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June 20, 2014

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As you know, we face a growing crisis on our southern border. After being told time and time again that our borders were secure, we once again see skyrocketing numbers of immigrants illegally crossing into the United States. Today, Texas is experiencing a true surge of immigrants entering illegally, with significant numbers consisting of minor children traveling alone, often navigating through Mexico to the U.S. from countries in Central America.

In FY 2012, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) reported that 13,625 undocumented children illegally crossed the U.S. border. In FY 2013, that number nearly doubled, reaching almost 25,000 children. If trends continue, HHS estimates that over 60,000 children will enter the U.S. illegally in FY 2014. Some reports suggest this number could be as high as 90,000 children by the end of this year.

Unfortunately, this surge is not a coincidence, but a direct result of this administration's failed immigration and border security policies. Instead of working with Congress to build up the manpower, technology, and capabilities needed to protect our borders, this administration has consistently insisted the border was already secure. Instead of enforcing existing immigration law, this administration has repeatedly weakened the structure in place, making promises to ignore laws that require returning undocumented minors to their home countries and setting the expectation that individuals who enter our country illegally will not be held accountable to follow our laws.

This crisis has also confirmed our worst fears about the security of U.S. borders. If thousands of children can cross our borders illegally, it is clear that almost anyone or anything can enter the United States without consent or knowledge – drugs, criminals, disease or even worse. U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agents have been left overwhelmed and undermanned collecting and processing incoming minors, clearly demonstrating that more investments need to be put towards agents in the field. What's worse, as CBP attempts to manage this ongoing surge, the border has been left even more vulnerable to dangerous individuals who threaten our national security.

It is clear the federal government must take immediate action to address this crisis, starting with a comprehensive plan to quickly increase security on our borders. My constituents and citizens across Texas deserve to know how your administration intends to address this growing risk in our

backyard. Specifically, please provide information on CBP plans to address shortages in manpower, what actions are being taken to improve security coverage on the border. Please also provide information on what steps are being taken to discourage undocumented minors from attempting the dangerous journey to the U.S.-Mexico border, and what your administration plans as a long term solution for the children already in the U.S.

I encourage you to work with Congress to quickly address the lack of security on our borders, and look forward to your thorough response.

Sincerely,

Randy Neugebauer
Member of Congress

Mike Conaway
Member of Congress

Mac Thornberry
Member of Congress