



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0504

<http://feinstein.senate.gov>

June 12, 2019

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Vice Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Shelby and Vice Chairman Leahy,

I write to request that you include \$30 million in the border supplemental appropriations bill to assist local governments and social service organizations that are providing a wide range of services for migrants who are being released into border communities by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP).

In October, ICE ended its "Safe Release" policy, which ensured asylum-seeking families had a plan to reach relatives in the United States prior to their release from custody. Since October, vulnerable families have instead been dropped off into border communities without direction or assistance, leaving local governments, community groups, and nonprofits to provide temporary shelter and care.

As described in the attached letter from the U.S. Conference of Mayors, over the last six months, these organizations and local municipalities have taken extraordinary measures to care for over 168,000 migrant children and families, many of whom must wait weeks or months for their formal asylum hearings.

Since the federal government is leaving migrant children and families in local communities, it is only fair that federal resources be provided to ease the financial burden on border communities so they can continue this critical work. Therefore, I respectfully ask that that you include \$30 million in the border supplemental appropriations to help local governments and organizations continue providing critical aid to migrant children and families.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dianne Feinstein".

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

1620 EYE STREET NORTHWEST
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
TELEPHONE (202) 293-7330
FAX (202) 293-2352
URL: www.usmayors.org

President:
STEPHEN K. BENJAMIN
Mayor of Columbia, SC

Vice President:
BRYAN K. BARNETT
Mayor of Rochester Hills

Second Vice President:
GREG FISCHER
Mayor of Louisville

Past President:
ELIZABETH B. KAUTZ
Mayor of Burnsville

Trustees:
STEVE ADLER
Mayor of Austin
SHANE T. BEMIS
Mayor of Gresham
J. CHRISTIAN BOLLWAGE
Mayor of Elizabeth
JAMES BRAINARD
Mayor of Carmel
FRANK COWNIE
Mayor of Des Moines
BILL de BLASIO
Mayor of New York
JORGÉ O. ELORZA
Mayor of Providence
JOHN GILES
Mayor of Mesa
MIKE RAWLINGS
Mayor of Dallas
JAMES J. SCHMITT
Mayor of Green Bay
MARTIN J. WALSH
Mayor of Boston
NAN WILALEY
Mayor of Dayton

Advisory Board:
JUAN CARLOS BERMUDEZ
Mayor of Doral
MURIEL BOWSER
Mayor of the District of Columbia
SHARON WESTON BROOME
Mayor of Baton Rouge
ROY BUOL
Mayor of Dubuque
PETE BUTTIGIEG
Mayor of South Bend
CHRISTOPHER L. CABALDON
Mayor of West Sacramento
PAULINE RUSSO CUTLER
Mayor of San Leandro
HARDIE DAVIS, JR.
Mayor of Augusta
BUDDY DYER
Mayor of Orlando
KAREN FREEMAN-WILSON
Mayor of Gary
JOSEPH P. GANIM
Mayor of Bridgeport
OLIVER G. GILBERT, III
Mayor of Miami Gardens
CAROLYN G. GOODMAN
Mayor of Las Vegas
SYLVESTER "SLY" JAMES, JR.
Mayor of Kansas City, MO
HARRY LAROSILLIERE
Mayor of Plano
JOSEPH T. McELVEEN, JR.
Mayor of Sumter
JON MITCHELL
Mayor of New Bedford
MARK W. MITCHELL
Mayor of Tempe
KENNETH D. MIYAGISHIMA
Mayor of Las Cruces
FRANK C. ORTIS
Mayor of Pembroke Pines
MICHEL A. PULIDO
Mayor of Santa Ana
MADELINE ROGERO
Mayor of Knoxville
HILLARY SCHIEVE
Mayor of Reno
PAUL SOGLIN
Mayor of Madison, WI
FRANCIS X. SUAREZ
Mayor of Miami
SYLVESTER TURNER
Mayor of Houston
BRIAN C. WAHLER
Mayor of Piquette
ACQUANETTA WARREN
Mayor of Fontana

CEO and Executive Director
TOM COCHRAN

May 21, 2019

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate

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.

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate

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