



NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives

Representative Tim Dunn (R-13)

Representative Joanne Osborne (R-13)

1700 West Washington • Phoenix, Arizona • 85007

Thursday, April 21, 2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Representatives Dunn & Osborne Urge Biden Administration to Address Border Crisis Before Title 42 Ends in May

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – State Representatives Tim Dunn and Joanne Osborne today sent a letter to President Joe Biden and Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas to express grave concern over the president’s decision to rescind Title 42, and to urge immediate action to apply adequate resources to help our border communities that continue to be harmed by an endless flood of illegal immigration, human trafficking, and dangerous narcotics as a consequence of the federal government’s refusal to secure the border.

Title 42 is a public health order put in place during the Trump administration that has been credited as an effective legal policy enabling the United States to turn back illegal immigrants, including those making asylum claims. Many expect President Biden’s rescission of the order will invite a potential tsunami of additional illegal traffic across our southern border which will exacerbate the current crisis beyond the breaking point. It is set to expire on May 23.

A copy of their letter is attached.

Tim Dunn is a Republican member of the Arizona House of Representatives serving Legislative District 13, which covers northern Yuma County and northwest Maricopa County. Follow him on Twitter at @TimDunn_AZ.

Joanne Osborne is a Republican member of the Arizona House of Representatives serving Legislative District 13. Follow her on Twitter at @JoanneOsborne8.

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Arizona House of Representatives
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

April 21, 2022

President Joseph Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
301 7th St SW
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear President Biden and Secretary Mayorkas:

We wanted to reach out to seek assistance in making sure there are measures in place prior to the expiration of the order issued by Centers for Disease Control Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky as prescribed in 42 U.S.C. § 265. Even though the COVID 19 numbers warrant the expiration, we are asking for mitigation measures. Without these measures, we don't think it's an exaggeration to say the number of individuals that will cross the border into the United States without legal authorization is going to increase exponentially and the results will be no less than catastrophic. We understand there is bi-partisan legislation in the process to extend the CDC order because of a lack of a plan to mitigate the immediate impact on border communities but we don't know how long it will take to get this legislation through the process or signed by you. Help is needed on the border now, not potentially weeks from now.

We communicate on a regular basis with United States Border Patrol Yuma Sector Chief Patrol Agent Chris Clem. His reports as to what is happening "on the ground" are troubling. His team is doing their best with the resources they have but the added workload is taking its toll on their well-being and morale. More needs to be done to support these men and women that are the first line of defense at the border. We, along with the border patrol agents, are sick and tired of being a major pipeline for drugs and human smuggling.

Currently over 1,000 people are being processed in Yuma on a daily basis with other sectors helping with that load. Chief Clem said he cannot estimate how many people will be flooding the border on a daily basis when the Title 42 order expires. If these unauthorized border crossers are not processed within 72 hours they will have to be released. Not only does this create a burden on the US Border Patrol to get the processing done on time, if this deadline isn't reached and people are released, it will create a great burden on local law enforcement and non-profits who are already taxed to their limits.

We are also greatly concerned that if measures are not in place prior to the expiration of the order, drug cartels and human smugglers will look at this as an open invitation to ramp up their operations. The cartels don't care what happens to those people that are being smuggled or

trafficked. All that matter to them is their profit. It is easy to say how abominable drugs and human smuggling are but it's an entirely different situation when nothing is done about it.

The immigration system in this country has been broken for decades and we realize that there are no easy solutions. There is no opposition to people coming to this country to make a better life for themselves. However, it needs to be done legally. Allowing illegal crossing at open gaps instead of the legal process is not immigration reform. There is a better way. Allowing illegals in through open gaps in front of thousands of immigrants waiting in line is not the American way.

Here are three suggestions that we think will assist in alleviating the problem:


- 1) The Supreme Court upheld the "remain in Mexico" policy. We believe the current administration is slow walking the implementation of this policy and it should be fully enacted. The message of "you will remain in Mexico awaiting your hearing" needs to be sent and enforced.
- 2) Title 42 mitigation must continue until a process for those applying for citizenship is defined and applicants understand they will be sent back to Mexico to wait, otherwise it is an open invitation for a run on the border. A formal plan of deportation and legal crossing must be made.
- 3) More border patrol agents are needed on the ground to proactively stop drug smuggling and human trafficking. Arizona's Department of Public Safety and local law enforcement agencies cannot singlehandedly address the ongoing situation. Arizona cannot be the pipeline for fentanyl and other illicit drugs to the country.

We ask that you use whatever resources you have at your disposal to implement these three suggestions prior to the expected onslaught after the expiration of the Title 42 order. We welcome the opportunity to be able to participate and stand at the ready. Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,



Representative Joanne Osborne
AZ LD13



Representative Tim Dunn
AZ LD13

cc: Arizona Congressional Delegation