

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 17, 2021

Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden:

We write to express our serious concerns regarding Vice President Kamala Harris' appointment as your administration's leader to solve the border crisis.

In May 2021, Customs and Border Protection (CBP) encountered 180,034 individuals at the southern border¹, compared to just 23,237 during the same month last year – a 675 percent increase.² This figure does not even include “got aways”, or those who sneak in without detection, which CBP officials estimate to be around 1,000 per day³, compared to an average of just under 200 “got aways” per day in fiscal year 2020.⁴

The Vice President was tasked with solving this crisis on March 24, 2021⁵, at a time when we were seeing roughly 5,500 encounters per day and record numbers of unaccompanied alien children (UAC) at our southern border.⁶ Despite being in the midst of a border crisis this country has not seen in two decades, Vice President Harris has not yet shown adequate interest in observing this crisis first-hand. In the 85 days since the Vice President has been tasked with solving this crisis, she has yet to visit the border and meet with Border Patrol agents, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials, and local law enforcement officials. In our experience, it is important to meet with these officials to learn about their perspectives and observations about the origins and motivations of the thousands of people coming here every day. It is an insult to our hardworking Border Patrol, ICE, and local law enforcement officials that put their lives on the line every day that the Vice President has yet to speak with them.

Vice President Harris and your spokespeople have made excuses about her role in solving the crisis, claiming that her responsibility is to examine the “root causes” of migration. Vice

¹ “Southwest Land Border Encounters”, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, June 9, 2021, <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/southwest-land-border-encounters>.

² “Southwest Border Migration FY2020”, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, November 19, 2020, <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/sw-border-migration-fy2020>.

³ Nick Miroff, “Border officials say more people are sneaking past them as crossings soar and agents are overwhelmed”, April 2, 2021, https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/got-aways-border/2021/04/01/14258a1e-9302-11eb-9af7-fd0822ae4398_story.html.

⁴ Randy Clark, “Exclusive: Migrant ‘got-away’ total exceeds 185k this year, says source”, Breitbart, May 2, 2021, <https://www.breitbart.com/border/2021/05/02/exclusive-migrant-got-away-total-exceeds-185k-this-year-says-source/>.

⁵ Eugene Daniels, “Biden makes Harris the point person on immigration issues amid border surge”, Politico, March 24, 2021, <https://www.politico.com/news/2021/03/24/kamala-harris-immigration-border-surge-477810>.

⁶ “Southwest Land Border Encounters”, op. cit.

President Harris wrongly presumes that “root causes” of migration can only stem from a migrant’s country of origin. Even if we assume that “root causes” only stem from a migrant’s country of origin, the exclusive focus on Central American countries ignores the fact that we see many migrants attempting to illegally cross our southern border from countries all over the world, including Russia, Brazil, Cuba, and Haiti. We are also aware of no dramatic changes in Central American countries over the last few months that would result in such a wide gap of encounters at the southern border compared to last year. Additionally, this presumption ignores the role of policy decisions made in the first four months of your administration play in enticing migrants to illegally cross our southern border. Perhaps if the Vice President took a moment to speak with our Border Patrol agents who are on the frontlines of this crisis, or even the thousands of migrants currently held in our border facilities, she and your administration would be able to grasp this reality.

At the time of her appointment, you stated, “I can think of nobody who is better qualified to do this”.⁷ We disagree. This country cannot afford another minute of inaction from Vice President Harris. While you have publicly defended the Vice President, even you must be discouraged with her inaction. We have all made mistakes in hiring and understand when someone else needs to be assigned to a task. We sincerely urge you find someone else in your administration to assist you in getting a handle on this border crisis.

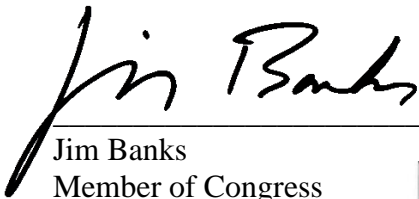
Sincerely,



Glenn Grothman
Member of Congress



Mike Johnson
Member of Congress



Jim Banks
Member of Congress



James Comer
Member of Congress



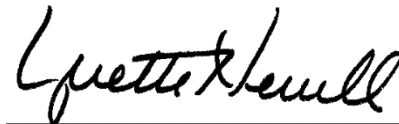
Kevin Brady
Member of Congress



Brian Babin, D.D.S.
Member of Congress



Andy Biggs
Member of Congress



Yvette Herrell
Member of Congress

⁷ Daniels, op. cit.



Michael Cloud
Member of Congress



Jody Hice
Member of Congress




Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress



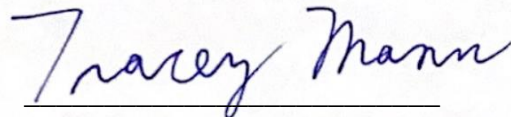
Diana Harshbarger
Member of Congress



Bob Good
Member of Congress



Gregory F. Murphy
Member of Congress



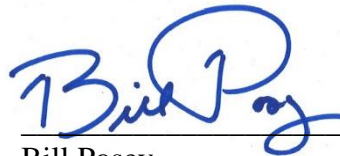
Tracey Mann
Member of Congress



Markwayne Mullin
Member of Congress



Ralph Norman
Member of Congress



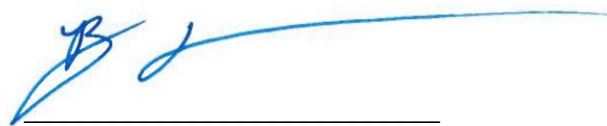
Bill Posey
Member of Congress



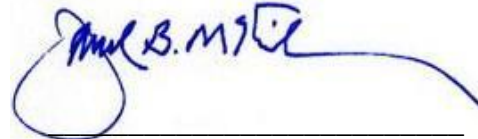
Roger Williams
Member of Congress



Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
Member of Congress



Byron Donalds
Member of Congress



David B. McKinley P.E.
Member of Congress



Andy Harris, M.D.
Member of Congress



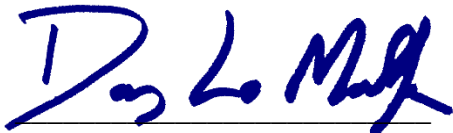
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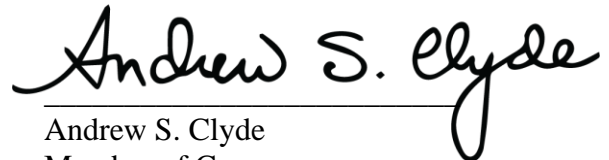
Kat Cammack
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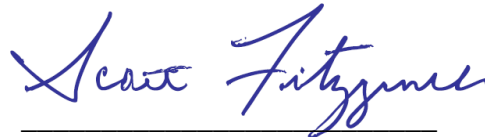
Madison Cawthorn
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Andrew S. Clyde
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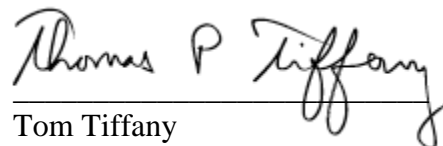
Tom McClintock
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Beth Van Duyne
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Mo Brooks
Member of Congress



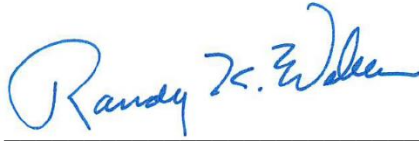
Tom Tiffany
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Warren Davidson
Member of Congress



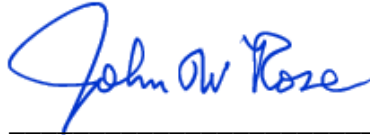
Barry Moore
Member of Congress



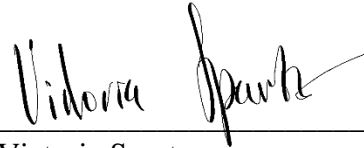
Randy K. Weber
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Russ Fulcher
Member of Congress



John Rose
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Victoria Spartz
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Bryan Steil
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David Rouzer
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Alex Mooney
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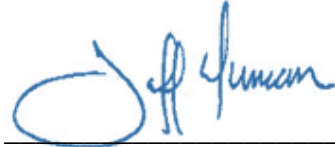
Nicole Malliotakis
Member of Congress



Pete Sessions
Member of Congress



Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress



Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress



Jake LaTurner
Member of Congress

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Bill Johnson
Member of Congress

_____/X/_____
Mike Simpson
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