Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 27, 2014

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write today to take immediate action to address the national security crisis that is exploding on our southern border. As you are aware, thousands of Unaccompanied Alien Children (UAC) are being trafficked across the border into south Texas, primarily from the central American countries of Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras. This flood of illegal immigrants is overwhelming our already-strained immigration and enforcement agencies.

Your Administration's policies and complete refusal to enforce current immigration laws on entire categories of migrants are fueling this crisis by creating the false perception that these migrants will be granted legal status to remain in the United States without consequence. These short sighted policies are enabling the criminal networks that prey on these children and their families. Cartels entice these children with the false promise of legal status with no consequences, and convince them to make the long and extremely dangerous trip through Mexico where they suffer unspeakable abuse at the hands of criminal gangs. The crisis is pulling homeland security and law enforcement personnel from their primary security duties and reducing them to child care providers. We fear this distraction is leaving our borders open to increased trafficking in illegal drugs, criminals, and potentially even terrorist activity.

An un-manageable influx of UAC are flowing across our border. In 2008, when you first took office and swore to uphold and defend the Constitution and in doing so enforce our laws 8,041 UAC crossed the U.S. border illegally; in FY2013, 38,883 UAC crossed illegally- a 483% increase. For the first 8 months alone of FY2014, 47,017 unaccompanied children have crossed the border illegally with numbers greater than 145,000 expected to follow suit in FY2015. Sadly, your continued refusal to enforce current immigration laws has hindered enforcement agencies' abilities to faithfully execute standing immigration laws that could mitigate this crisis.

These growing statistics are frightening and demonstrate without a shadow of a doubt that refusal to enforce our laws does in fact have consequences, both for our security and for taxpayers' pocketbooks. Your own Office of Management and Budget has projected a cost of $2.28 billion within HHS alone to deal with this crisis next year. This does not even take into account the hundreds of millions in costs shouldered by other federal agencies, state, and local governments. As Texans we understand better than any other delegation the magnitude of the impact this crisis is having on States and their citizens.

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While the announcements your administration made last week are a step in the right direction, actions speak louder than words. You proposed providing aid to Central America; we urge you to supply that same help to Texas. Our law enforcement agencies are a valuable partner for the Department of Homeland Security and are currently funding most of their border operations out of very limited state funds.

Mr. President, the time for leadership is now. These proposals need to be implemented fully and immediately. As long as the current policies continue we can expect this crisis to persist. We again urge you to enforce current immigration laws upon all who mock our immigration system and disregard the laws and statutes that hold this great country together. The false promise of hope to illegal immigrants that you have perpetuated through inaction must stop.

Sincerely,

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