



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-4323

December 20, 2023

Speaker Mike Johnson  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries  
The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Speaker Johnson, Leader Jeffries, Leader Schumer, and Leader McConnell:

Our southern border is in the worst state it has ever been. As the U.S. Representative for the largest border district in Congress, I do not say that lightly. Today, I am calling on all lawmakers to take emergency action to secure our border. Failure to act may lead to a point of no return.

From Eagle Pass to El Paso, the communities I represent are being engulfed by record levels of illegal immigration. Border Patrol Agents and Customs Officers have been pulled from their patrolling duties and reassigned to migrant processing. Security checkpoints are closed, allowing undeterred travel into the interior without further screening. In other words, our border is wide open, and the cartels have free passage.

The severity of this security gap cannot be understated. Beyond increases in drug smuggling at the border, years of counter-terrorism efforts are being undone. Law enforcement is beyond their limits to continue holding the line and the possibility of a terrorist act being committed in relation to our open border is higher than ever.

In my district specifically, local communities have no further resources to continue sustaining migrants. Their limited budgets are being drained by this crisis, and they are not being reimbursed by the federal government. Local law enforcement has engaged in countless high-speed pursuits with human smugglers, some of which have led to innocent American bystanders losing their lives. We know what policies are needed to end this chaos, and we need to act on them now. There is no time to delay further on this issue.

Sincerely,

Tony Gonzales  
Member of Congress