May 21, 2019

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

We the undersigned represent local governments and municipalities across the southern border region of the United States. We write today to urge bipartisan support for funding and resources to help our communities address the ongoing humanitarian crisis at the border.

The migration of asylum seekers has significantly increased in recent months. In recent testimony before the Border Security and Immigration Subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Border Patrol Chief Carla L. Provost, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), stated that as of April 30, CBP had apprehended 460,295 people on the southern border, with family units and unaccompanied minors accounting for 64 percent of apprehensions. In April alone, CBP detained over 100,000 migrants along the southern border.

Many of these migrants request asylum in the U.S. Once processed by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials, they are released until their formal asylum hearing, which can take weeks, or even months. In the meantime, these individuals and families are transported to communities across the southern region of the United States, primarily California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas.

In the past six months, ICE has released over 168,000 migrants traveling as families in our border communities. Until they can connect with family or sponsors to arrange for travel, it is up community nonprofits, faith-based organizations and local governments to provide shelter, transportation, food, and other services to these migrant families. Our local taxpayer funds are being expended to address the situation and our nonprofit and faith-based organizations are at or exceeding capacity.

For these reasons, we request that, as you consider allocating additional federal dollars and resources to address the humanitarian crisis at the border, you ensure that a portion of these funds are directed to those at the local level who are expending resources to deal with the ramifications of federal policy.
Sincerely,

Mayor Jerry Weiers  
Glendale, AZ

Mayor John Giles  
Mesa, AZ

Mayor Kate Gallego  
Phoenix, AZ

Mayor Greg Mengarelli  
Prescott, AZ

Mayor Mark W. Mitchell  
Tempe, AZ

Mayor Jonathan Rothschild  
Tucson, AZ

Mayor Douglas J. Nicholls  
Yuma, AZ

Mayor Jesse Arreguin  
Berkeley, CA

Mayor Robert Garcia  
Long Beach, CA

Mayor Eric Garcetti  
Los Angeles, CA

Mayor Kevin Faulconer  
San Diego, CA

Mayor Patrick J. Furey  
Torrance, CA

Mayor Christopher L. Cabaldon  
West Sacramento, CA

Mayor Michael Hancock  
Denver, CO

Mayor Tim Keller  
Albuquerque, NM

Mayor Kenneth D. Miyagishima  
Las Cruces, NM

Mayor Alan Webber  
Santa Fe, NM

Mayor Steve Adler  
Austin, TX

Mayor Antonio ‘Tony’ Martinez  
Brownsville, TX

Mayor Mike Rawlings  
Dallas, TX

Mayor Dee Margo  
El Paso, TX

Mayor James E. Darling  
McAllen, TX