

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, D.C. 20515**

May 18, 2023

President Biden, Senate Majority Leader Schumer, Senate Minority Leader McConnell,  
Speaker McCarthy, House Minority Leader Jeffries:

As we speak, the United States is experiencing a rapidly worsening border crisis and barreling toward a debt limit crisis. Let's be very clear, these crises are a direct product of the failed policies and neglect of President Biden and Congressional Democrats. We believe each of these issues should be considered together during your current debt limit negotiations.

In the early days of the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress, Republicans went to work crafting a responsible approach to raise the debt ceiling, fight inflation, and protect the American economy. Late last month, House Republicans did their job when they passed the Limit, Save, Grow Act. President Biden, on the other hand, was radio silent for three months and refused to negotiate with Speaker McCarthy. Leader Schumer for his part still refuses to put any bill on the Senate floor to raise the debt limit. Now, because of President Biden and Leader Schumer's negligence and political gamesmanship, we are two weeks from the June 1<sup>st</sup> debt limit deadline identified by Treasury Secretary Yellen.

Sadly, President Biden and Leader Schumer's shared dereliction of duty has not stopped there. Title 42 expired on May 11, 2023, at 11:59 p.m. creating a tidal wave of illegal immigration on top of the ongoing border crisis. When President Biden was asked if the country would be ready for the end of Title 42, he only offered, "It is going to be chaotic for a while." Prior to Title 42's expiration, House Republicans did their job by passing H.R. 2, the Secure the Border Act. President Biden threatened to veto it.

The present border crisis may go down as the most preventable debacle in our nation's history. Rather than continuing the successful border policies of the previous administration, President Biden halted border wall construction and reversed successful policies like the Migration Protection Protocols (MPP). While Biden inherited the lowest rate of illegal border crossings in decades, he has overseen the largest number of illegal border crossings of any Presidential administration.

Further, the security of our border is inextricably linked to the fiscal security of our nation. A recent cost estimate of the Secure the Border Act by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) confirmed that federal taxpayers are spending tens of billions of dollars on welfare benefits and refundable tax credits due to Biden's current border policies.<sup>1</sup> When you take into account costs at the state and local level, taxpayers pay \$182 billion annually for services and benefits to illegal immigrants.<sup>2</sup> Illegal immigration acts as another tax on American citizens. It costs each American taxpayer an additional \$1,156 per year.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Congressional Budget Office May 9, 2023 cost estimate. (n.d.). <https://www.cbo.gov/system/files/2023-05/hr2.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> *The cost of illegal immigration to American taxpayers 2023*. Federation for American Immigration Reform. (2023, April 24). <https://www.fairus.org/issue/publications-resources/fiscal-burden-illegal-immigration-united-states-taxpayers-2023>

<sup>3</sup> Id.

American taxpayers should not be forced to foot the bill for the rapidly growing illegal immigration crisis. Thus, we support the inclusion of common-sense border security and immigration reforms in negotiations to raise the debt ceiling. H.R. 2, the Secure the Border Act should logically serve as the starting point for considering sound border security measures. This legislation would close immigration loopholes, restart construction of the wall, and provide law enforcement the resources they desperately need. Negotiators should also consider other common-sense policies, such as ensuring taxpayer funded welfare programs and tax credits are not available to illegal immigrants, restoring the Trump Administration's public charge rule, and preventing relevant federal funding from flowing to sanctuary cities that harbor illegal aliens, among others.

It is past time we come together to ensure our nation's border and fiscal security.

Sincerely,



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Kevin Hern (R-OK)  
Member of Congress



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Ben Cline (R-VA)  
Member of Congress



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Tom McClintock (R-CA)  
Member of Congress



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Mark E. Green, M.D. (R-TN)  
Member of Congress



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Jeff Duncan (R-SC)  
Member of Congress



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Chip Roy (R-TX)  
Member of Congress



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August Pfluger (R-TX)  
Member of Congress



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Brian Babin, D.D.S. (R-TX)  
Member of Congress



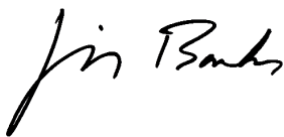
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Byron Donalds (R-FL)  
Member of Congress



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Ronny Jackson (R-TX)  
Member of Congress



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Jim Banks (R-IN)  
Member of Congress



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Ralph Norman (R-SC)  
Member of Congress



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Anna Paulina Luna (R-FL)  
Member of Congress



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Warren Davidson (R-OH)  
Member of Congress



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Clay Higgins (R-LA)  
Member of Congress



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Mark Alford (R-MO)  
Member of Congress



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Andy Biggs (R-AZ)  
Member of Congress



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Diana Harshbarger (R-TN)  
Member of Congress



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Mary Miller (R-IL)  
Member of Congress



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Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-GA)  
Member of Congress



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Russ Fulcher (R-ID)  
Member of Congress



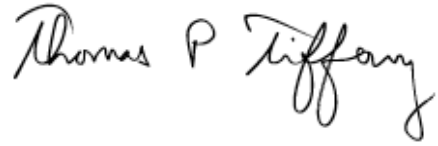
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Matt Rosendale (R-MT)  
Member of Congress



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Scott Perry (R-PA)  
Member of Congress



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Tom Tiffany (R-WI)  
Member of Congress



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Keith Self (R-TX)  
Member of Congress



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Doug Lamborn (R-CO)  
Member of Congress



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Monica De La Cruz (R-TX)  
Member of Congress



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Jefferson Van Drew (R-NJ)  
Member of Congress



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Aaron Bean (R-FL)  
Member of Congress



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John W. Rose (R-TN)  
Member of Congress



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Debbie Lesko (R-AZ)  
Member of Congress



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C. Scott Franklin (R-FL)  
Member of Congress

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Joe Wilson (R-SC)  
Member of Congress

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Nathaniel Moran (R-TX)  
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Claudia Tenney (R-NY)  
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Andrew S. Clyde (R-GA)  
Member of Congress

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Josh Brecheen (R-OK)  
Member of Congress

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Eli Crane (R-AZ)  
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Paul Gosar, D.D.S. (R-AZ)  
Member of Congress

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Eric Burlison (R-MO)  
Member of Congress

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Kat Cammack (R-FL)  
Member of Congress

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Michael Guest (R-MS)  
Member of Congress



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Dan Crenshaw (R-TX)  
Member of Congress



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Michael Cloud (R-TX)  
Member of Congress



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Michael Burgess, M.D. (R-TX)  
Member of Congress



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Andy Ogles (R-TN)  
Member of Congress



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Dan Bishop (R-NC)  
Member of Congress



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Bob Good (R-VA)  
Member of Congress



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Beth Van Duyne (R-TX)  
Member of Congress



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Roger Williams (R-TX)  
Member of Congress



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Alexander X. Mooney (R-WV)  
Member of Congress



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Scott DesJarlais (R-TN)  
Member of Congress



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Barry Moore (R-AL)  
Member of Congress



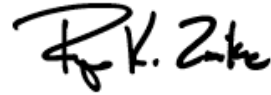
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Pete Sessions (R-TX)  
Member of Congress



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French Hill (R-AK)  
Member of Congress



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Ryan Zinke (R-MT)  
Member of Congress



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Rick W. Allen (R-GA)  
Member of Congress

CC:

Steve Ricchetti, Counselor to the President of the United States  
Shalanda Young, Director of the Office of Management & Budget  
Representative Garrett Graves (R-LA)