

Congress of the United States
Washington, D.C. 20515

December 22, 2022

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW,
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

We write today to strongly condemn your plans to send illegal immigrants to Tennessee to await court proceedings.¹ Under your failed leadership, the crisis at our Southern Border has grown completely out of control. Rather than securing our Southern Border, your administration has chosen to turn a blind eye to the suffering of millions of Americans affected by your open border policies.

Your administration has issued several unpopular executive orders focused on reevaluating and unwinding the successful immigration policies of the Trump Administration. This has caused a massive influx of illegal immigration at the Southern Border. The surge of immigrants entering the U.S. illegally is a direct result of your administration's policies that communicate an open invitation to come across what has become in many ways a wide-open border.

Your open border policies have also caused thousands of American families to have to endure this holiday season without their loved ones because of the fentanyl crisis those policies have exacerbated. According to a *Washington Post* article from earlier this week, "The Drug Enforcement Administration said Tuesday it has seized more than 379 million potentially fatal doses of illegal fentanyl this year, as Mexican drug-trafficking organizations continue to flood the United States with the cheap synthetic opioid responsible for record numbers of U.S. overdose deaths."²

Rather than formulating plans to bus U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement detainees to Tennessee, we implore you to take immediate action to secure our Southern Border. There is no question that such action would dramatically decrease the amount of fentanyl coming into this country.

Our constituents are also dismayed by the abysmal performance of your Border Czar Vice President Kamala Harris. Since tapping Vice President Harris to be the Border Czar things have only gotten worse. In fact, U.S. Border Patrol encounters increased under her leadership from 1,662,167 to 2,214,652 from FY2021 to FY2022.³

According to a *National Review* article regarding the Vice President, "Harris has overseen skyrocketing rates of illegal migrants crossing the border since being made border czar. This April, nearly a quarter-of-a-million migrants were apprehended along the U.S.-Mexico border, nearly half of whom were released internally. Yet, Harris still insisted in the interview that the border is "secure..."⁴ Perhaps if Vice President Harris spent more time at the Southern Border and less time with liberal coastal elites, she and

¹ <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/ice-plans-release-illegal-immigrants-tennessee-court-proceedings-governor-says>

² <https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2022/12/20/fentanyl-seizures-2022-dea/>

³ <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/cbp-enforcement-statistics>

⁴ <https://www.nationalreview.com/news/border-czar-kamala-harris-accuses-abbott-of-dereliction-of-duty-for-busing-migrants-out-of-texas/>

your administration might come to the inescapable conclusion that our Southern Border is anything but secure.

The Tennessee Congressional Delegation hears from folks all across Tennessee almost every day about our broken immigration system and how it negatively impacts their lives. This decision by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to send illegal immigrants to Tennessee is an admission that your administration intends to welcome illegal immigrants instead of working to secure our Homeland.

While liberal elitists might be okay with open borders, Tennesseans are not and that is why we are strongly opposed to this administration relocating illegal immigrants to Tennessee. Consequently, we call on you to order an immediate halt to this ill-conceived and misguided policy. Lastly, we also ask that your administration request that the Department of Homeland Security Office of the Inspector General conduct an immediate investigation into U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's decision to send illegal immigrants to Tennessee to determine if that decision was the result of any administrative misconduct.

We look forward to your prompt reply to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,



John Rose
Member of Congress



Diana Harshbarger
Member of Congress



Tim Burchett
Member of Congress



Chuck Fleischmann
Member of Congress



Mark E. Green, M.D.
Member of Congress



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