September 20, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

As chief executives of our states, we request a meeting with you at The White House to bring an end to the national security crisis created by eight months of unenforced borders. The months-long surge in illegal crossings has instigated an international humanitarian crisis, spurred a spike in international criminal activity, and opened the floodgates to human traffickers and drug smugglers endangering public health and safety in our states. A crisis that began at our southern border now extends beyond to every state and requires immediate action before the situation worsens.

The negative impacts of an unenforced border policy on the American people can no longer be ignored. Border apprehensions are up almost 500% compared to last year, totaling more than 1.3 million—more people than the populations of nine U.S. states. Approximately 9,700 illegal apprehensions have prior criminal convictions. Cartels and traffickers are making $14 million a day moving people illegally across the border. More fentanyl has been seized this fiscal year than the last three years combined—almost 10,500 pounds of fentanyl when only 2 milligrams prove fatal. This is enough to kill seven times the U.S. population.

Despite the lack of federal action to reverse the crisis, many states have stepped up and committed unprecedented resources to support the security of our national border. We have heard directly from our constituents about the damage this crisis has caused in our states, and it is our duty as elected officials to act swiftly to protect our communities, as it is yours.

While governors are doing what we can, our Constitution requires that the President must faithfully execute the immigration laws passed by Congress. Not only has the federal government created a crisis, it has left our states to deal with challenges that only the federal government has a duty to solve. Our immigration system may be complicated and complex, but the solution to ending the border crisis is simple and straightforward. As President, you have the ability to take action to protect America, restore security, and end the crisis now.
Therefore, we come directly to you seeking an open and constructive dialogue regarding border enforcement on behalf of U.S. citizens in our states and all those hoping to become U.S. citizens. We must end the current crisis and return to border operations that respect the laws of our land and the lives of all people, including those in our states looking to the federal government to enforce and protect our nation’s borders.

Due to the emergent crisis, we respectfully request a meeting as soon as your schedule allows within 15 days. While we know your responsibilities as Commander in Chief are substantial, ending the national crisis and securing our states must be a priority.

Sincerely,

Governor Doug Ducey
State of Arizona

Governor Greg Abbott
State of Texas

Governor Kay Ivey
State of Alabama

Governor Mike Dunleavy
State of Alaska

Governor Asa Hutchinson
State of Arkansas

Governor Ron DeSantis
State of Florida

Governor Brian Kemp
State of Georgia

Governor Brad Little
State of Idaho

Governor Eric Holcomb
State of Indiana

Governor Kim Reynolds
State of Iowa

Governor Larry Hogan
State of Maryland

Governor Charlie Baker
State of Massachusetts

Governor Tate Reeves
State of Mississippi

Governor Mike Parson
State of Missouri

Governor Greg Gianforte
State of Montana

Governor Pete Ricketts
State of Nebraska

Governor Chris Sununu
State of New Hampshire

Governor Doug Burgum
State of North Dakota
Governor Mike DeWine  
State of Ohio

Governor Kristi Noem  
State of South Dakota

Governor Jim Justice  
State of West Virginia

Governor Kevin Stitt  
State of Oklahoma

Governor Bill Lee  
State of Tennessee

Governor Mark Gordon  
State of Wyoming

Governor Henry McMaster  
State of South Carolina

Governor Spencer Cox  
State of Utah