

California Legislature



Governor Gavin Newsom
Office of the Governor
1021 O St., 9th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

January 26, 2024

Dear Governor Newsom,

As you are aware, the security of our southern border has deteriorated significantly, resulting in a proliferation of human trafficking and a flood of deadly drugs like fentanyl.

Take San Diego County for example – which, according to the Department of Homeland Security, “has experienced a 700% increase in fentanyl overdose deaths since 2016, linked to fentanyl — counterfeit pills and powder — being smuggled from Mexico into the United States.” Our drug epidemic is tearing families and communities apart – and costing the lives of more than 100 Californians each week. We cannot continue to allow drug cartels to smuggle illegal and dangerous drugs into our state.

As a border state, California is acutely impacted by these policies. The failure to secure our border has caused substantial economic and societal damage. While human trafficking can happen anywhere, 72% of victims are immigrants, mostly women and children from vulnerable communities. It is estimated that 60% of unaccompanied children at the border are caught by cartels and exploited through child pornography and drug trafficking. Inaction at the border has allowed this humanitarian crisis to spiral out of control.

We write to request that you outline your plan of action to address these issues and fight the humanitarian and drug crisis at our southern border.

In September, you announced an increase of only 20 National Guard members to be deployed at our ports of entry. This is woefully insufficient and certainly not a comprehensive strategy to stem the flow of fentanyl and trafficking victims crossing into our state.

The people of California deserve to hear how you will keep them safe. Protecting our communities should be a nonpartisan issue and the Assembly Republican Caucus looks forward to assisting in efforts to crack down on drug cartel smuggling and human trafficking.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James Gallagher".

James Gallagher
Assemblymember, 3rd District



Megan Dahle
Assemblymember, 1st District




Joe Patterson
Assemblymember, 5th District



Josh Hoover
Assemblymember, 7th District



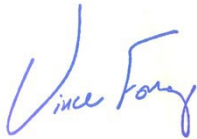
Jim Patterson
Assemblymember, 8th District



Heath Flora
Assemblymember, 9th District



Juan Alanis
Assemblymember, 22nd District



Vince Fong
Assemblymember, 32nd District



Devon J. Mathis
Assemblymember, 33rd District



Tom Lackey
Assemblymember, 34th District



Greg Wallis
Assemblymember, 47th District



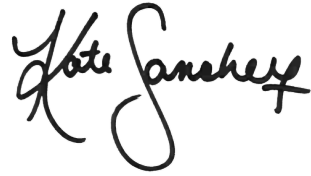
Phillip Chen
Assemblymember, 59th District



Bill Essayli
Assemblymember, 63rd District



Tri Ta
Assemblymember, 70th District



Kate Sanchez
Assemblymember, 71st District



Diane Dixon
Assemblymember, 72nd District



Laurie Davies
Assemblymember, 74th District



Marie Waldron
Assemblymember, 75th District