

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

August 31, 2023

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker McCarthy,

We write to you today requesting that you bring the President's proposed supplemental appropriations legislation to the House floor during the September work period. This legislation funds \$4 billion in border security measures, migrant assistance, and anti-smuggling technology as part of the full supplemental appropriations request addressing disaster response and our national security. We strongly support these critical investments to expand counter-fentanyl activities and strengthen efforts to maintain a secure southern border.

Earlier this year, we wrote in support of emergency supplemental appropriations, recognizing the dire need for additional funding for Customs and Border Protection at the border, enhanced technology to stop the flow of fentanyl into the United States, and added resources to support a safe and humane immigration process. We appreciate the Administration submitting this request to Congress and urge you to bring it before the House for a vote during the upcoming work period.

Illicit substances like fentanyl and other deadly synthetic opioids have wreaked havoc on communities throughout the country for years. In 2021, more than 100,000 Americans died from drug overdoses, with two-thirds of those deaths coming from synthetic opioids like fentanyl. Taking proactive steps to combat fentanyl trafficking will save lives. Specifically, deploying Non-Intrusive Inspection (NII) technology at ports of entry will prevent hundreds of thousands of pounds in illicit synthetic opioids from ever reaching our communities over the next year. We strongly support the request for \$416 million to expedite the deployment of this technology at ports of entry along our southern border.

It is also imperative to ensure that DHS, HHS, and other federal agencies have the proper resources and personnel to accomplish their mission of maintaining border security while assisting refugees and processing migrants. The Administration's request for an additional \$4 billion for border management, immigration processing, and other programs will significantly contribute to DHS's ability to efficiently process migrants at ports of entry, and to provide essential resources to recently released migrants through initiatives like the Shelter and Services Program.

Securing our nation's southern border is a shared responsibility for all members of Congress. We ask that you expeditiously bring this supplemental appropriations package before the House. The critical investments in the legislation provide nearly \$3 billion in funding for DHS to bolster

border security operations, deliver essential assistance to migrants, and expand deployment of NII to interdict illicit fentanyl.

In addition, we strongly support the requests for additional funding to aid Ukraine in their fight against the Russian invasion and strengthen wildfire response and disaster recovery. These requests, in combination with those for border security, will save American lives and safeguard our democratic values.

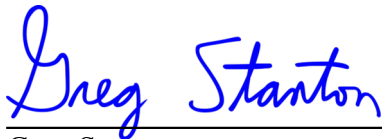
As elected Representatives, our top priority is to ensure the protection and well-being of our constituents. We advocated for this funding request because we know these resources will save lives, improve security at the southern border, and make our communities safer. We urge you to allow the House to vote on these critical resources and deliver for the American people.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Gabe Vasquez
Member of Congress



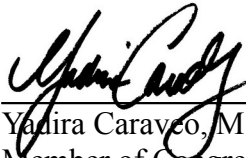
Greg Stanton
Member of Congress



Ann McLane Kuster
Chair
New Democrat Coalition



Patrick K. Ryan
Member of Congress



Yanira Caraveo, M.D.
Member of Congress



Angie Craig
Member of Congress



David J. Trone
Member of Congress



Eric Sorensen
Member of Congress



André Carson
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Bradley Scott Schneider
Member of Congress



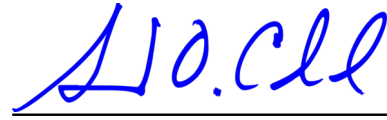
Donald G. Davis
Member of Congress



J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



Colin Z. Allred
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress



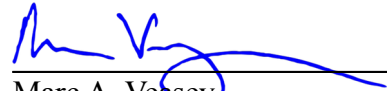
Susie Lee
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



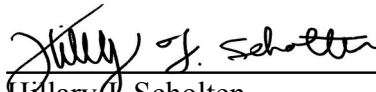
Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress



Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress



Darren Soto
Member of Congress



Hillary P. Scholten
Member of Congress



Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



Wiley Nickel
Member of Congress



Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brittany Petersen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath it.

Brittany Petersen
Member of Congress