



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-0605

May 10, 2023

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden,

Thank you for fulfilling your promise to end Title 42. As representatives of California's border communities, we understand very personally the need for comprehensive and inclusive immigration reform — but we also know that Title 42 – a public health order enacted under the Trump Administration in an attempt to deter migration to the United States – was both inhumane and fundamentally the wrong approach to reform. The United States has a legal obligation to welcome those seeking asylum, and, under Title 42, we have abdicated and squandered that obligation.

We know all too well that your Administration inherited a broken immigration system — one that has been broken for decades and that was even further damaged by the last Administration. We also recognize that Congress has abdicated its responsibility to find a humane, common-sense solution, and you have our unwavering commitment and willingness to work with you toward that end.

We are pleased that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) recently announced that the Emergency Food and Shelter Program's National Board allocated \$332.5 million to assist communities receiving migrants arriving at our border. As you know, there is great need for these funds, and it will be even greater after Title 42 ends on May 11, 2023. We therefore respectfully request that additional funds of the \$800 million appropriated through the FY23 Omnibus law be dispersed quickly to organizations and local governments along the California border with Mexico.

The organizations along the border have vast experience working with migrant communities, but they need additional funding in order to handle the increase in arrivals. These organizations

provide temporary housing, meals, and travel arrangements, and are often the first safe place asylum seekers encounter. It is imperative that your Administration prioritizes funding to the border organizations that are on the frontlines and that have significant experience in this space.

Additionally, in order to learn more about your Administration's short-term and long-term plans in our border region, and to better coordinate efforts and engage experts on the ground, we are requesting a joint briefing from DHS and FEMA as soon as possible.

The State of California has invested millions of dollars to shelter and care for our migrant communities over the past several years, and as federal representatives for California, we know that this situation calls for a whole-of-government approach. We thank you for your continued leadership, support, and consideration.

Sincerely,



SARA JACOBS (CA-51)
Member of Congress



SCOTT PETERS (CA-50)
Member of Congress



JUAN VARGAS (CA-52)
Member of Congress



RAUL RUIZ (CA-25)
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas, Secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security
The Honorable Deanne Criswell, Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency