

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4305

May 4, 2023

President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

I remain concerned with your administration's egregious border policies that have neither protected the American people and migrant children nor enforced existing U.S. law. Under your tenure as president, our nation has witnessed a disastrous increase in illegal crossings at the southwest border, with more than 6 million encounters since the day you took office. Instead of providing effective solutions, you refuse to even acknowledge the full extent of this crisis while favoring political agendas and capitulating to the radical left.

Democratic leadership has been continuously spreading misinformation and failing to provide transparency or accountability into the reality of an open border agenda. Earlier this week, White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre falsely claimed illegal migrant encounters are down 90%. Yet, 162,317 migrants were encountered at the border in March alone - 32,000 more than in February. The American people do not believe the White House's lies when surging crime at the border continues to destroy our communities and harm innocent families.

Recently, Francisco Oropesa, a Mexican national with multiple illegal re-entries and a criminal record, shot five of his neighbors "execution style" in Cleveland, Texas. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) last encountered Oropesa in 2016, who was additionally deported in March 2009, September 2009, January 2012 (including a conviction in Texas within the same year), and July 2016. Instead of acknowledging the role lax border enforcement played in this avoidable tragedy, you have remained silent.

To put into perspective the reality of our country's failing immigration policies, over the weekend, Border Patrol apprehended over 22,000 migrants, seized over 1,000 pounds of illegal drugs, three firearms, two sex offenders, one convicted murderer, and one gang member. These numbers do not even include migrants who escaped detection. This is especially concerning as the lifting of Title 42 rapidly approaches, with more than 40,000 migrants already massed in Mexico and waiting to cross the border without fear of being turned away. Meanwhile, no real

solution or plan to deal with yet another migrant surge has been announced by your administration.

Lives have been lost, and communities have been destroyed due to careless open border policies. Drug and human trafficking have endangered the American people in all corners of the country. The border crisis should surpass partisan politics, but this cannot happen if Democratic leadership refuses to work with Republicans on this issue. I hope you will open your eyes to this ongoing crisis and take decisive action to secure our borders and safeguard the American people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lance Gooden". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lance Gooden
Member of Congress

CC: Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas