



# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

June 25, 2021

Governor R. Michael DeWine  
77 South High Street  
30<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Governor DeWine,

We write regarding the current crisis at our nation's Southern border and Texas Governor Greg Abbott and Arizona Governor Doug Ducey's recent request for law-enforcement resources to assist their response to the situation they are facing.

President Biden's lax border policies have allowed for an explosion of illegal immigration that has overwhelmed state and Federal capacities, causing Governor Abbott to issue a disaster declaration in Texas and Governor Ducey to declare an emergency in Arizona. Over the past six months, a staggering number of Unaccompanied Alien Children have made the dangerous trip across our border, risking sexual assault, violence and even death.

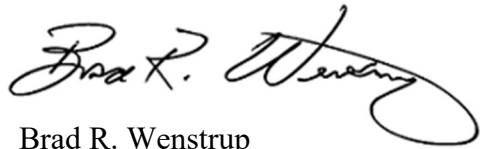
The surge of illegal immigrants diverts resources away from combating the illegal drug trade and encourages drug smuggling. Oftentimes drug cartels deliberately place children in dangerous situations at the border to divert law enforcement resources from cartel smuggling operations. By April 6, 2021, U.S. Customs and Border Protection had already seized more fentanyl than in all of 2020. The opioid epidemic is a leading public health scourge and we all know the devastation it has brought to our state.

Ohio has made progress in recent years to turn the tide of opioid deaths, and we cannot allow the lax policies of the Biden Administration to reverse the good work of our state. We must work to help stop these drugs at their source, which the Federal Government is failing to secure on its own.

The Federal Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) allows states to share resources during disasters. According to Governor Ducey and Governor Abbott's letter, as required by Article 11(B) of EMAC, Texas and Arizona officials "will be contacting their counterparts in your State to prepare an appropriately detailed request for law-enforcement assistance."

The crisis on the border is a disaster. On behalf of our shared constituents, we request that as Ohio receives specific requests through EMAC, you give full and fair consideration, consistent with applicable statute and regulation, to Texas and Arizona's call for assistance in a manner that will be of benefit to Ohioans and our nation, while we continue to work at the Federal level to provide the resources needed to secure our Southern border.

Sincerely,



Brad R. Wenstrup  
Member of Congress



Bill Johnson  
Member of Congress



Steve Chabot  
Member of Congress



Bob Gibbs  
Member of Congress



Jim Jordan  
Member of Congress



Warren Davidson  
Member of Congress



Robert E. Latta  
Member of Congress



Troy Balderson  
Member of Congress