dialogue regarding border enforcement on behalf of U.S. citizens in our states and all those hoping to become U.S. citizens. We must end the current crisis and return to border operations that respect the laws of our land and the lives of all people, including those in our states looking to the federal government to enforce and protect our nation's borders.

Due to the emergent crisis, we respectfully request a meeting as soon as your schedule allows within 15 days. While we know your responsibilities as Commander in Chief are substantial, ending the national crisis and securing our states must be a priority.

Sincerely,

Governor Doug Ducey State of Arizona Governor Greg Abbott State of Texas Governor Kay Ivey State of Alabama

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Governor Mike Dunleavy State of Alaska Governor Asa Hutchinson State of Arkansas Governor Ron DeSantis State of Florida

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Governor Brian Kemp Governor Brad Little State of Georgia State of Idaho Governor Eric Holcomb

State of Indiana

Governor Kim Reynolds State of Iowa

Governor Larry Hogan State of Maryland Governor Charlie Baker State of Massachusetts

Governor Tate Reeves State of Mississippi Governor Mike Parson State of Missouri Governor Greg Gianforte State of Montana

Governor Pete Ricketts State of Nebraska Governor Chris Sununu State of New Hampshire Governor Doug Burgum State of North Dakota Governor Mike DeWine State of Ohio

Governor Kevin Stitt State of Oklahoma Governor Henry McMaster State of South Carolina

Honey Willrater

Governor Kristi Noem State of South Dakota Governor Bill Lee State of Tennessee Governor Spencer Cox State of Utah

Governor Jim Justice State of West Virginia Governor Mark Gordon State of Wyoming