

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 10, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

We are seeking clarification on the Biden-Harris Administration's plan to address the humanitarian crisis at our southern border. Specifically, we are concerned the administration's current position is incentivizing human trafficking of children. Since January, the Biden-Harris Administration has encountered over 65,536 unaccompanied alien children (UAC) at the southern border—a 140% increase from the same period last year. Additionally, the Department of Homeland Security expects another 26,000 unaccompanied alien children who will be apprehended entering illegally by this September. Of the 21,000ⁱ children in your administration's custody as of May 21, over 2,121 of those children were previously expelled with their families but have now crossed the border alone.ⁱⁱ In February, open border policies allowed traffickers to profit approximately \$14.6 million a day totaling \$411.5 million in one month aloneⁱⁱⁱ.

It is clear something must be done to stop the flow of illegal immigrants being trafficked across our southern border. In 2014, the Department of Health and Human Services placed a number of UACs in the hands of a ring of human traffickers who forced them to work 12-hour days with little to no pay on egg farms in and around Marion, Ohio^{iv}. Since January, your administration has released at least 22,000 UACs with little oversight, and 55% of them were not released to a parent or legal guardian^v. It is important your administration send a clear message for parents not to send their children here illegally, so they do not fall into the hands of human traffickers.

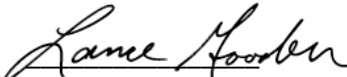
While we wait for your administration to act, we request a response to the following questions to prevent human trafficking at our southern border:


1. Does your administration have a plan in place to prevent children from being placed in the hands of human traffickers and drug cartels when crossing the southern border?
2. Does your administration have a plan in place to disincentive illegal immigration at our southern border?
3. According to your administration, 60% of unaccompanied children are being released in the United States to a family member who is **not** a parent or legal guardian, and 20% of the time, the child is released to someone who is **not** a family member at all. If these children are being released to non-family members or guardians, who are they being released to and what measure do you have in place to ensure their safety?
 - a. Please clarify, how many UACs have been released in the United States since January 20, 2021?

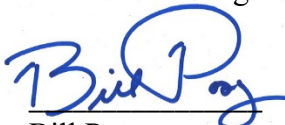
- b. What is the immigration status of the individuals that UACs are being released to in the United States?
 - c. How many UACs has your administration placed in state licensed Office of Refugee Resettlement-funded care providers?
- 4. How many unaccompanied children has the Biden-Harris Administration deported?
 - a. Does your administration intend to continue deporting unaccompanied children?
 - b. Who are the deported unaccompanied children being released to and what safeguards does your administration have in place to ensure their wellbeing?

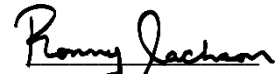
It is our hope your administration will secure our southern border and work in a bipartisan manner to reform our broken immigration system and protect innocent children. We look forward to your prompt reply and willingness to address the crisis at our southern border.

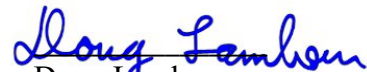
Sincerely,



Lance Gooden
Member of Congress


Scott Perry
Member of Congress


Bill Posey
Member of Congress


Ronny L. Jackson
Member of Congress


Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress


Matthew Rosendale
Member of Congress

CC:

Vice President Kamala Harris
Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas
Department of Health and Human Services Xavier Becerra
Attorney General Merrick Garland
Family Reunification Task Force Executive Director Michelle Brané

ⁱ <https://apnews.com/article/donald-trump-immigration-health-coronavirus-pandemic-government-and-politics-3b4e480c9021e6a8e02313f4c73a497e>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/migrant-children-left-families-asylum-border/>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/us-mexico-border-traffickers-million-february>

^{iv} U.S. Senate. Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations. Protecting Unaccompanied Alien Children from Trafficking (Staff report)

^v <https://www.axios.com/migrant-children-hhs-sponsors-tracking-bdbaf7ba-02df-4d8d-92ba-2df2f200af55.html>