



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

January 31, 2023

Chairman James Comer
Comm. on Oversight & Accountability
U.S. House of Representatives
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Chairman Jim Jordan
Comm. on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
2142 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairmen Comer and Jordan:

Over the past two years, the Biden Administration has systematically undermined border security on a scale never before seen in our nation's history. The resulting influx at our southern border—over 5.5 million border crossings since President Biden implemented his policies on inauguration day—has not only had a devastating impact in Texas, but it has imposed intolerable costs and chaos on communities across the country. As the House Committee on Oversight & Accountability and the House Committee on the Judiciary begin their border and immigration-related hearings this week and next, you will undoubtedly uncover new information on the decision-making behind this deliberate destruction. I am hopeful that beyond unearthing and publicizing the lengths to which Biden and his officials have gone to cause an unmanageable flood of illegal immigration, these hearings will move us closer to holding this Administration accountable for failing the American public.

On his first day in office, Joe Biden demonstrated his commitment to encouraging illegal immigration by halting further construction of the crucial border wall and freezing deportations. His Administration has attempted to repeal vital national security and public health measures such as Title 42 and the Migrant Protection Protocols, also known as the Remain-in-Mexico Program. And he has personally smeared and demoralized the border patrol agents who put their lives on the line every day to protect this country.

President Biden's dereliction of his duty to protect our borders and defend our nation is scandalous, and the results have been catastrophic. Border crossings are at an all-time high, as are drug overdose deaths—a troubling trend that is lowering life expectancy in our country. This is exacerbated by Central American drug cartels trafficking lethal, Chinese fentanyl across our southern border. Meanwhile, Biden's and Mayorkas's contempt for border patrol agents has plummeted morale, retention, and recruiting to an all-time low.

President Biden's policies have enriched his political allies too: an Administration-backed industry of so-called non-profits, non-governmental organizations, and contractors are flush with

public cash that they use to aid and abet an open-borders agenda. Their business model depends on maximizing the number of other countries' people that cross our border—something my Agency is currently investigating. On behalf of the American people, your Committees should explore how much taxpayer money is funneled to entities that are bent on worsening our illegal immigration crisis. The Oversight and Judiciary Committees should also seek answers regarding appalling revelations that cartels are trafficking children and conscripting them into forced labor and gang activities—despite the fact that these illegal alien minors who are pulled into these depraved circumstances were entrusted to the protection of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Refugee Resettlement.

Although President Biden's efforts to erode the rule of law have had much of their intended effect, they have not gone unchallenged. Just weeks ago, I launched my 15th border-related lawsuit against this Administration to stop their unlawful immigration policies. My office has been on the front line in the fight to protect American sovereignty and American communities from the ravages of illegal immigration. Texas—and my office in particular—has served in many ways as the last safeguard against the lawlessness of Joe Biden, Kamala Harris, Alejandro Mayorkas, Xavier Becerra, and others. In multiple legal battles, we have successfully slowed or altogether halted the implementation of open-borders policies promoted by the current Administration.

However, our national security and the safety of all American citizens will remain at risk until our border is fully secured. As Texas's chief law enforcement officer, I speak regularly with the men and women who are deeply impacted by this crisis. I hear their stories, and I see the true toll that the federal government's lack of action and support is having on our communities. It is incomprehensibly worse than any of President Biden's lieutenants know or can even fathom.

We must do more to end this chaos. It is vital that those who are closest to this urgent situation help inform leaders in Washington of the true magnitude of this crisis. I am encouraged to see that your Committees will investigate this matter. I'd like to take this opportunity also to express my willingness to help aid your investigation in any way. I am fully prepared to do everything within my power and provide testimony or information that could assist in the crucial work that is being done by the Oversight and Judiciary Committees.

I look forward to our working together to hold accountable those who have destroyed our border and wreaked havoc on our communities. I remain steadfast in my commitment to doing everything possible to bolster the rule of law and protect this great nation. Please let me know how I can be of assistance to your worthy efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Paxton". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Ken Paxton
Texas Attorney General