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,

James Gallagher
Assemblymember, 3rd District
Megan Dahle  
Assemblymember, 1st District

Josh Hoover  
Assemblymember, 7th District

Heath Flora  
Assemblymember, 9th District

Vince Fong  
Assemblymember, 32nd District

Tom Lackey  
Assemblymember, 34th District

Phillip Chen  
Assemblymember, 59th District

Joe Patterson  
Assemblymember, 5th District

Jim Patterson  
Assemblymember, 8th District

Juan Alanis  
Assemblymember, 22nd District

Devon J. Mathis  
Assemblymember, 33rd District

Greg Wallis  
Assemblymember, 47th District

Bill Essayli  
Assemblymember, 63rd District
Tri Ta
Assemblymember, 70th District

Diane Dixon
Assemblymember, 72nd District

Marie Waldron
Assemblymember, 75th District

Kate Sanchez
Assemblymember, 71st District

Laurie Davies
Assemblymember, 74th District