



New Mexico State Senate

STATE CAPITOL

Santa Fe 87501

April 9, 2024

The Honorable Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor of New Mexico
490 Old Santa Fe Trail, Suite 400
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Governor Lujan Grisham:

We, the undersigned State Senators, are writing to express our concerns with the escalating crisis at New Mexico's southern border and to urge your prompt action during any Special Session of the Legislature.

Several of us have visited the border and witnessed firsthand the impacts of this crisis on our local communities and state. The unchecked flow of illegal immigration is compromising our national security and exposing our constituents to heightened criminal activity, including human trafficking, drug trafficking, violent crime, and damage to private property. This has caused considerable strains on local resources and frankly, the situation is becoming altogether unmanageable.

According to U.S. Customs and Border Protection ("CBP") data, New Mexico has experienced a spike in illegal encounters every year since President Joe Biden took office. In FY23, illegal encounters surged to 170,846—up from 125,628 in FY21. As a result, New Mexico has been deemed by national media as the "new hotspot" for illegal crossings, and we suspect the FY24 numbers will drastically eclipse these figures without action by the state. Given the recent crackdown by Texas on illegal crossings, the cartels are now seeking alternative routes, and New Mexico is on their radar. Based on conversations with local sheriffs, fentanyl seizures are already spiking exponentially and a local middle school in Santa Teresa was twice put on lockdown when migrants were found hiding on the campus while attempting to evade CBP.

We recently expressed these concerns in a letter to U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas and implored him to take all necessary steps to secure our southern border. Today, we are asking you, as the state's Executive, to do the same.

We support your publicly stated efforts to address "public safety" and we urge you to include public safety along our southern border in any call for a Special Session of the Legislature. It is clear that law enforcement and the justice system need our support to deter illegal activity by drug smugglers and human traffickers. And for these reasons, we propose your support for legislation that (1) bans sanctuary cities in New Mexico, and (2) makes drug dealers who supply individuals with fentanyl or fentanyl-related substances eligible for a murder charge if consumption of the drug results in death.

We also ask that you commit state resources and funding to improve border security and surveillance in southern New Mexico. There are dilapidated and compromised areas of the border fence in need of repair and/or improvement, and we need greater communications infrastructure for cellular and radio capabilities.

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Finally, we urge you to deploy the New Mexico National Guard to the border to assist CBP. The governors of several non-border states, including Arkansas, Florida, Oklahoma, Missouri, Nebraska, Virginia, and West Virginia, have deployed their National Guard members to help with this vital effort. It is time for New Mexico to contribute and demonstrate our own personal commitment to the safety and security of our state and its citizens.


Our constituents are demanding action, and appropriately so. The time for the federal government to address this intensifying crisis has long passed, and it is up to you, Governor, to now act in the best interest of our state and those you swore to serve. Delay is no longer an option or an excuse. New Mexico must address the Biden border crisis and we are committed and ready to work with you to that end.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,



CRYSTAL BRANTLEY
State Senator


GREGORY A. BACA
State Senator
Senate Republican Leader


MARK MOORES
State Senator
Senate Republican Caucus Chair

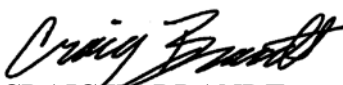

DAVID M. GALLEGOS
State Senator

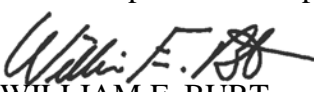

STEVEN P. NEVILLE
State Senator


JOSHUA SANCHEZ
State Senator

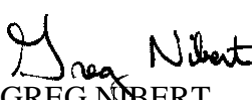

PAT WOODS
State Senator



STEVEN McCUTCHEON II
State Senator


CRAIG W. BRANDT
State Senator
Senate Republican Whip


WILLIAM F. BURT
State Senator


RON GRIGGS
State Senator


GREG NIBERT
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WILLIAM E. SHARER
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