

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 28, 2024

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

Dear President Biden,

Every parent, and every American is extremely shocked and heartbroken to learn of the murder of Laken Hope Riley, a 22-year-old nursing student from Woodstock, brutally murdered by illegal immigrant and Venezuelan national Jose Antonio Ibarra while jogging on the University of Georgia campus on February 22, 2024. Our prayers are with Laken's family and friends as they begin to navigate this tremendously difficult time.

Your inaction to resolve the unprecedented humanitarian and national security crises at the U.S. Southern border has directly led to her tragic death. Your disastrous border policies have turned every community into a border community and destroyed countless American families like Laken's.

Mr. Ibarra entered the United States illegally in 2022 and was released due to an intentional lack of detention space. He was previously charged in New York City with "acting in a manner to injure a child less than 17" but your administration failed to detain him before he murdered Laken. Today, Mr. Ibarra is charged with multiple counts, including a count of malice murder.

Additionally, Diego Ibarra, Jose Ibarra's 29-year-old brother, reportedly entered the country twice, violently assaulting a border patrol agent during one of those instances. After being placed on expedited removal, Diego Ibarra was reportedly released on parole. He was arrested three times in Georgia with no ICE detainer being applied.

Your efforts in reversing effective policies deterring illegal migration on day one of your presidency have had devastating consequences:

- At least 617,607 aliens on Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) non-detained docket who have criminal convictions or pending criminal charges – free to reoffend and victimize more American communities.<sup>1</sup> At the same time, in fiscal year 2023, the Biden Administration removed nearly 60 percent fewer criminal aliens with criminal convictions and criminal charges than in fiscal year 2019.<sup>2</sup>
- More than nine million illegal immigrants have entered the United States since January 2021. Of those, at least three million have had no confirmed departure from the United States.<sup>3</sup>
- As of December 21, 2023, there were 1.3 million illegal aliens with final orders of removal who remained in the United States.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> HJC Getbacks Document provided to H. Comm. on the Judiciary staff (Jan. 2, 2024) (on file with Comm.)

<sup>2</sup> See U.S. Immigr. and Customs Enf't, ICE Annual Report, Fiscal Year 2023, U.S. DEP'T OF HOMELAND SEC. at 27 (Dec. 29, 2023), <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/eoy/iceAnnualReportFY2023.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Standard Lifecycle Table (Jan. 20, 2021, through Sept. 30, 2023) provided to H. Comm. on the Judiciary staff (Jan. 2, 2024) (on file with Comm.).

<sup>4</sup> See HJC Getbacks Document provided to H. Comm. on the Judiciary staff (Jan. 2, 2024) (on file with Comm.).

- The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) admitted in December 2023 that “an average of 5,000 illegal aliens are currently being released into the U.S. each day at the border.”<sup>5</sup> DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas admitted the administration has released “more than a million” migrants into the United States each year.<sup>6</sup>

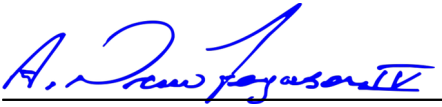
You should not wait until your State of the Union address on March 7, 2024, to announce changes to immigration policy. The proliferation of deadly fentanyl, the increased threat of human trafficking by drug cartels, and the impacts illegal immigration has had on our nation’s cities – all must be immediately addressed. You should immediately revoke your harmful executive orders, issue new executive orders that regain full operational control of the U.S. southern border, enforce existing Title 8 authorities, and use the \$500+ million in FY20 and FY21 unobligated funds congressionally authorized for a border wall that your administration leaves languishing in accounts. You should empower ICE to remove the aliens who have criminal convictions or pending criminal charges, including those who fail to appear for their court date. You should issue a Statement of Administration Policy in support of H.R. 2, urge the Senate take up its consideration, and quickly sign and enact it.

We urge you to respond to Governor Kemp’s February 24, 2024, letter to you requesting more information on Mr. Ibarra. When you fail to secure operational control of our nation’s border, you should be fully transparent and accountable with both our nation’s governors and the American people.

Mr. President, we must ensure justice for Laken, and that starts by securing the border. We will not waver in our effort to resist your administration’s failing policies that weaken our nation’s immigration law and national security.

Sincerely,

  
Barry Loudermilk  
Member of Congress

  
A. Drew Ferguson IV  
Member of Congress

<sup>5</sup> Adam Shaw & Bill Melugin, 5,000 illegal immigrants released every day into US, admin officials privately tell lawmakers, FOX NEWS (Dec. 9, 2023, 3:08 PM), <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/5000-illegal-immigrantsreleased-every-day-us-admin-officials-privately-tell-lawmakers>.

<sup>6</sup> Adam Shaw, Bill Melugin, & Griff Jenkins, Mayorkas tells Border Patrol agents that ‘above 85%’ of illegal immigrants released into US: sources, FOX NEWS (Jan. 8, 2024, 4:53 PM), <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/mayorkas-tells-border-patrol-agents-illegal-immigrants-released-into-us-sources>.



---

Earl L. "Buddy" Carter  
Member of Congress



---

Rich McCormick, MD, MBA  
Member of Congress



---

Austin Scott  
Member of Congress



---

Andrew S. Clyde  
Member of Congress



---

Mike Collins  
Member of Congress



---

Rick W. Allen  
Member of Congress



---

Marjorie Taylor Greene  
Member of Congress