

June 25, 2021

The Honorable Gretchen Whitmer  
Governor of Michigan  
P.O. Box 30013  
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Governor Whitmer:

We are writing to urge you to take action in light of the current crisis taking place at our southern border.

Just six months into President Biden's presidency, the southern border is facing a humanitarian, national security, and public health crisis. May marked the third straight month that apprehensions surpassed 170,000—something that hasn't occurred in more than two decades.

Due to the lack of response at the federal level, the burden has now fallen on state law enforcement agencies to curb the influx of illegal immigrants. As you may know, Governors Greg Abbott of Texas and Doug Ducey of Arizona recently issued emergency declarations in their states in response to the sharp increase of migrants who are taking advantage of the President's open border agenda.

President Biden's policies have resulted in immediate and severe consequences for all legal residents in the United States. Cartels have flooded illegal drugs into the country, as resources to combat drug smuggling are diverted to manage the mass numbers of illegal immigrants. As of April, more fentanyl was seized by authorities at the border in 2021 than in all of 2020. This is unconscionable.

Further, the Biden administration continues to incentivize the arrival of unaccompanied minor children, with record numbers pouring across the border and risking their lives in the process. Officials have begun to relocate families and minors to northern border states, including Michigan, due to the overwhelming of facilities in Texas and Arizona. In April, 240 unaccompanied migrant children were sent to Albion to be housed in a facility on the behalf of the Department of Health and Human Services.<sup>1</sup>

The Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) permits states to share resources during disasters. Michigan has a long history of providing resources through EMAC, most notably in 2005 following the devastating impacts of Hurricane Katrina. More recently, in 2020 Michigan sent resources in response to Wisconsin Governor Evers' emergency declaration in the wake of deadly riots in Kenosha.

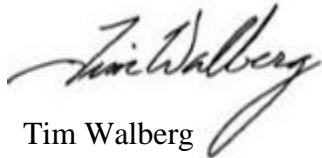
---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/local/michigan/2021/04/09/unaccompanied-migrant-children-michigan-albion-starr-commonwealth/7156346002/>

Our home state of Michigan has a responsibility to respond and support states that have not received the necessary federal resources to deal with the crisis. With Canada continuing to prohibit most travel at the northern border, resources should be allocated to provide security assistance to support law enforcement in Texas and Arizona. Without collaborative action, the livelihoods of Michigan families and all American citizens will continue to be affected by the surge on the border.

We respectfully ask you to answer the calls of Governors Abbott and Ducey and provide much needed resources to assist law enforcement with the unprecedented crisis at the southern border.

Sincerely,



Tim Walberg  
Member of Congress



Jack Bergman  
Member of Congress



Bill Huizenga  
Member of Congress



John Moolenaar  
Member of Congress



Lisa McClain  
Member of Congress



Peter Meijer  
Member of Congress