

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3303

July 30, 2021

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary of Homeland Security
United States Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary,

This week, Chief U.S Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) Agent Brian Hastings reported that CBP has already surpassed the one million mark for migrant apprehensions in 2021. More than 20,000 migrants have been apprehended in the Rio Grande Valley this week alone.¹

When Americans consider the skyrocketing number of migrant apprehensions, many have rightfully expressed concern about the public health risk posed by thousands of migrants flooding across our borders every week without being tested for COVID-19. As an active group of physicians and health professionals, we certainly share this concern.

COVID-19 is not going anywhere anytime soon, yet we have seen no meaningful or good faith effort from this Administration or the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to prioritize public safety. Moreover, we are deeply disturbed about the lack of transparency coming from the Biden Administration. Americans deserve to know whether migrants are being tested for COVID-19 at the border, and if they are not, why on Earth would this be the case?

On July 3, 2021, retired Acting Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Director Tom Homan stated, “We know that 98 percent of the people coming across the border into Texas, don’t stay in Texas. They’re being spread all through the United States.” This account underscores the importance of testing all migrants who enter the United States, as the movement of untested illegal immigrants around the country demonstrates a serious public health risk to our entire nation.

For these reasons, we are troubled by recent reports that the Biden Administration plans to revoke Title 42, which was enacted by the previous administration to slow the spread of COVID-19 and keep illegal crossings at bay. A public revocation of Title 42 would be a drastic miscalculation that, in our medical opinion, would likely exacerbate the COVID-19 public health crisis. Director Homan has shared this sentiment by saying, “If they lift Title 42, we’re going to see numbers that we’ve never seen before.”²

¹ https://www.axios.com/migrant-release-no-court-date-ice-dhs-immigration-33d258ea-2419-418d-abe8-2a8b60e3c070.html?utm_campaign=organic&utm_medium=socialshare&utm_source=twitter

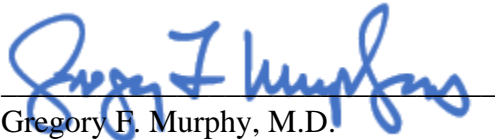
² <https://video.foxnews.com/v/6262205987001#sp=show-clips>

For the sake of the American people, we ask that you prioritize public safety and provide immediate answers to the following questions:

- What is the amount or percent of migrants that are being allowed into the U.S. without a COVID test?
- What is the amount or percent of migrants that are being tested for COVID-19 immediately at the border?
- Why is there no requirement for migrants to show proof of a negative COVID test before entering the country, as is required of all citizens flying into the United States?
- What protections are in place to protect CBP agents from untested migrants?
- What is the Administration's justification for potentially revoking Title 42 as COVID-19 infections rise and border crossings are still hitting 21-year highs?

Thank you for your consideration of this urgent request.

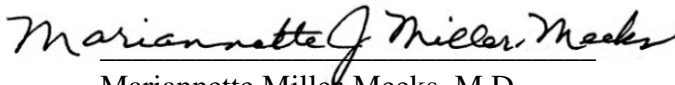
Respectfully,



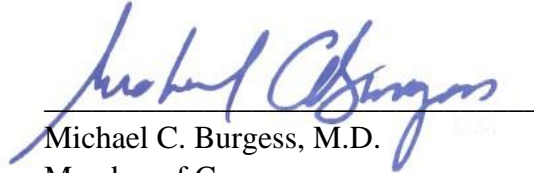
Gregory F. Murphy, M.D.
Member of Congress



Scott DesJarlais, M.D.
Member of Congress



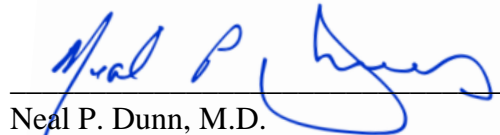
Mariannette Miller-Meeks, M.D.
Member of Congress



Michael C. Burgess, M.D.
Member of Congress



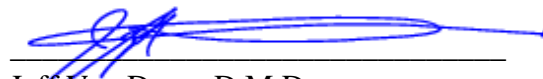
Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress



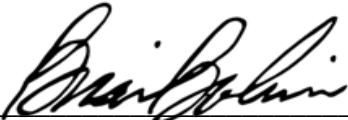
Neal P. Dunn, M.D.
Member of Congress



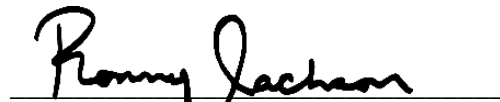
Brad Wenstrup, D.P.M.
Member of Congress



Jeff Van Drew, D.M.D.
Member of Congress



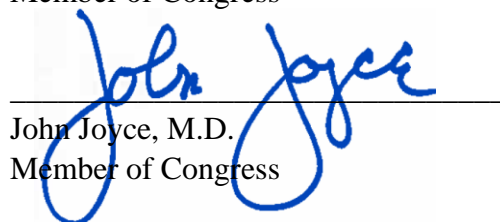
Brian Babin, D.D.S.
Member of Congress



Ronny L. Jackson, M.D.
Member of Congress



Andy Harris, M.D.
Member of Congress



John Joyce, M.D.
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Larry Bucshon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath it.

Larry Bucshon, M.D.
Member of Congress