

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 24, 2023

Dear Colleague,

On Friday the President sent us a request for supplemental appropriations. Within that request is \$13.6 billion for a “border supplemental.” I am writing to emphasize that the net effect of this request will be to accelerate, not to deter, illicit border crossings.

Nearly all of us agree that there is a crisis at our southern border. Last month, there were 269,735 encounters at our southwest border, the highest monthly number ever. In 2023, there were 2.47 million encounters, the highest yearly number ever. This is not a coincidence.

The President’s request repeats a pattern that this Administration has followed in its failed attempts to address this crisis: it provides policies and resources intended to manage the border rather than to secure it; and it redirects resources intended for law enforcement to domestic processing and resettlement. If the Congress continues to allow the Executive Branch to lead it down this failed path of border management rather than border security, the crisis at our border will accelerate at a time when border incursions across the globe are fomenting war and terror. It is only a matter of time until the U.S. Government’s negligence will mean the same on our soil. Specifically, this flawed request fails in the following ways:

1. **\$1.4 billion to resettle migrants in communities across America** and to pay off sanctuary cities, laundered through CBP. This is roughly 10 times the amount for this purpose in 2022.
2. **\$0 for infrastructure between ports of entry.** Areas between the ports of entry are our border’s biggest vulnerability, yet the request ignores that in favor of funding for ports of entry.
3. **Defunds ICE.** Last month’s request sought to convert ICE from a law enforcement agency into a travel agency. Last week’s request has far less detail, but the effort to defund ICE remains.
4. **\$1.85 billion in cash benefits for entrants.** Providing migrants with cash benefits will encourage more illegal immigration and give cartels another marketing point.
5. **Funding to hire 300 Border Patrol “Processing Coordinators”.** Emphasizing processing over law enforcement is emblematic of this Administration’s failed border policy.
6. **\$1.3 billion for State and USAID to establish “Safe Mobility Offices” overseas** to help expedite migrants into the U.S. and “support safe, orderly, and humane migration.”

It is incumbent on each of us to legislate in a manner that will address this crisis by preventing illegal immigration, not by managing it. Our failure to do so will only amplify the crisis we are facing and neglect our duty to the people we represent.

Sincerely,



Bill Hagerty  
United States Senator