

February 24, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden,

As members of Congress, our first and most important responsibility is the safety and security of the American people. We are gravely concerned about your unilateral and significant changes to policies affecting our southern border and national security. Your echo of unity and keeping families safe throughout the Coronavirus pandemic are contrary to the actions you have taken and continue to pursue without any input from the legislative branch.

On March 21, 2020, President Trump implemented 42 U.S.C. § 265 authority after analyzing the threat of COVID-19 in Mexico and Canada. Under Title 42, Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is instructed to prioritize the health of American citizens and reject entry of any individual unlawfully entering the country. These individuals, with some exceptions, are immediately returned to their country of last transit. Under Title 42, CBP has expelled over 200,000 individuals at the Southwest border in the past four months alone, indisputably slowing the spread of COVID-19 in the U.S and protecting our border communities.

As you may know, illegal border crossings place a significant strain on law enforcement working to secure the border and healthcare workers trying to contain the spread of COVID-19 in these communities. Weakening or repealing Title 42 will put our CBP officers at risk, add additional strains to the healthcare delivery systems in border communities, and incentivize more illegal immigrants to come to the US at a time when we must prioritize the health and safety of Americans first. That is why we believe Congresswoman Herrell's PAUSE Act is necessary to continue the Title 42 border health protections until the lockdowns and emergency declarations have ended, helping prevent the introduction of new cases and new strains of the virus at our borders.

Furthermore, I urge you to seriously consider the grave risk of allowing undocumented, untested individuals into our country. With all the efforts the Trump Administration, and now your Administration, have taken to test, prevent, and treat our nation's citizens and slow the spread of COVID-19, repealing Title 42 would be illogical and indefensible. In fact, your Administration requires American citizens to produce proof of a negative COVID-19 test upon returning to the US after traveling to another country. It would be ludicrous to require American citizens to present a negative COVID test upon reentry while simultaneously inviting illegal immigrants to enter our country with no testing requirement or regard for our rule of law.

Simply put, you cannot separate the border crisis from the pandemic. Repealing this order would harm Americans and immigrants alike, while pushing our resources to unsustainable levels. We appreciate your consideration of these factors and urge you to prioritize the public health and safety of American citizens, especially those in border communities, before making any changes to Title 42.

Cc: The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas  
Secretary  
Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20528

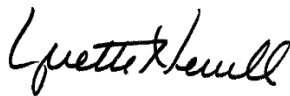
Sincerely,



Jodey C. Arrington



Brian Babin, D.D.S.



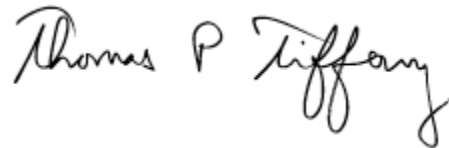
Yvette Herrell



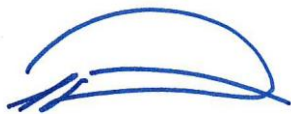
Jim Banks



Jody Hice



Tom Tiffany



Scott DesJarlais, M.D.



Pat Fallon



Beth Van Duyne



Michael C. Burgess, M.D.



Ronny L. Jackson



John R. Carter



Ken Calvert



Doug LaMalfa



Glenn Grothman



Andy Biggs



Diana Harshbarger



Louie Gohmert



Mo Brooks



Tom McClintock



Dan Crenshaw



Rick W. Allen



Ashley Hinson



August Pfluger

A stylized, cursive handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of the letters 'C', 'R', and 'Y' intertwined.

Chip Roy

A cursive handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Pete Sessions'.

Pete Sessions