## Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

February 22, 2021

Joe Biden President of the United States The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Washington, DC 20500

## President Biden:

We are deeply concerned that your immigration policies are creating a pandemic-related health crisis at the southern border, facilitating the spread of COVID-19 among the American public, and encouraging other nations to act irresponsibly in the face of a global pandemic. Your actions demonstrate that you are abandoning your promise to be an administration for all Americans, and instead seek to serve only the radical left of our country.

The far left's insistence on undermining American sovereignty by erasing our nation's borders is dangerous under normal circumstances. Your administration's adoption of the far left's immigration agenda is creating a new humanitarian crisis at the border by attracting droves of men, women, and children. As the New York Times recently reported:

New families every day have been collecting in Mexican border towns, sleeping in the streets, under bridges and in dry ditches, according to lawyers and aid groups working along the border. On Thursday in Mexicali, across from Calexico, Calif., desperate migrants could be seen trying to scale a border fence. A migrant camp in Matamoros, Mexico, just across a bridge from Texas, has boomed to 1,000 people over the past few weeks.

It is hard to imagine that sleeping in a ditch would be healthy for a child under normal circumstances, much less during a pandemic. Do you believe that these families, attracted to the border by your policies, are adhering to the CDC's public health guidance concerning COVID-19 and social distancing?

Thousands of these individuals have already been released into our country, a byproduct of you reinstating the "catch and release" policies of the Obama era. At a time when our health care system is facing, as you've noted, its greatest challenge in 100 years, increasing the number of individuals at-risk of spreading COVID-19 is gravely irresponsible.

The ramifications of these policies extend to the international community as well. During this global pandemic, it is imperative that every nation does its fair share to ensure the global population reaches a safe level of overall immunity. While the United States has led the world in vaccine production, your administration's embrace of open-border policies and recent promise to "fully support equal access to the COVID-19 vaccines and vaccine distribution sites for undocumented immigrants" will serve to disincentivize other nations from responsibly supporting immunization in their own countries and further drive illegal immigration.

We demand your administration reconsider its policies in light of the immediate deleterious public health ramifications that have ensued. While we understand the political benefits such policies may have with the far left, we pray that the health and wellness of Americans, families at the border, and the global community will outweigh partisan politics.

Rep. Jim Banks (IN-03)

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Chairman, Republican Study Committee

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Member of Congress

Rep. Kat Cammack (FL-03) Member of Congress

Rep. Ben Cline (VA-06) Member of Congress

Rep. Scott DesJarlais, M.D. (TN-04) Member of Congress

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Rep. Barry Moore (AL-02) Member of Congress

Rep. Guy Reschenthaler (PA-14) Member of Congress John Joyce

Rep. Dr. John Joyce, M.D. (PA-13) Member of Congress

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Rep. Mary E. Miller (IL-15) Member of Congress

Rep. Ralph Norman (SC-05) Member of Congress

Rep. Michael Waltz (FL-06) Member of Congress