



COUNTY OF LEAVENWORTH

Board of County Commissioners

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February 7, 2024

Senator Roger Marshall
Russell Senate Office Building
Suite 479A
2 Constitution Ave NE
Washington, D.C. 20002

Dear Senator Marshall:

The Leavenworth Board of County Commissioners, is writing you to express our concern about the crisis at the United States Southern border. The ongoing open border policy by the current administration is unsustainable and dangerous. We stand with you in doing what it takes to secure the border and stop the flow of illegal immigrants.

According to data available on the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (U.S.CBP) website there have been over 6,500,000 encounters with illegal immigrants by the Border Patrol and Office of Field Operations over the past three fiscal years. The current fiscal year is on pace to exceed 3,000,000 alone. These numbers only reflect people apprehended, it's hard to know the true number illegally crossing the U.S. border.

As I am sure you are aware illegal border crossings now exceed the 2.9 million population of Kansas annually. In 2020, the last year under our previous administration, the same offices reported only 400,651 encounters.

At the same time, not surprisingly, crime data provided by the U.S. CBP agency shows alarming upwards trends. In 2020 total criminal convictions for noncitizens was just over 3,100 in 2023 it exceeded 19,000. The table below is data taken directly from the U.S. CBP website and only reflects convictions.

Conviction Type	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23
Assault, Battery, Domestic Violence	208	1,178	1,142	1,254
Burglary, Robbery, Larceny, Theft, Fraud	143	825	896	864
Driving Under the Influence	364	1,629	1,614	2,493
Homicide, Manslaughter	3	60	62	29
Illegal Drug Possession, Trafficking	386	2,138	2,239	2,055
Illegal Entry, Re-Entry	1,261	6,160	6,797	8,790

Illegal Weapons Possession, Transport, Trafficking	49	336	309	307
Sexual Offenses	156	488	365	284
Other	580	2,691	2,891	3,286
Total	3,150	15,505	16,315	19,362

The complete lack of integrity of the United States Southern Border is not just putting the safety and welfare of U.S. citizens at risk, it also places the lives of those crossing illegally at risk as well. Many of these people have no support system in the United States. Local resources are overwhelmed by the sheer magnitude of the influx and local agencies cannot provide shelter or basic necessities for these immigrants.

We further support the use of troops to assist with securing our border. We believe the Governor of Kansas should exercise her authority to deploy the Kansas National Guard to Texas to assist their Governor in stopping the flow of illegal immigrants. We ask that our Federal and State Senators and Representatives encourage the Governor to act immediately. Additionally, we ask you to assist with any legislation and funding assistance to aid in this process.

In closing we believe the border crisis has gone on long enough. We ask that you demand our President and his administration address this crisis immediately and return to sound immigration policies. Illegal immigration should not be tolerated in any volume, but at a minimum the President and U.S. CBP should bring numbers back in line with 2020.

Thank you for all you do in representing the great State of Kansas.

Sincerely,

Jeff Culbertson, 1st District Chairperson

Doug Smith, 3rd District

Mike Smith, 4th District

Mike Stieben, 5th District

Vicky Kaaz, 2nd District