Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 3, 2021

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Mayorkas:

As the co-chairs of the Congressional Border Security Caucus, we invite you to speak to our Caucus as soon as possible to discuss the growing crisis at the southern border and the Department of Homeland Security's plans to address the crisis.

Since January 20, 2021, the Biden Administration has issued multiple Executive Orders and DHS has announced numerous policy changes that have rolled back policies, such as the Migrant Protection Protocols, that were implemented by the previous administration. These changes announced to the world that the Biden Administration is not serious about border security and have led to an increase in aliens, particularly unaccompanied alien children (UAC), crossing the border.

While DHS continues to tell aliens not to approach or cross the border, your actions send a different message. You say that "Due to the current pandemic, travel restrictions at the border remain in place and will be enforced[,]"[1] but then you decided not to expel UAC under Title 42 and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention temporarily excepted UAC from the Title 42 order.[2] This decision has led to a significant influx of UAC that are now filling facilities and stretching government resources.[3]

You also claim that "The government – at all levels – has been clear: Individuals should not believe smugglers or others claiming the border is now open. The Administration will enforce existing immigration laws."[4] However, you continue to enact policies that undermine existing immigration laws, such as the recent Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) temporary guidelines for its enforcement and removal operations which drastically limits enforcement of immigration laws in the interior of the United States.[5]

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[1] https://www.dhs.gov/news/2021/02/24/dhs-statement-processing-current-residents-matamoros-camp-us
[2] 86 Fed. Reg. 9942, January 30, 2021.
[3] https://www.cbsnews.com/news/u-s-shelters-for-migrant-children-near-maximum-capacity-as-border-crossings-increase/
[4] https://www.dhs.gov/nesws/2021/02/24/dhs-statement-processing-current-residents-matamoros-camp-us
[5] https://www.ice.gov/news/releases/ice-announces-temporary-guidelines-its-enforcement-and-removal-operations

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The Caucus is made up of more than 50 Members of Congress who represent 25 states. The Caucus meets on a monthly basis to hear from government officials and border security experts about how Congress can help improve border security.

We look forward to meeting with you in person as soon as possible to discuss the growing crisis at the southern border. Our staffs will reach out directly to the Office of Legislative Affairs to follow up on this invitation.

Sincerely,

Andy Biggs
Co-Chair
Congressional Border Security Caucus

Brian Babin, D.D.S.
Co-Chair
Congressional Border Security Caucus