

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

April 26, 2022

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Mayorkas:

We write to you regarding your recent announcement describing new measures and procedures you plan to implement in the name of “equality,” including utilizing gender-neutral technology, using less invasive screening procedures for certain passengers, and promoting new gender marker options for passports.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has a vital mission: to secure America from the many threats we face. We are deeply concerned that your recent announcement will only distract from DHS’s main goal, which is to keep the Homeland safe.

Our nation is facing an unprecedented rise in illegal immigration, drug smuggling, criminal gang activity, and cybersecurity threats. Instead of focusing on these ongoing crises, you have directed the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to update its Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for Transportation Security Officers (TSOs) to permit less invasive screening procedures for transgender-identifying passengers who trigger the Advanced Imaging Technology (AIT) scanners. We are concerned that with goals to “advance civil rights” based on subjective gender identity and “promote equity and inclusion,” DHS may compromise security to achieve these objectives.¹

Furthermore, TSA is also working with air carriers across the nation to promote the use and acceptance of the “X” gender marker. TSA is also updating its TSA PreCheck program to include this gender option for all applicants, regardless of the gender specified on their birth certificate or other legal documents. The stated mission of TSA is to “protect the nation’s transportation to ensure freedom of movement for people and commerce.”² We worry that focusing on an ideologically driven mission that ignores biological sex will stand in opposition to TSA’s ability to protect our transportation system.

¹ <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2022/03/31/dhs-announces-new-measures-better-serve-transgender-non-binary-and-gender-non>

² <https://www.tsa.gov/about/tsa-mission#:~:text=Protect%20the%20nation's%20transportation%20systems,movement%20for%20people%20and%20commerce.>

Additionally, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has provided guidance to staff on using “gender-neutral language and an individual’s self-identified pronouns and name.”³ The stated mission of CBP is to “protect the America people, safeguard our borders, and enhance the nation’s economic prosperity.”⁴ While DHS focuses on trying to moderate pronouns and speech codes, border encounters with migrants continue to rise. During the 2021 fiscal year, illegal immigrants were caught crossing the border a record breaking 1.7 million times.⁵ DHS officials recently stated the agency is now anticipating as many as 18,000 encounters a day at the border.⁶ We implore you to secure the border before worrying about the “preferred pronouns” of illegal aliens. There is no national security if our border is wide open.

In conclusion, we are disappointed that you have decided to divert time and resources to promote an ideologically driven agenda regarding human sexuality rather than focus on addressing the pressing and timely issues that face our nation. Your failure to execute the primary mission of DHS and your refusal to enforce immigration laws, secure the border, and protect our nation is alarming. We urge you to return to the core mission of DHS and focus your efforts on securing our nation.

Sincerely,



Ralph Norman
Member of Congress



Jeffrey Van Drew
Member of Congress



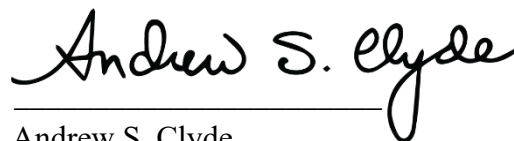
Jeff Duncan
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Eric A. "Rick" Crawford
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Andrew S. Clyde
Member of Congress

³ <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2022/03/31/dhs-announces-new-measures-better-serve-transgender-non-binary-and-gender-non>

⁴ <https://www.cbp.gov/about>

⁵ <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/03/29/us/politics/title-42-us-border-crossings.html>

⁶ <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/03/30/us/politics/immigration-cdc-biden.html>

Mary E Miller

Mary E. Miller
Member of Congress

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Byron Donalds
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Ronny L. Jackson, M.D.
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Rodney Davis

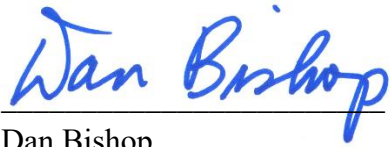
Rodney Davis
Member of Congress

Matt Gaetz

Matt Gaetz
Member of Congress

Bob Good

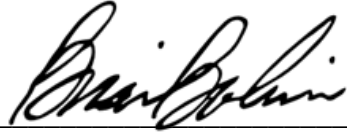
Bob Good
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Barry Loudermilk
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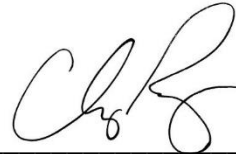
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