

United States Senate

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May 9, 2019

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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 Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, Chairman Shelby, and Vice Chairman Leahy:

I am writing to express strong support for the president's emergency appropriation request to address the humanitarian crisis at the Southern border. I respectfully ask that you make fulfilling the request a legislative priority and suggest that the emergency appropriations be considered as part of or alongside the supplemental appropriations bill currently being contemplated.

Communities on the border are facing a humanitarian and public safety crisis caused by an increase in people, mainly unaccompanied minor children and migrant family units, seeking to enter the country without authorization. This fiscal year, the Border Patrol has already apprehended more than 460,000 people crossing the Southern border without authorization. Of the approximately 93,000 people apprehended by the Border Patrol on the Southwest border in April 2019, more than half -- around 58,000 people -- were part of migrant family units and around 9,000 were unaccompanied minors. By comparison, in April 2018, only around 38,000 people without authorization were apprehended on the Southern border, 9,000 of whom were part of migrant family units and 4,000 of whom were unaccompanied minors.

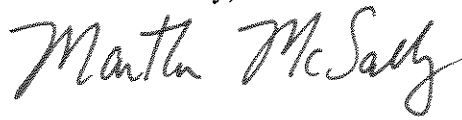
This influx of family units and unaccompanied minors, many of whom require medical attention after an arduous and dangerous journey from Central America has put a significant strain on Department of Homeland Security and Department of Health and Human Services resources. Customs and Border Protection ("CBP") officers and agents take more than 60 migrants to hospitals every day and has dedicated over 100,000 hours of officer and agent time to transporting migrants to and watching them at hospitals. This pressure on CBP resources has

forced the agency to move officers from ports of entry, impeding legitimate cross-border trade and hurting economic growth.

Additionally, the sheer numbers of migrants being released after processing by CBP components has also overwhelmed state and local government and non-governmental organizations that help feed, shelter, and care for migrants. Indeed, the large number of migrants being released forced the city of Yuma, Arizona, to declare a state of emergency two weeks ago. Significantly more federal resources are needed, and fulfilling the president's request for emergency appropriations would go a long way in providing these resources.

I thank you very much for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Martha McSally". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Martha" and last name "McSally" clearly distinguishable.

Martha McSally
U.S. Senator