

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0309

December 16, 2022

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Vice Chairman  
Senate Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Chris Murphy  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Homeland Security

The Honorable Shelly Moore Capito  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Homeland Security

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Chairman Leahy, Vice Chairman Shelby, Chairman Murphy, and Ranking Member Capito:

The court-mandated termination of Title 42 authority, upon which the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has relied to manage the border and expel migrants, is eminent. Even with this authority in place over the past two years, we have seen a prolonged crisis at the Southwest border. Once the Title 42 authority ends, on December 21, DHS expects a significant increase in migrant encounters and border communities will be forced to manage this crisis. Congress is in a position now to make the investments necessary to support local border communities.

As you consider the Fiscal Year 2023 (FY 2023) Appropriations bill, we urge you to include robust funding to improve border security at the Southwest border, and to ensure a secure, orderly, and humane process to protect Arizona's border communities during this crisis. As Senators from a border state, we hear frequently from our constituents about the need for border security and for federal funds that allow communities to receive people seeking protection in an orderly and humane manner.

Securing the border also requires robust investment in community services that assist DHS and Health and Human Services in providing humanitarian services, case management, emergency services, and other critical needs. If Congress fails to provide these necessary funds, we can only expect the border crisis to significantly worsen. This is an unacceptable result and will increase the burden on local border communities. We urge you to direct significant federal funds to secure the border and prepare for the inevitable migrant influx that will result from the termination of Title 42 authority.

The current crisis on the border is untenable. Congress must act now to deliver these essential resources to support local non-governmental organizations and bolster our federal employees, infrastructure, and equipment.

We are committed to working with you to ensure Congress does its part to get this border crisis under control. Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Kelly". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mark" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Kelly".

Mark Kelly  
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kyrsten Sinema". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kyrsten" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Sinema".

Kyrsten Sinema  
United States Senator