

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4305

January 12, 2023

The Honorable Avril Haines
Director of National Intelligence
Office of the Director of National Intelligence
Washington, D.C. 20511

Dear Director Haines,

We are concerned with the increasing number of intelligence threats presented by the Biden Administration's open border policies. It is the role of the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) to coordinate and consolidate the activities of the Intelligence Community to adequately prepare the federal government for threats against national security, especially those concerning potential terrorists. This administration's policies have created a southern border that is a beacon for national security and intelligence threats, and it is essential the Intelligence Community upholds its mission to remain focused on counterterrorism.

Recent border statistics show the lack of meaningful effort by the Biden Administration to secure our southern border against terrorist threats and other criminal organizations. In fiscal year 2022, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) encountered 98 non-U.S. citizens on the Terrorist Screening Database (TSDB) or 'watchlist' at or near our southwest border. Many of these 98 individuals were citizens of Columbia and possibly affiliated with the known terrorist organizations Segunda Marquetalia and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Columbia – People's Army (FARC-EP).¹ During President Biden's tenure, border agents have encountered migrants from more than 160 countries.² When compared to the 2.76 million undocumented immigrant crossings at the southwest border in FY2022, it is naïve for our leaders to claim our overwhelmed border patrol can detect and monitor every individual on the watchlist. U.S. officials are aware of at least 599,000 got-aways in FY2022, increasing the concern that the next terrorist is already within our nation's borders. In a letter to Senate leadership, former Border Patrol Chief Rodney Scott emphasized the growing national security threat by stating, "U.S.

¹ Bureau of Counterterrorism. "Foreign Terrorist Organizations." U.S. Department of State.
<https://www.state.gov/foreign-terrorist-organizations/>

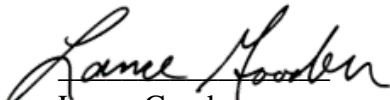
² Drehsler, Ariana. "From India, Brazil and Beyond: Pandemic Refugees at the Border." *New York Times*, May, 2021. <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/05/16/us/migrants-border-coronavirus-pandemic.html>

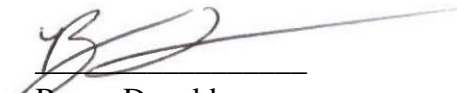
Border Patrol is rapidly losing the situational awareness required to know who and what is entering our Homeland.”³

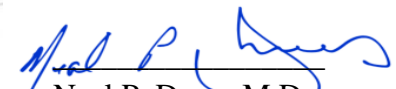
Under the purview of this administration’s border policies, the American people have witnessed a drastic disintegration of what was once an effective and strong border. The 9/11 Commission Report stated there is a “need for attention to America’s porous borders and the weak enforcement of immigration laws.”⁴ It also underlined the U.S. border security system “requires frontline border officials who have the tools and resources to establish that people are who they say they are, intercept identifiable suspects, and disrupt terrorist organizations.”⁵ Without proper enforcement of our immigration laws, terrorist networks are increasingly enabled to avoid apprehension. The Biden Administration has continuously downplayed this risk and the significant vulnerability their border policies have created for terrorists.


To improve border security operations and ensure the safety of our nation and its people, we request a briefing by the Intelligence Community on all national security and intelligence threats presented by our open border. We look forward to your response and working together to counter any threats to our homeland security.


Sincerely,



Lance Gooden
Member of Congress



Byron Donalds
Member of Congress

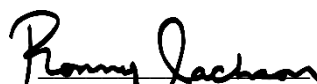

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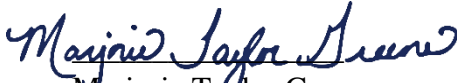

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Member of Congress



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Member of Congress


³ Scott, Rodney. September, 2021. <https://www.ronjohnson.senate.gov/services/files/57C4C0D7-EEB7-4F43-8252-9FD339DDFBD4>


⁴ “The 9/11 Commission Report.” Final Report of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States, July, 2004, p.186.

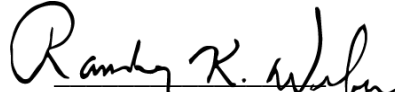
⁵ “The 9/11 Commission Report.” Final Report of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States, July, 2004, p.387.

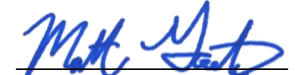

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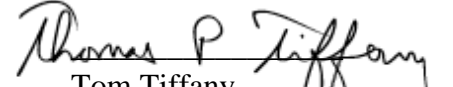

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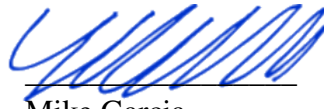

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