COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

171 Cannon House Office Building (202) 225-2635

## Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

Washington, **BC** 20515-0305

September 1, 2022

Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW Washington, DC 20500

Dear Press Secretary Jean-Pierre,

Your recent comments during a White House press briefing on August 29, 2022, demonstrate your disregard of the nation's border crisis. That's not surprising given that neither you nor President Biden have ever visited the southern border.

You indicated that unvaccinated illegal aliens are not coming across our nation's southern border, stating that "that's not how it works." This couldn't be further from the truth.

Since President Biden has assumed the Oval Office, nearly five million illegal aliens have been encountered at the southern border<sup>2</sup>—many of whom have been released into the country without a known vaccination status.

Currently, there is no COVID-19 vaccination requirement for illegal aliens entering our country.<sup>3</sup> Given that most of these individuals are migrating from countries with low COVID-19 vaccination rates<sup>4</sup> and are traveling in large groups—something that defies Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance<sup>5</sup>—it is safe to assume that COVID-19 is rampant among illegal aliens crossing our southern border.

If these facts are not convincing enough, I would like to extend you an invitation to participate in a border tour along the Arizona-Mexico border with me. You will see that unvaccinated illegal aliens are undeniably crossing our nation's southern border at unprecedented rates.

I represent a border state and serve as the Congressional Border Security Caucus co-chair. I have decades' worth of experience examining border and immigration issues. I strongly believe that a single border tour would enhance your knowledge on this self-inflicted crisis.

Andy Biggs

Member of Congress

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Adam Shaw & Bill Melugin: Border Patrol agents slam Karine Jean-Pierre's 'ignorant' claim that illegal immigrants not 'walking' across (August 31, 2022) <a href="https://www.foxnews.com/politics/border-patrol-agents-slam-karine-jean-pierres-ignorant-claim-illegal-immigrants-walking-across">https://www.foxnews.com/politics/border-patrol-agents-slam-karine-jean-pierres-ignorant-claim-illegal-immigrants-walking-across</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Federation for American Immigration Reform, 4.9 Million Illegal Aliens Have Crossed Our Borders Since President Biden Took Office (August 16, 2022) <a href="https://www.fairus.org/press-releases/border-security/fair-analysis-49-million-illegal-aliens-have-crossed-our-borders">https://www.fairus.org/press-releases/border-security/fair-analysis-49-million-illegal-aliens-have-crossed-our-borders</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Department of Homeland Security, DHS Responds: Coronavirus (August 17, 2022) https://www.dhs.gov/coronavirus.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Our World in Data, Coronavirus Vaccinations, (August 30, 2022) https://ourworldindata.org/covid-vaccinations.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, How to Protect Yourself and Others (August 11, 2022) https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html.