

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 14, 2021

The Honorable Alan Wilson
P.O. Box 11549
Columbia, SC 29211

Dear Attorney General Alan Wilson,

We write today to express our concern regarding the Biden Administration's recent changes to our nation's border security policies and the resultant effects on our home of South Carolina.

The historic surge currently experienced at the Southern Border is directly attributable to the misguided changes within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) that have discarded the progress gained under the Trump Administration. In particular, we are aghast at the decision to suspend the policies requiring migrants to wait in Mexico for their U.S. immigration hearings, to weaken our immigration enforcement mechanisms, and to prevent the heretofore successful construction of a border wall.

Disturbingly, media reports now suggest that the Biden Administration is directly involved with spreading the costs and safety risks associated with illegal immigration to communities around the country. An NBC News report¹ details how apprehended individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 are released into the U.S. relying on public transportation to spread to their favored destinations including our neighboring state, North Carolina. This practice flies in the face of the risks posed by COVID-19 to our communities and the many restrictions forced by the Biden Administration onto Americans citizens and legal residents of this country. Furthermore, this risk could be entirely avoided by fully implementing the Title 42 policy first invoked by the Trump Administration in order to ban entry due to the ongoing public health emergency.

Far from being confined to a crisis for the Customs and Border Protection agency, the whole of our federal government has been impacted and called upon. The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has asked all federal agencies to support efforts at the border by sending volunteers from agencies as remote from border security as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), and even the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).² Rather than build a steel barrier, the current Administration is betting on a wall of federal workers to stem the tide.

As a direct result of the policies of this Administration, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) now count more than 16,489 migrant children in their custody, as of April 7th.

¹ <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/after-border-patrol-release-asylum-seekers-test-positive-covid-browns-ville-n1259282>

² <https://news.bloomberglaw.com/daily-labor-report/federal-agencies-look-for-workers-for-humanitarian-relief-at-border>

These children are dispersed at facilities around the country, potentially including South Carolina.

As Attorney General, you regularly interface with the federal government and the Biden Administration which makes you well aware of the burdens imposed on our State. Therefore, I ask on behalf of my constituents about the extent of this burden, to the best of your knowledge:

- Has DHS, HHS, or any other federal government entity been involved in funding, planning, or otherwise facilitating the transportation of COVID-19 positive illegal immigrants or asylum seekers from the Southern Border to South Carolina?
- Has your office been provided with information from DHS, HHS, or any other federal government entity about the arrival of COVID-19 positive illegal immigrants or asylum seekers in South Carolina?
- Have any illegal aliens, regardless of COVID-19 infection, been relocated to South Carolina?
- Has the State of South Carolina in its official capacity, including any of its official employees, been requested by the Federal Government to assist on a formal or voluntary basis at the Southern Border?

Each case of illegal immigration is a tragedy for the families and individuals who respond to the perverse incentives established by the Biden Administration and each wave of illegal immigrants is a calamity for the stampeded local communities situated by the border. If we do not act swiftly, we risk not only losing all the gains made towards border security by the Trump Administration, but also the strides against COVID-19 made by the sacrifices of us all.

We firmly believe that illegal immigrants should not be dispersed within our state. We ask that you pursue every legal avenue at your disposal to counter the fallout from these misguided policies.

Sincerely,



Ralph Norman
Member of Congress



Nancy Mace
Member of Congress



Joe Wilson
Member of Congress



Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress

Tom Rice

Tom Rice
Member of Congress

William R Timmons TD

William Timmons
Member of Congress