

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 10, 2023

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write with strong concerns that the federal government is still insufficiently prepared for the reality that Title 42 is coming to an end. While we must absolutely work to pass comprehensive immigration reform, we are concerned about a lack of resources to secure our border as soon as Title 42 authority ends on Thursday, May 11. As we transition into a post-Title 42 reality, your Administration must take immediate steps to increase direct support for border personnel, both to safeguard our border and to ensure orderly, efficient, and humane asylee processing moving forward.

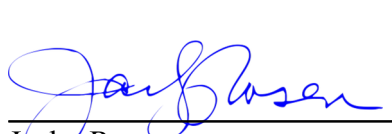
U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) personnel at the U.S.-Mexico border need significantly more resources to help process individuals and families so that they can focus on their duties and secure the border. These frontline officials are being stretched thin, hampering their abilities to protect the homeland and to efficiently and humanely move people through the asylum process. That is why it is so critical that we surge resources that increase capacity both at and between ports of entry, such as by bringing in National Guard or contracted personnel to prevent a potential humanitarian catastrophe that both threatens border security and places migrant children and families at risk. We also need even greater coordination with state and local governments and with the NGOs that have capacity to provide support to vulnerable migrants.

Additionally, we must make greater investments in border technology and communications, which will enhance the capacity of CBP officers to secure the border. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) personnel require significantly more support as soon as possible in order to bring down processing times and allow CBP personnel to focus on security, which is what they are trained to do. We need to accelerate the opening of regional processing centers and ensure they are fully equipped to support migrants. We must also ensure that any software used to schedule appointments at the border, like the CBP One app, is reliable and helps to create a more orderly process for seeking asylum in the U.S.

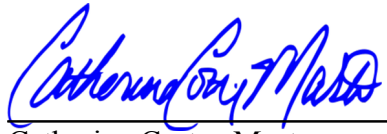
Of course, these immediate needs do not in any way replace the critical need for Congress to pass comprehensive immigration reform that secures the border, reforms our broken immigration system, and provides a path to citizenship for Dreamers and TPS recipients. We remain absolutely committed to achieving these goals, and it's time for both parties to sit down and get something done. However, the current situation is too urgent and too dire for the Administration to wait. Only through an immediate increase in resources for our border agents and other personnel will we have the capacity for an orderly and humane asylum process that treats people with dignity, while maintaining security as Title 42 authority ends.

Thank you for your attention to this critically important matter.


Sincerely,



Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



Susie Lee
Member of Congress