



ISABEL SALCIDO
CITY REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 5

December 29, 2022

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

Dear President Biden:

I am writing to you to respectfully insist that you visit the border in El Paso, Texas. Our beautiful City is under a humanitarian crisis that needs the help and leadership of the White House and the U.S. Congress. In a solid red State, you won El Paso County with nearly 67% of the vote, and I'm proud to say, one of those votes was mine.

It is my understanding, that you will be meeting with Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on January 9 and 10 in Mexico City. It would be an honor to have you visit my hometown of El Paso, Texas before or after this trip. We are the largest city on the Southern Border, and the current epicenter of the humanitarian migrant crisis.

Visiting El Paso will allow you to witness firsthand the failure of this Congress [and previous ones] to come together and pass a long overdue Comprehensive Immigration Reform. It is my sincere hope that the new Congress put their political differences aside and come together on this paramount issue. Pushing for legislation similar to McCain-Kennedy would finally solve this never-ending catastrophe. At the least, we need a bill that appropriately addresses border security, updates our antiquated Visa program, and legalizes the non-criminal undocumented population already living in and contributing to our communities.

We must stop putting band-aids on bullet wounds, which is how we have dealt with immigration for the last thirty-six years. For months, I have been calling on Mayor Leeser to declare an Emergency Disaster Declaration. I am thankful the Mayor finally declared one on December 17. Again, this is just a band-aid. Governor Abbott's Operation Lonestar is just a band-aid. Title 42 is just a band-aid. And the most recent Supreme Court ruling on Title 42 is also just a band-aid.

Congress and the White House must address this before we see another August 3 shooting. In that tragedy, an admitted racist came to my hometown with the intent of shooting "Mexicans and Immigrants", and he succeeded. Just this week, a Department of Homeland Security memo warned of "potential domestic violent extremist acts" if Title 42 was lifted. The August 3 shooting proves these bigots and racists don't just issue empty threats, so we must act now.

I've spoken to asylum seekers and migrants waiting in Juarez, Mexico and I can assure you, most of them are not returning to their home countries. They traveled thousands of miles to flee socialism, oppression, famine, and guaranteed death sentences. Most made the dangerous trek and fought off cartels and traffickers, dangerous weather and terrain, to seek a better life in the United States of America. They would rather risk their lives in Mexico and the streets of El Paso, than return home, so this crisis is not going away.

Thank you for your strong consideration. I promise to do all I can to help you in your quest to finally pass a meaningful Comprehensive Immigration Reform.

Sincerely,

El Paso City Representative, District 5