

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 10, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Madam Speaker:

We urge you to bring to the floor an emergency supplemental funding bill for border security as soon as possible. We have heard clearly—from humanitarian organizations, border communities, and law enforcement—that additional resources are the only way to secure our Southern border, and to give refugees access to a safe, orderly, and lawful asylum process. With Title 42 expulsions set to end as early as May 23, Congress must act.

Even before the administration’s decision to end expulsions under Title 42, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) resources at the Southern border were overstretched. For example, Border Patrol today has roughly the same number of agents as it did in 2011 when the agency made 340,252 apprehensions nationwide. By comparison, in 2021 Border Patrol made 1,659,206 apprehensions at the U.S.-Mexico border alone. Immigration courts are similarly understaffed. Despite additional hiring, the length of the average immigration case grew from fourteen months in 2009 to nearly five years at the end of 2021. We can expect the need for additional agents and staff to process cases will only increase after the end of Title 42.

In addition to the need for resources for DHS, there is also a need for more resources for communities and humanitarian organizations along the border. The increase in migration over the past decade has made incredible demands on border communities and humanitarian organizations. NGOs and local governments provide food, shelter, medical care, and onward transportation to migrants after the U.S. lawfully admits them. These individuals are often traumatized and vulnerable, requiring considerable resources and operational expertise to help migrants make a positive start. The costs of caring for migrants, as well as the costs of additional law enforcement and emergency services, can become a burden for border communities, especially without the necessary NGO infrastructure in place. While humanitarian organizations do remarkable and professional work along our Southern border, they need more state and federal assistance.

President Biden’s Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2023 would increase the number of Border Patrol agents and replenish funding for non-profit organizations working on the Southern border, but with the end of Title 42 imminent, we cannot wait for an appropriations bill to move through regular order. In strategy documents and congressional testimony about the end of Title 42, the

administration has emphasized ways it can surge resources to address an influx of migrants, including additional law enforcement officers, additional grants to humanitarian organizations, and an expanded role for asylum officers. Left unsaid is that this surge capacity will require additional funding from Congress for agencies that are already operating at the margins.

To avoid a crisis at the border, Congress must provide DHS and humanitarian organizations with the resources they need as soon as possible and before the end of Title 42. We support an emergency funding bill that will allow DHS to hire additional agents, increase the number of beds at its facilities, and give more support to humanitarian organizations working with migrants in need. We believe that the need for this legislation is clear and ask you to bring a bill to the floor for a vote before the end of Title 42.

Thank you for your continued leadership on this important issue and your prompt action to secure our Southern border.

Sincerely,



KATIE PORTER
Member of Congress



GREG STANTON
Member of Congress



SUSAN WILD
Member of Congress



SCOTT PETERS
Member of Congress



TOM MALINOWSKI
Member of Congress