



State of New Mexico
House of Representatives

STATE CAPITOL
Santa Fe

December 11, 2024

The Honorable Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor of New Mexico
Office of the Governor
State Capitol, Room 400
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Dear Governor Lujan Grisham,

On behalf of the New Mexico House Republican Caucus, we are writing to express our disappointment with your recent assertion that New Mexico will not engage in any efforts to remove illegal, violent criminal immigrants from our state. New Mexico's progressive Democrat leaders seem more interested in preventing the deportation of violent criminals than enacting commonsense policies that protect law-abiding citizens.

We would like to remind you that recent data shared by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Deputy Director Lechleiter shows there were 662,566 illegal immigrants on ICE's docket that had a criminal history as of July 2024; of those, 435,719 were convicted criminals and 226,847 had pending criminal charges. Even more concerning is the number of illegal immigrants in the United States that have been convicted of serious and violent crimes: 13,099 have been convicted of homicide, 15,811 have been convicted of sexual assault, 62,231 have been convicted of assault, and 56,533 have been convicted of a charge involving dangerous drugs. Local data confirms these statistics, showing the border crisis is spilling crime into New Mexico. According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, violence and drug trafficking in New Mexico are exacerbated by the security challenges on the border.

Equally concerning is your administration's position that the southern border crisis is a federal responsibility, which has resulted in the New Mexico failing to take any meaningful steps to help stop the flow across our southern border of gang members, drugs trafficking, human trafficking, and other threats that plague our communities. This inaction ignores the fact that Texas and Arizona have taken effective actions to protect their southern borders from the rising tide of illegal immigration.

The refusal of our state government to help conduct any border enforcement has resulted in our southern border becoming an attractive area to expand illegal crossings and the criminal activities associated with those crossings. U.S. Customs and Border Protection data published in September 2024 showed migrant encounters in New Mexico increased 22 percent over encounters in August 2024 and typically did not involve asylum-seekers but rather migrants who are actively trying to avoid apprehension. Border law enforcement experts are attributing this shift in illegal immigration traffic to transnational drug organizations involved in migrant smuggling that are

adjusting to shifting U.S. asylum policies and routing illegal immigration through more remote border areas, including New Mexico.

Considering these sobering criminal statistics, we hope Democrat leadership will reconsider its position on cracking down on the violent criminal immigrants in New Mexico and protecting our southern border. By not cracking down on illegal immigration, we are in turn creating a market for increased illegal immigration, much of which is controlled by and funding the cartels. New Mexico's inaction has made the border crisis even worse and has placed law-abiding citizens in greater danger from the criminals illegally entering New Mexico.

The House Republican Caucus will be introducing an omnibus border security and anti-crime package during the upcoming 60-day legislative session that we hope will gain bipartisan support. We are encouraged by recent remarks you made on MSNBC's Morning Joe supporting actions like these to stem criminal activity along the border. Our package includes:

- \$30 million to create a Border Security Division within the State Police to hire and train badly needed border patrol officers;
- \$10 million for grants to local governments to purchase border cameras, license plate readers, and other technologies to assist in border enforcement;
- \$15 million for the Department of Health to conduct more fentanyl screenings and create educational programs in schools and higher education institutions to promote fentanyl addiction prevention;
- Increased criminal penalties for fentanyl trafficking; and
- A bill that will allow you to enter an interstate compact with other interested states to share law enforcement intelligence on illegal border activity, state resources, and other law enforcement resources to ensure border safety at the U.S.-Mexico border.

This omnibus approach will finally enact swift and effective efforts to help protect our southern border and reduce violent crime. Bipartisan support for this legislation would send a strong message to the cartels and other criminals that the State of New Mexico is serious about protecting our southern border and ending the rampant crime our border crisis perpetuates.

We urge you to support these pragmatic efforts that will ensure New Mexicans can live, work, and raise their families in a state that is safe, secure, and prosperous.

Sincerely,



Gail Armstrong
House Republican Leader



Alan T. Martinez
House Republican Whip

cc: Representative Javier Martinez, Speaker of the House
Senator Mimi Stewart, President Pro Tempore of the Senate

REBECCA DOW

Representative-Elect, District 38

December 11, 2024

Via: Hand Delivery

The Honorable Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor of New Mexico
Office of the Governor
State Capitol, Room 400
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Re: House Leadership Letter Regarding Border

Governor Lujan Grisham,

As part of the House Republican leadership team and as Representative-Elect for House District 38, I want to express my full support for Representatives Armstrong's and Martinez's December 11th letter addressing the critical issues of border security and the removal of illegal, violent criminal immigrants from our state.

While I am not yet in office and unable to formally sign on to the letter, I share Republican Leadership's concerns about the safety of our communities and the urgent need for bipartisan action to combat the criminal activity associated with illegal border crossings. Addressing these issues is vital for ensuring the well-being of all New Mexicans and fostering a safer environment for our families.

I stand in support of the proposed measures outlined in the omnibus border security and anti-crime package, which reflect a commitment to enhancing public safety and providing critical resources to address the ongoing crisis. I urge all members of the Legislature to put politics aside and work together to enact meaningful solutions that prioritize the security and prosperity of our state.

Sincerely,



Rebecca Dow
Representative-Elect District 38
New Mexico House of Representatives

cc: Representative Javier Martinez, Speaker of the House
Senator Mimi Stewart, President Pro Tempore of the Senate