

DAVID B. MCKINLEY, P.E.

1ST DISTRICT, WEST VIRGINIA

2239 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515

TEL: (202) 225-4172

FAX: (202) 225-7564

www.mckinley.house.gov

COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
ENVIRONMENT

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
ENERGY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
OVERSIGHT & INVESTIGATION

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

CHAIRMAN,
CONGRESSIONAL COAL CAUCUS

CO-CHAIR,
CONGRESSIONAL BUILDING TRADES CAUCUS

CO-CHAIR,
CONGRESSIONAL ARTHRITIS CAUCUS

CO-CHAIR,
CONGRESSIONAL YOUTH CHALLENGE CAUCUS

CO-CHAIR,
HIGH PERFORMANCE BUILDINGS CAUCUS

CO-CHAIR
CONGRESSIONAL HEARING HEALTH CAUCUS

CO-CHAIR
CONGRESSIONAL PENSION PROTECTION CAUCUS

November 24, 2021

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary of Homeland Security
3801 Nebraska Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Mayorkas,

Between February 1, 2021, and September 30, 2021, over 1.4 million migrants were encountered illegally crossing the southern border by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). Due to the Administration's ill-advised border policies, the crisis at the southern border has expedited the flow of deadly narcotics, like fentanyl into the United States.

Earlier this month, CBP released operational statistics which show a 42 percent increase in fentanyl seizures at the southern border from September to October 2021. Through the first nine months of this year, seizures averaged 830 pounds per month. When compared 2018 to 2020, the average monthly seizures was 321 pounds, the significant increase is alarming.

On November 17, 2021 the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), released preliminary data showing that from April 2020 to April 2021, drug overdose deaths in the United States rose to a new record high of 100,000 deaths. Just two milligrams of fentanyl is considered to be a lethal dose, one pound of the drug could be enough to kill 227,000 people.

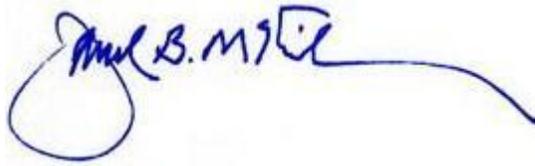
The clear failure of the Biden Administration to control our southern border has resulted in record levels of deadly fentanyl streaming into this country, leading to the loss of more American lives, and devastated families. We urge DHS and the Administration to change course and put in place common sense policies that not only secure our southern border but that protect the American people from the influx of fentanyl and other deadly narcotics.

Please respond to the following questions as soon as possible:

1. What steps is DHS taking to stem the influx of illegal immigrants into this country?
2. How is DHS combating cartels from sending drug mules through the border?
3. What is DHS's plan to detect illegal immigrants transferring deadly drugs across the southern border?

Thank you for your prompt attention to these matters. Should you have any questions please reach out to Allie Hildebrand of my staff at allie.hildebrand@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David B. McKinley". The signature is stylized, with a large loop at the beginning and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

David B. McKinley P.E.
Member of Congress