Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 26, 2023

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jefferies
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Speaker Johnson, Minority Leaders McConnell and Jefferies,

We urge you to quickly **bring a bipartisan border security package reflecting the President's Fiscal Year 2024 emergency supplemental request to the House and Senate floor.** As members of the New Democrat Coalition, we understand emergency funding is necessary to secure our border, ensure a humane and orderly immigration process, and stop the flow of illicit fentanyl into the United States.
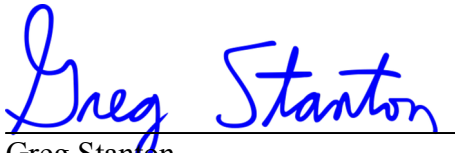
President Biden has put forth a strong and comprehensive border security package in his supplemental request. The requested $13.6 billion investment would:

- **Increase boots on the ground at the border.** The request ensures the Department of Homeland Security has the additional resources and personnel to accomplish their mission of maintaining border security while assisting refugees and processing migrants, including funds to hire an additional 1,300 border patrol agents.

- **Improve the processing of asylum cases.** The request includes funding to hire 375 new immigration judge teams and 1,600 asylum officers to tackle the significant backlog straining our immigration courts that has severely delayed resolutions, often for years at a time.

- **Support local governments and nonprofits**. The request includes $1.4 billion for the depleted Shelter and Services Program which reimburses already-overstretched local governments and nonprofits who provide essential resources to recently released migrants.

- **Address the illicit fentanyl crisis.** The request includes funding to hire an additional 1,000 officers focused on counter-fentanyl efforts and to purchase cutting-edge technology to stop the flow of illicit fentanyl into the United States. Deaths related to the use of illicit fentanyl and other synthetic opioids have risen by nearly 200% in the past decade, affecting nearly every American community in the process. Each of these investments will reduce illicit fentanyl trafficking and save lives.

Securing our nation's southern border is a bipartisan goal, and the shared responsibility of all members of Congress. We ask that you **swiftly bring this important package to a vote on the floor.**

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.
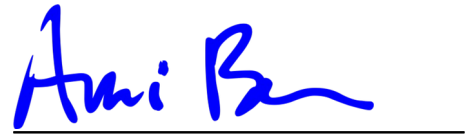
Sincerely,

Greg Stanton
Member of Congress
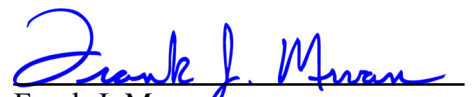
Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress
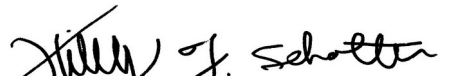
Ann McLane Kuster
Chair
New Democrat Coalition

Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress

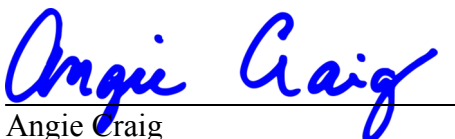Susie Lee
Member of Congress

Frank J. Mrvan
Member of Congress

Hillary J. Scholten
Member of Congress

Nikki Budzinski
Member of Congress

Angie Craig
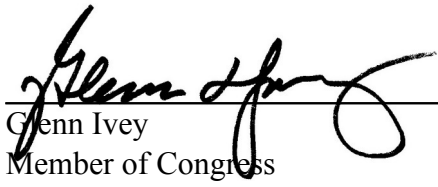Member of Congress

Joe Courtney
Member of Congress

Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress
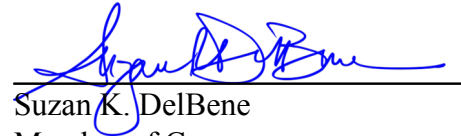
Eric Sorensen
Member of Congress

Glenn Ivey
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Donald Norcross
Member of Congress

Bradley Scott Schneider
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Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress

Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress

Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress

Patrick K. Ryan
Member of Congress

Brittany Pettersen
Member of Congress

Donald G. Davis
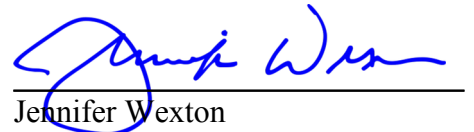Member of Congress

Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress

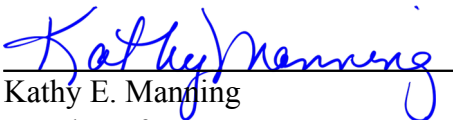Mike Quigley
Member of Congress

David J. Trone
Member of Congress
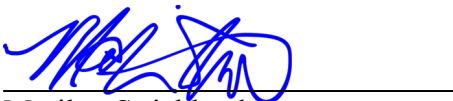
Troy Carter
Member of Congress

Jennifer Wexton
Member of Congress

Kathy E. Manning
Member of Congress

Chris Pappas
Member of Congress

Marilyn Strickland
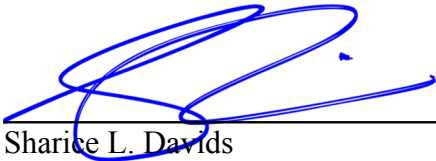Member of Congress

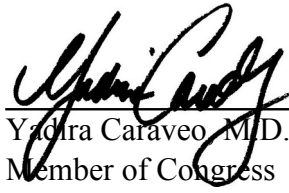Colin Z. Allred
Member of Congress

Jim Costa
Member of Congress

Daniel T. Kildee
Member of Congress

Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress

Yadira Caraveo, M.D.
Member of Congress

Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress