

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

April 12, 2022

Dear Secretary Mayorkas,

We are writing to express our opposition to the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) decision to rescind the Department's *Designating Aliens for Expedited Removal*, or "expedited removal" policy.

Expedited removal, as you know, significantly hastened the deportation process for aliens unlawfully present in the United States by removing court oversight in many circumstances. This effective policy allowed DHS to remove noncitizens in days rather than in months or even years, saving taxpayer money, decreasing strain on our judicial system, reducing crowding levels in detention facilities, and promoting strong border policies. At the time President Trump implemented expedited removal, immigration courts already faced a backlog of over 900,000 cases, which will undoubtedly increase exponentially with the termination of the policy.<sup>1</sup>

In fiscal year (FY) 2021, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) had 1,734,686 total migrant encounters at America's Southwest Border.<sup>2</sup> That is the highest number of border encounters on record for any fiscal year. Additionally, roughly 10,000 migrants with criminal convictions were arrested as they attempted to illegally cross our Southern Border in FY21, compared to 2,438 in FY20.<sup>3</sup> CBP also seized over twice as much fentanyl in FY21 (over 10,000 pounds) than it did in the previous fiscal year, which was enough to kill the entire U.S. population over seven times.<sup>4</sup>

DHS claimed in its March 21, 2022, notice that expedited removal is best utilized when focusing on people who recently entered our country and who reside close to the border rather than targeting any illegal alien living in the United States. As our communities continue to face record border crossings, as crime rates continue to increase, and as fentanyl continues to kill Americans, we cannot fathom how your department is actively weakening proven and effective immigration practices that empower CBP to protect America. By withdrawing expedited removal, you are continuing the Biden Administration's soft stance on law and order and are encouraging citizens of other countries to illegally enter the United States.

We strongly recommend maintaining the expanded scope of expedited removal initiated by President Trump and adopting policies that deter illegal migrant crossings rather than promote them. If our offices can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Blake Thelander at [blake.thelander@mail.house.gov](mailto:blake.thelander@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-immigration-deportation/u-s-to-ramp-up-rapid-deportations-with-sweeping-new-rule-idUSKCN1UH275>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/southwest-land-border-encounters>

<sup>3</sup> <https://republicans-homeland.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Startling-Stats-10.0.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <https://nypost.com/2021/11/02/fentanyl-seizures-at-border-double-over-past-year-report/>



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Jefferson Van Drew  
Member of Congress



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Steve Scalise  
Member of Congress



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Elise M. Stefanik  
Member of Congress



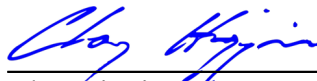
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John Katko  
Member of Congress  
Ranking Member, Committee  
on Homeland Security



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Michael T. McCaul  
Member of Congress



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Clay Higgins  
Member of Congress



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Michael Guest  
Member of Congress



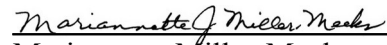
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Dan Bishop  
Member of Congress



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Ralph Norman  
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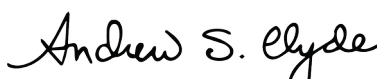
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Mariannette Miller-Meeks,  
M.D.  
Member of Congress



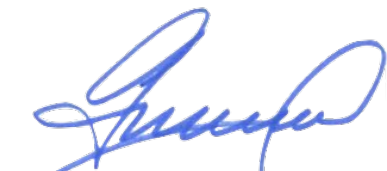
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Member of Congress



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Peter Meijer <sup>M.C.</sup>  
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Kat Cammack  
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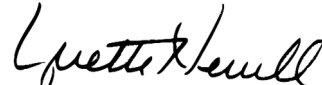
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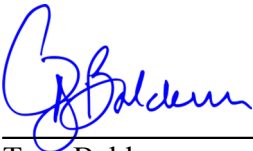
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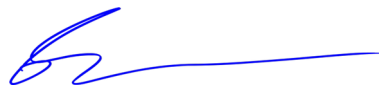
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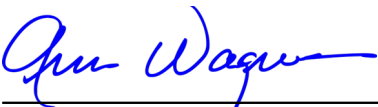
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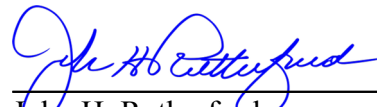
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Ann Wagner  
Member of Congress



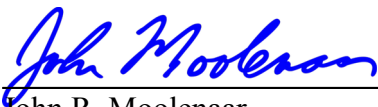
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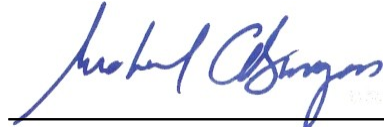
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Michael C. Burgess, M.D.  
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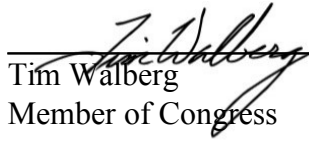
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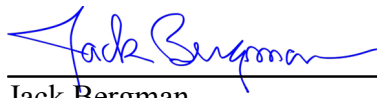
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