

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 1, 2018

The Honorable James N. Mattis
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Mattis,

We are writing today to express our opposition to the decision to use additional troops on the southern border to assist U.S. Customs and Border Protection. Congress was recently notified that the Administration is sending an additional 5,200 troops to the border without a long-term plan or an analysis of the effectiveness of previous deployments from this year.

The United States can maintain a secure border and the rule of law while still upholding our country's values to protect those fleeing persecution and violence. The use of military personnel, however, will not help us meet this challenge and only exacerbates the potential to unnecessarily escalate the situation. This effort is nothing short of a militarization of the southern border to score political points and stoke misleading fears among Americans regarding immigrants. In addition, this decision negatively impacts the readiness of our military personnel who could be training to increase their effectiveness in line with their assigned missions and expertise.

This latest announcement follows a series of actions the President has taken this year to use the military to support his failed immigration policies. Earlier this year, National Guard troops were deployed to the southern border at a cost of \$103 million, with no evidence to date of the necessity or effectiveness of their deployment. Furthermore, the Department of Defense (DOD) supported requests from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to shelter as many as 20,000 unaccompanied migrant children and 12,000 family members. Lastly, DOD internally approved \$7.5 million for advanced planning for a 37-mile border barrier at the Barry M. Goldwater Range that could cost as much as \$450 million. Instead of working in a bipartisan manner to make comprehensive, common-sense, and humane reforms to our immigration system, the President continues to turn to politically-motivated fear mongering and uses DOD resources and personnel as means to drive the his troubling anti-immigration agenda.

The President has exploited the caravan of people traveling to the U.S. to seek asylum for his own political gain, and he continues to politicize and militarize this humanitarian crisis as these men, women, and children are fleeing violence and persecution in an unstable part of the world. This is another example of the President using fear-mongering tactics over a humanitarian issue. This use of military personnel and resources for functions outside of core mission areas warrants additional Congressional oversight.

Given this disparate approach, we request an update to answer the following questions:

1. What is the duration of the recent deployment to the southern border for the personnel deployed and to be deployed?

2. How many personnel will come from each component of the military i.e. active duty, National Guard and Reserve?
3. What rules of engagement will troops be under with regard to individuals in the caravan or any other individuals approaching or coming across the southern border?
4. Have any troops been instructed or trained on how to interact or engage in any way with individuals in the caravan? If so, what is the nature of the expected interaction and what training have these troops received for these interactions?
5. How much will this deployment cost the American taxpayer?

With all of these pressing concerns in mind, we request a briefing and written response to answer the questions above, and we request an overview of the current strategy. We look forward to your response and thank you for your attention on this matter.

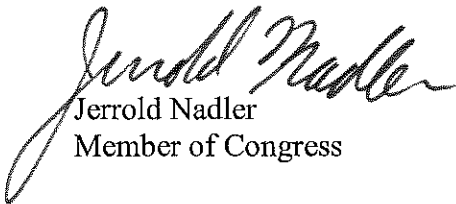
Sincerely,



Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Bennie Thompson
Member of Congress



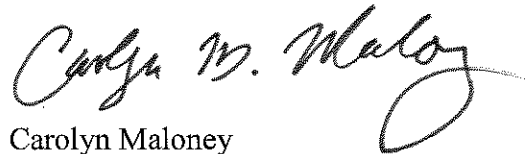
Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Elijah Cummings
Member of Congress



Robert Brady
Member of Congress



Carolyn Maloney
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sanchez
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress

Wm. Lacy Clay
Wm. Lacy Clay
Member of Congress

Yvette D. Clarke
Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress

Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress

Marcy Kaptur
Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress

Joe Courtney
Joe Courtney
Member of Congress

Colleen Hanabusa
Colleen Hanabusa
Member of Congress

Hank Johnson
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson
Member of Congress

Karen Bass
Karen Bass
Member of Congress

Adriano Espaillat
Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress

Richard E. Neal
Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

Frank Pallone, Jr.
Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress

Ruben Kihuen
Ruben Kihuen
Member of Congress

Brenda Lawrence
Brenda Lawrence
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



David Cicilline
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



William R. Keating
Member of Congress



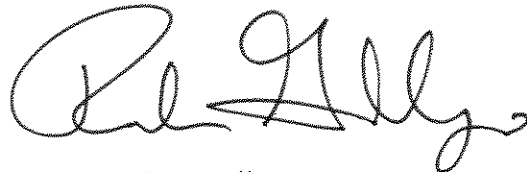
Scott Peters
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



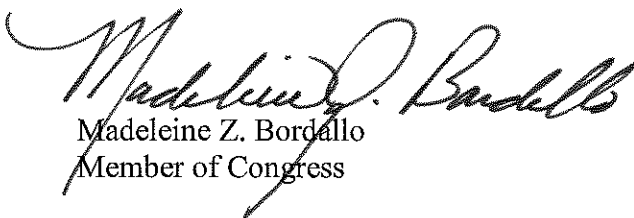
Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress



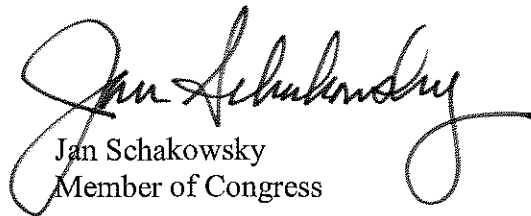
Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



Jim Langevin
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Madeleine Z. Bordallo
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Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson
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Debbie Dingell
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Suzanne Bonamici
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Thomas R. Souza
Member of Congress



Jim Cooper
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Suzan DelBene
Member of Congress



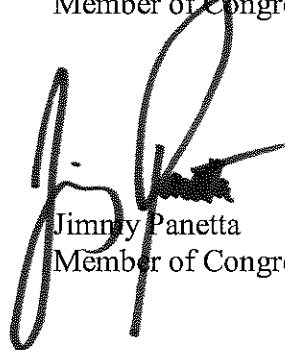
Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



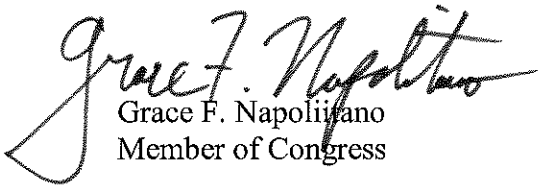
Peter Welch
Member of Congress



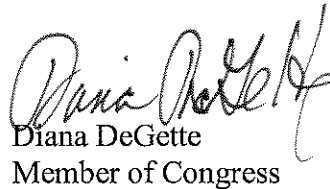
Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



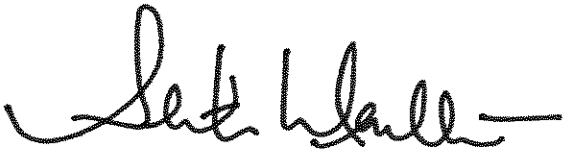
Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress



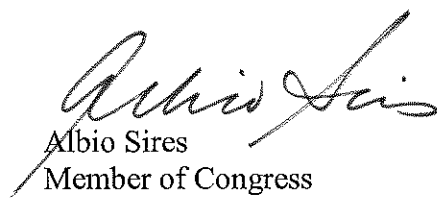
Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



Albio Sires
Member of Congress



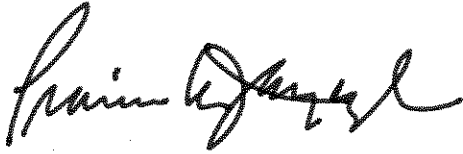
Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Hakeem Jeffries
Member of Congress



Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



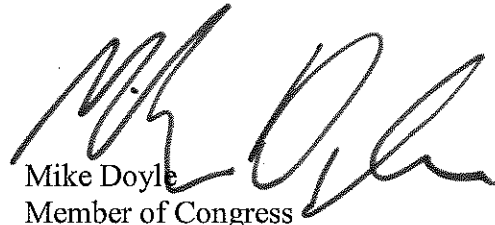
Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



Mark Takano
Member of Congress



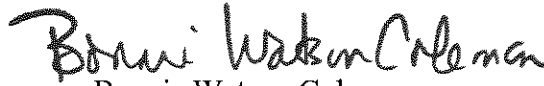
Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress



Mike Doyle
Member of Congress



Luis V. Gutierrez
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



Darren Soto
Member of Congress



Jim Himes
Member of Congress



Filemon Vela
Member of Congress



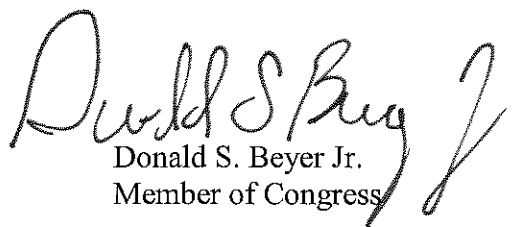
Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress

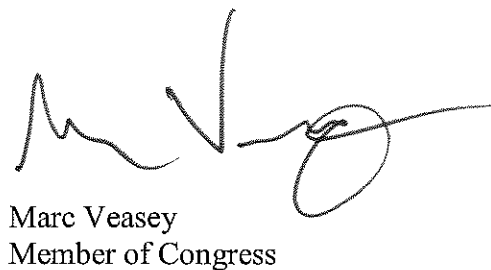


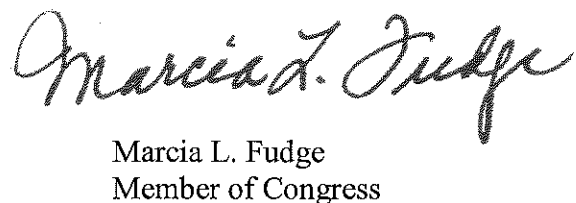
Paul Tonko
Member of Congress

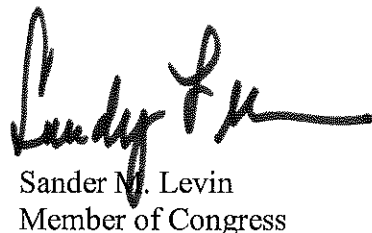


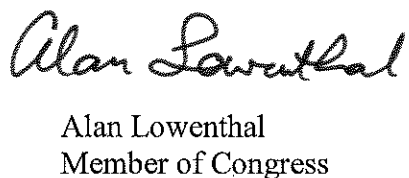
Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

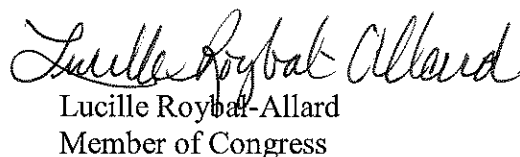

Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress

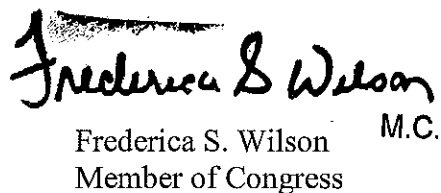

Marc Veasey
Member of Congress


Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress

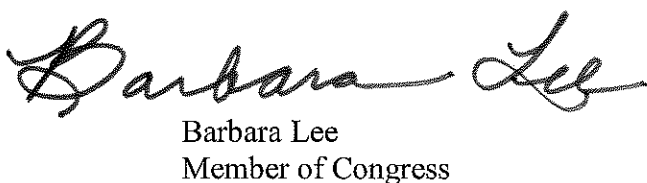

Sander N. Levin
Member of Congress


Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

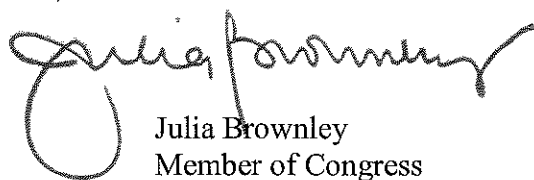

Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress

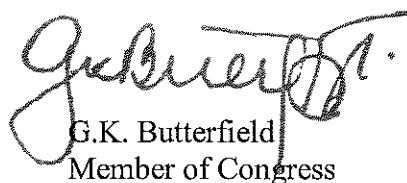

Frederica S. Wilson M.C.
Member of Congress

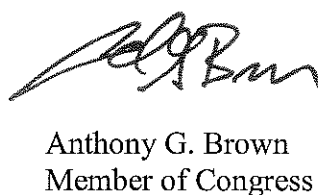

Pete Visclosky
Member of Congress

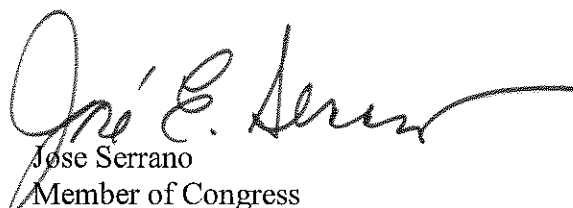

Barbara Lee
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Anthony G. Brown
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Jose Serrano
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Cedric Richmond
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Mark DeSaulnier
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Gwen Moore
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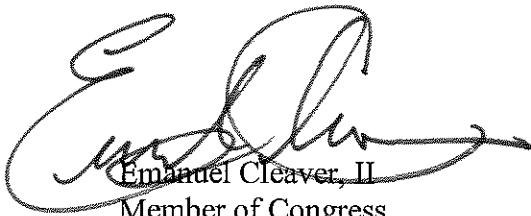
Beto O'Rourke
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Daniel T. Kildee
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Jamie Raskin
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Emanuel Cleaver, II
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Dina Titus
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Richard M. Nolan
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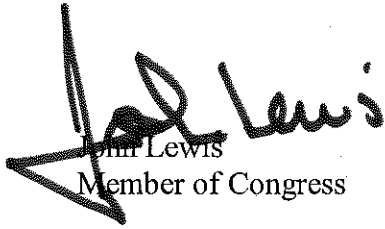
Charlie Crist
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



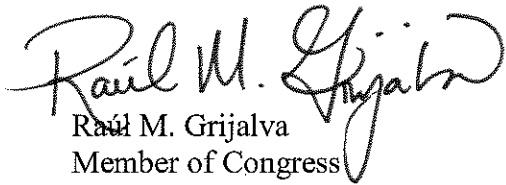
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Carol Shea-Porter
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Raúl M. Grijalva
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Denny Heck
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Keith Ellison
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Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress



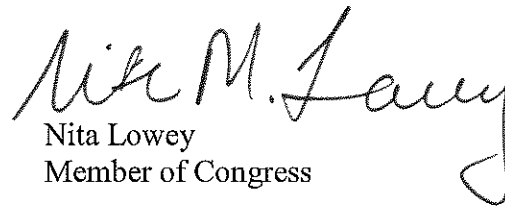
Donald McEachin
Member of Congress



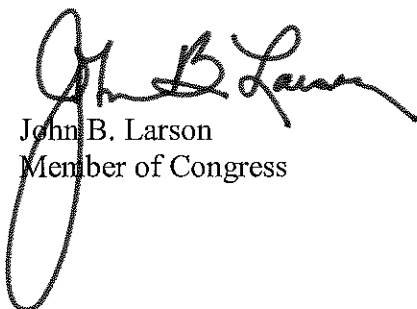
Norma Torres
Member of Congress



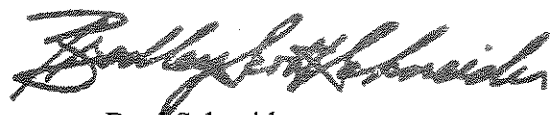
Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress



Nita Lowey
Member of Congress



John B. Larson
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Brad Schneider
Member of Congress

Danny K. Davis

Danny K. Davis
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V. Gonzalez

Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress