



NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

Written Statement for the Record

Sheriff David N. Favro
Clinton County Sheriff's Office
Clinton County, New York
National Sheriffs' Association

Before the Committee on Homeland Security
Subcommittee on Emergency Management and Technology
United States House of Representatives

December 5, 2023

Thank you Chairman D'Esposito, Ranking Member Carter, and distinguished members of the Subcommittee on Emergency Management and Technology for holding this hearing and allowing me the opportunity to address you regarding "Protecting our Preparedness."

I'm David N. Favro, and I serve as the Sheriff of Clinton County, New York. My career in Law Enforcement began in July of 1982, and I've dedicated over 41 years to the safety and well-being of the residents and visitors of Clinton County. For the last 21 years, I've been honored to hold the position of the people's elected Sheriff. The mission of the Clinton County Sheriff's Office is to enhance safety and improve the quality of life in our community. We are committed to delivering services with pride and excellence, fostering a strong partnership with our community.

Clinton County is the most northeastern point in New York.

Population approximately 80,000 (2021 census)

97.6% of residents are native to Clinton County (2021 census)

1,117.53 square miles

Northern boundary with Canada

Eastern boundary is Lake Champlain (the sixth great lake)

Over 70 miles of lake shore

Approximately 30 miles international border

Interstate 87 is a main traffic point from Canada to New York City

The Border Crisis significantly strains Emergency Management in our small rural community. A notable surge in transient population, funneled through a small rural community whose residents are primarily native to the area, raises concerns and has led to an uptick in emergency response calls.

Like many Sheriffs' Offices, we face staffing shortages (22 deputies in Clinton County Sheriff's Office) due to challenges in hiring and retention, partly due to lower pay compared to other law enforcement agencies. Responding to reports of "strangers" on private property may tie up one or two units, impacting our ability to address other safety needs. Adding to the complexity, high-

speed vehicle pursuits involving migrants are on the rise. A recent incident caused bodily injuries and property damage in what resulted as the busiest traffic point in our small rural county. This highlights the need for urgent attention to the Border Crisis' impact on our emergency capabilities and calls for strategic solutions to protect our community and law enforcement resources.

Key Statistics;

Got aways are up 99% from 499 in 2023 to 995 in fiscal year 2024. This is concerning. The Swanton Border Patrol sector of the United States Customs and Border Patrol oversees a vast expanse of 295 miles along the Northern Border. Despite covering 70% of all northern border encounters, this sector operates with only 15% of the staffing allocated to the entire Northern Border region. 73% of encounters in the Swanton sector are single adults, 27% are family units with less than 1/2 % unaccompanied children.

Fatalities = 2

Rescues = 29

Assaults = 9

Drive Through's =44

Emergency management;

911 call centers nationwide have experienced “recognizable” increases in calls for service. Since 911 callers’ migrant statuses are not questioned during incoming calls and when responding to an emergency calls, it is difficult to establish just what those actual numbers are. However, the challenges in rescues and general assistance requests have also intensified due to diverse language barriers.

Interagency Partnerships/Communications;

While substantial progress has been made, there remains a significant amount of work to be done. Operation Stonegarden has played a pivotal role by providing resources to the Border Patrol. This program enables local police agencies and sheriff offices to carry out active patrols along the Northern Border. In 2024, Clinton County was granted \$300,000, to be shared with three other agencies, facilitating better collaboration, strengthening working relationships and increasing awareness among all area law enforcement regarding migrant activities within their jurisdictions. Continued financial support for federal grants, such as Operation Stonegarden, would enhance the capacity of local law enforcement to address security concerns linked to the open border.

Detention;

The Clinton County Jail is currently the only facility accepting detainees from Border Patrol. Many county jail refuse to accept federal detainees for a variety of reasons. Notably, the heightened conditions mandated by ICE Detention far surpass the requirements set by the New York State Commission on Corrections for our domestic detainees. The increased costs associated with maintaining two sets of jail standards, coupled with the arduous annual inspections without any reimbursement present overwhelming challenges. Without Clinton Count Jail, the staff of CBP would be depleting their resources by transporting detainees to facilities several hours away from the border.

The cost to house each federal detainee is \$112 per day. Since the beginning of the year, the Clinton County Sheriff's Office has already recovered costs of over \$2 Million housing expenses from the Federal government. Medical costs are in addition to, but not expected to exceed, the cost of housing.

Weather related concerns;

In Clinton County, we regularly experience temperatures falling -35 degrees below zero with a deadly wind-chill. Ponds and swamps freeze quickly and require conducting rescue missions with volunteer fire and rescue teams alongside Border Patrol and Sheriff Deputies. Tragically, two deaths have occurred among migrants attempting to traverse dark wooded terrain.

Migrants are arriving predominately from the southern border where they are accustomed to survivable temperatures with minimal clothing. Most do not realize how cold it can become, particularly at nighttime when they tend to move and cross without detection.

Migrants attempt to seek shelter in barns, sheds, basements, or even what they think may be unoccupied homes. We have responded to calls of residents awaking in the middle of the night to unfamiliar noises only to discover migrants that entered their home to get out of the weather.

Many communities across the country are facing a housing shortage for their local residents. The increase in migrants has created a shuffle effect for example, where communities are relocating their excess overage of migrants from one region to another. For example, we have all seen Texas relocating migrants New York City? What you do not see is New York then busing migrants to the northern border communities where there are literally no resources to assist these people. Some private organizations (Plattsburgh Cares) are providing essentials like food and clothing, as well as guidance and an occasional bus ticket to a different location of the migrants choosing.

Nationalities as Provided by CBP Regional Briefings;

CBP data shows that migrants arrive into the U.S. from 180 different countries. Similarly, Clinton County also sees a diverse group of migrants in its 1,117.53 mi². We have encountered individuals from 43 different countries.

Mexico - over 55%

India - 22.1%

Haiti, Romania and Guatemala - each under 4%.

Mr. Chairman in closing, the illegal migration into Northern New York is costing my office considerable time cycles and money. Moreover, it is taking away resources from the legal local residents and that is simply not fair to my constituents.

Law enforcement officers at the federal, state, and local levels are consistently confronting hazardous situations and criminal activities stemming directly from an open border that is being exploited by criminals. The National Sheriffs' Association has long voiced concerns about open border policies and has provided recommendations on securing it, which are attached to my testimony.

Under the current administration's policies, the discretionary approach to border security and immigration laws allows criminals and cartels to thrive in our very own backyards. The ongoing crisis, exacerbated by the expiration of Title 42, poses substantial threat to the security of local communities. These communities find themselves neglected and left to rely solely on local and state resources to address this crisis, without any concrete plan by the Secretary of Homeland Security to address these impacts.

I'd like to emphasize the most expeditious means by which the federal government can enhance its support for local law enforcement and first responder efforts. It is imperative for Congress to enact legislation that ensures the lasting security of our border. I urge the U.S. House to reinstate the MPP (Remain in Mexico) policy which seemed to work so well just a few years ago. It is crucial that we have a clear understanding of who is entering our country!

Thank you again for the opportunity to share my perspective and I am happy to help this committee address the critical issues it continues to address.

Attachments:

National Sheriffs' Association Letter to Speaker Johnson

National Sheriffs' Association Letter to House and Senate Appropriations

[Press Release: Nation's Sheriffs Call for the Eradication of Drug Cartels, Starting with the Sinaloa and Jalisco New Generation Cartels](#)

[Press Release: Nation's Sheriffs Call for Action at the Border Due to Heightened Threat Picture](#)



NATION'S SHERIFFS CALL FOR THE ERADICATION OF DRUG CARTELS, STARTING WITH THE SINALOA AND JALISCO NEW GENERATION CARTELS

Thursday, February 9, 2023 - (Washington, DC) – The American Sheriff Alliance met in Washington, DC, last week to discuss the continued rise in overdose deaths and violence plaguing their jurisdictions in all areas of the country. These troubling patterns can all be traced to two main drivers of illicit narcotics into the United States – the Mexican Sinaloa and the Jalisco New Generation Cartels, both Transnational Criminal Organizations (TCOs) which are headquartered south of the United States border with Mexico.

On September 11, 2001, terrorists killed 2,977 innocent people and our nation was outraged. America's response included declaring a war on terrorism and bringing justice to the victims of this unthinkable tragedy by holding terrorists and terrorist countries accountable.

Last year, on December 14, 2022, the White House issued a statement regarding the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) release of provisional drug overdose death data for the 12-month period ending in August 2022. Over 107,000 overdose deaths were recorded in this one-year period, with most attributed to illicit synthetic drugs like fentanyl and methamphetamine, often in combination with other drugs, including cocaine and heroin. Despite the incredible number of deaths, which can be directly attributed to the trafficking of illegal narcotics into the United States by the Mexican Cartels there has been little call to action or change in foreign policy to address this alarming issue. This crisis has caused 35 more times the amount of death to American citizens in a one-year period than was inflicted upon the U.S. on September 11th by Al-Qaeda and Osama Bin Laden.

The Mexican drug cartels, as well-documented in the successful prosecution of Joaquín Archivaldo Guzmán Loera, also known as El Chapo, operate sophisticated crime operations fueled by fear, terror, intimidation, extortion, and murder. These criminal organizations are directly responsible for the increases in deaths, human trafficking, sex trafficking, and unprecedented violence occurring in cities and counties across our nation. These cartels and their operatives are operating with disastrous effects not just on our southern border, but their influence can also be felt across our northern border

and maritime borders as they seek to exploit all avenues to deliver lethal narcotics and violent criminals into our communities.

Sheriff Greg Champagne, of St. Charles Parish, Louisiana, and President of the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) stated, "We can no longer allow these murderers to terrorize our communities. We need every American to join us in demanding our government focus on this crisis and take whatever actions are necessary to eliminate these criminal networks and operations."

"This is not a partisan issue. This is a life-and-death issue," said Sheriff Bill Brown, of Santa Barbara County, California, and Vice President of the Major County Sheriffs of America (MCSA). "Two criminal organizations, the Sinaloa and Jalisco New Generation cartels, operate in Mexico with near impunity, producing and trafficking fentanyl and other deadly drugs that are killing more than 100,000 Americans every year. America's sheriffs are calling for meaningful change in our nation's foreign policy. The federal government must put greater pressure on the Mexican government to take aggressive action to disrupt and destroy these unlawful cartels. The current situation is intolerable and cannot stand."

Sheriff Brett Schroetlin, of Grand County, Colorado, and President of the Western States Sheriffs' Association (WSSA) said, "These cartels are operating in every part of our nation. It's not an urban, suburban, or rural issue. These massive, well-financed criminal enterprises kill, enslave, and destroy families and communities. We need the people of the United States to demand, that our government commit the necessary resources to eliminate these organizations here and abroad as they did following the horrific events of 9/11.

"This is not an immigration issue; this is a public safety and public health issue. It's not just the violence and drugs, it's the sexual assaults, human trafficking, enslavement, and fear and terror that are destroying neighborhoods here in the United States," stated Sheriff Eddie Guerra, of Hidalgo County, Texas, and Chairman of the Southwestern Border Sheriffs' Coalition (SWBSC). "We are asking every person who knows someone who has died or family who has suffered at the hands of these criminal organizations, to make their voices heard with their federal, state, and local elected officials who have the power to create the necessary change."

Sheriff Eusevio Salinas, of Zavala County, Texas, and Chairman of the Texas Border Sheriffs' Coalition (TBSC) said, "Americans can save lives by calling upon the President of the United States, U.S. Senators, and representatives in Congress and demanding immediate, comprehensive action to identify and destroy these criminal operations, wherever they may exist. Until our elected officials stand up to fight this epidemic sweeping the nation, we will continue to set records related to the number of our loved ones we continue to lose each year at the hand of these violent cartels."

The American Sheriff Alliance is imploring the public to demand their elected officials use every available sanction and accountability tools at their disposal in combating the

atrocities committed against our country and its citizens by the Sinaloa and Jalisco New Generation Cartels. Without such action, these dangerous cartels will continue to destroy the very fabric of our families and communities.

The American Sheriff Alliance consists of sheriffs, leadership, and chief law enforcement officers from the National Sheriffs' Association, Major County Sheriffs of America, the Western State Sheriffs' Association, the Southwestern Border Sheriffs' Coalition, and the Texas Border Sheriff's Coalition. This alliance was formed to advocate for policy change and reform in order to keep our nation's citizens safe as well as support the men and women who protect and serve the United States of America.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 28, 2023

Nation's Sheriffs Call for Action at the Border Due to Heightened Threat Picture
The American Sheriff Alliance continues to call out cartel activity and lack of reinforcements at the border

San Diego, California - The American Sheriff Alliance met in San Diego this week to discuss the continued pressure and strain on resources the lack of border enforcement is having on local communities throughout the United States including the alarming statistics of encounters with individuals found to be on the Terrorist Watch List, also known as the Terrorist Screening Dataset (TSDS). Further, the diversity of the countries of origin for migrant encounters also concerning particularly with those with those who have strained diplomatic relations with the U.S. The driving forces can be traced back to the lack of border security as well as the Sinaloa Cartel run by Ismael Zambada Garcia ("*El Mayo*") and Jalisco New Generation Cartel run by Nemesio Ruben Oseguera Cervantes ("*El Mencho*").

Along the southwest border, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) TSDS encounters between ports of entry of non-U.S. citizens have continually risen over the past six years. The following are the number of TSDS encounters according to CBP: 2017 - 2 encounters, 2018 - 6 encounters, 2019 - 0 encounters, 2020 - 3 encounters, 2021 - 15 encounters, 2022 - 98 encounters, and in 2023 YTD - 151 encounters. Since 2021, this represents a 906% increase in TSDS encounters and there are still three months left in 2023.

In addition to these alarming rates of TSDS encounters, other criminal statistics continue to rise. The number of arrests of individuals with criminal convictions or those wanted by law enforcement by noncitizens has increased exponentially from 6,562 encounters in 2021, to 16,992 in 2022, and year to date in 2023 there have been 18,586 encounters which marks a 183% increase since 2021 with again three months left this year.

The statistics for TSDS encounters and those who have criminal convictions or who are wanted by law enforcement are reflective of only those who have encountered authorities. It is unknown how many concerning individuals have entered the United States who have not been accounted for. It has been reported by CBP that they have estimated a total of 600,000 got-a-ways this year, but there is no way of knowing the exact numbers. These alarming statistics are extremely concerning to the Alliance and there are major homeland security concerns with these individuals especially with the lack of information and vetting as to their intentions, criminal histories, or connections to our adversaries.

Further, the strain on local resources both for border sheriffs and law enforcement across the country who do not have the adequate staffing or funding to respond to this influx of migrants is troubling and continues to effect communities across the country who are left to deal with violent criminals, illicit narcotics, as well as the pressure felt on community services including housing and medical needs.

“When the number of people dying from drug poisonings is the equivalent to a 737 airplane crashing each day and the number of migrants that we are aware of coming across the border could fill the Caesars Superdome in New Orleans weekly, we have to sound the alarm,” said Sheriff Greg Champagne of St. Charles Parish, Louisiana, and President of the National Sheriffs’ Association (NSA). “If a plane crashed daily, there would be immediate action taken and yet instead of seeing numbers decrease, we continue to set records for those who are dying from illicit narcotics mostly originating from the drug cartels in Mexico.”

“Communities across the United States whether or not they are located near a southern, northern, or maritime border are being affected by the lack of resources available to address the overwhelming challenges in stopping the volume violent criminals and illicit narcotics flowing into our country at the hands of the cartels,” stated Major County Sheriffs of America Executive Director Megan Noland. “The implications to the nation’s homeland security threat picture continues to expand as migrant flows and cartel activity continue to increase with no relief in sight. Terrorists and foreign bad actors are monitoring the current weak border policies and they will absolutely exploit these failings given the opportunity.”

Sheriff Leon Wilmot of Yuma County, Arizona and a member of the Western States Sheriff’s Association stated, “The pressure on law enforcement at the local level is unsustainable with the continued daily increases at the southern ports of entry. With the sustained unrelenting flow of migrants coming from all over the world and the background checks and vetting process being limited it is concerning who is being released into the interior. The cartels are actively promoting the weak border policies through social media networks, and it is clear they have been sadly, very successful in their mission.”

“While we know that these pressures are affecting U.S. borders from all sides, the southern border is clearly the center of concern when we see migrants from countries across the world enter our country into the Southwest Border,” said Sheriff Eddie Guerra of Hidalgo County, Texas, and President of the Southwestern Border Sheriffs’ Coalition. “CBP has reported that migrant encounters at the southwest border covers 180 international countries – many who are adversaries with the United States, which should be concerning to every American citizen.”

Sheriff Tom Schmerber of Maverick County, Texas, and President of the Texas Border Sheriff’s Coalition noted, “While federal, state, and local law enforcement are doing everything they can to keep their local communities secure and ensure humane conditions for migrants who are truly seeking asylum, there is no doubt that the asylum system is being abused and the traditional avenues are overwhelmed to keep up requests forcing the release of these individuals without any accountability. El Mencho, El Mayo, and other troubling cartel criminals will continue to exploit these easy loopholes without action from our elected officials.

The American Sheriff Alliance encourages elected officials at every level of government to draw attention and make the proper reforms to these extreme challenges – this includes actions needed to be taken by the White House Administration as well as Congress to ensure our border is secure. With

hundreds of violent criminals entering communities around the country as well as the flow of illicit narcotics poisoning our citizens, the Alliance is demanding that all available sanctions and statutes be used to help alleviate the pressure the men and women of law enforcement are facing during this unprecedented period in our nation's history. With a potential government shutdown on the horizon where staff will deal with this crisis unpaid, the environment is ripe for the perfect storm with American's citizens suffering the consequences and we ask for the public's support is asking for the necessary reforms.

###

Media Contacts:

National Sheriffs' Association

Patrick Royal, PIO
patrickroyal@sheriffs.org

Major County Sheriffs of America

Megan Noland, Executive Director
mnoland@mcsheriffs.com

Western States Sheriffs' Association

Sheriff Corey Helton, President
chelton@leacounty.net

Southwestern Border Sheriffs' Coalition

(Ret.) Sheriff Clint McDonald, Executive Director
cmcdonald@txbsc.org

Texas Border Sheriff's Coalition

(Ret.) Sheriff Clint McDonald, Executive Director
cmcdonald@txbsc.org

The American Sheriff Alliance consists of sheriffs, leadership, and chief law enforcement officers from the National Sheriffs' Association, Major County Sheriffs of America, the Western State Sheriffs' Association, the Southwestern Border Sheriffs' Coalition, and the Texas Border Sheriff's Coalition. This alliance was formed to advocate for policy change and reform to keep our nation's citizens safe as well as support the men and women who protect and serve the United States of America at the federal, state, and local level.



NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

November 9, 2023

The Honorable Mike Johnson
The Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker:

On behalf of the 3,081 Sheriffs of this great Country, we write today to offer our hard won wisdom on issues relating to the Southern Border. With seven and a half million illegal immigrants breaching our Border since January 2021, we thought it would be helpful to the Congress to lay out our proposed guidelines for fixing our broken immigration system, especially in light of the capture of 2000 Chinese aliens at the Border in the last four weeks. We still don't know who they are and where they went!

To wit:

1. Build the remaining wall to act as a physical barrier.
2. Follow the law that allows for immediate expulsion of anyone illegally entering our country.
3. Insist on judicial oversight and raise the threshold of "credible fear" that most migrants use to gain asylum.
4. End the authority to issue parole.
5. Reimplement the "remain in Mexico" (MPP) strategy that worked so efficiently pre 2021.
6. Enforce the law that deems migrants ineligible for asylum if they touched a safe third country.
7. Eliminate the piece of paper CBP gives migrants telling them to show up for an asylum hearing in the future. Many migrants can and do use this to work illegally in the U.S.
8. Collection protocol for DNA and disease carried by migrants.

We could go on for many more pages but the crux is, there are laws on the books and barriers laying on the ground that if followed and used would make our Border more secure. Your commitment to addressing these concerns is essential for the welfare and safety of our citizens and the maintenance of the rule of law.

Very respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Greg Champagne".

Greg Champagne
Sheriff, St. Charles Parish, LA
President, National Sheriffs' Association



NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

December 01, 2023

Senator Patty Murray
Chairwoman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-128, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Susan Collins
Vice Chairwoman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-128, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa De Lauro
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairs Murray and Granger, Vice Chair Collins, and Ranking Member De Lauro,

Recently leaders of the National Sheriffs' Association met virtually with the White House Senior Advisor to the President and former Secretary of Labor Tom Perez. We were asked to meet and discuss the ongoing crisis along the Southwest border of the United States, and the Administration's proposed response.

During the discussion Secretary Perez graciously listened to passionate pleas from several border Sheriffs, and several interior Sheriffs, about the need for the Administration to urgently and radically change its policies of minimizing requirements of anyone seeking to legally or illegally enter the US. We all underscored the need for increased "legal" immigration to our Country, the key being the need to know who is coming, why, and how they can be contributing and beneficial citizens.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Secretary Perez asked the National Sheriffs' Association to support the Administration's emergency request for \$14 billion to expand its current border activities, policies and practices. We declined and advised the Secretary of our strongest objections to any further law or appropriations (and language) that would allow funding to further diminish the federal, state, and local law enforcement ability to uphold the rule-of-law. Secretary Perez also stated that the labor shortages facing employers was a sound source for the Administration's efforts to bring more unskilled and under-educated people to the US. We categorically reject any policy that minimizes skills and education for the sole benefit of employers unable to secure labor. That is a false premise and is a dangerous policy of downplaying safety and security to our communities.

Sadly, the President's policies have circumvented every effort to discourage, dissuade and block illegal immigration to the United States. In fact, to paraphrase Secretary Perez we are now witness and victims of the largest global migration crisis ever.

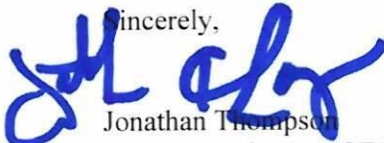
Nevertheless, we made clear, and reiterate here, that we remain opposed to any appropriation that permits the Administration to do the following:

1. Circumvents intentions and authorities of Border Patrol personnel to protect our border from illegal incursions either at or in between our points of entry;
2. Provides funding for administrative personnel to expedite the application process of asylum seekers without their remaining in a third-party nation awaiting the required background checks and adjudication of their applications;

3. Grants funding to any agency, personnel, or officers of the USG the authority to unilaterally use administrative procedures to temporarily change the legal status of anyone seeking to come to the Country without a thorough vetting of their background and history;
4. Circumvents any prohibition for the use of funds by any USG agency or Office to fund non-government organizations to train, advocate, use of deception that promotes and helps secure the illegal entry to our Country, this would include any USG or NGO or contractor of the USG whose staff or subcontractors advise illegal immigrants on means, methods, actions to avoid or deceive documentation to enter into our legal immigration system;
5. Avoids funding and reimbursement to every local detention, jail, or holding facility at 100% of the cost to hold anyone arrested or being detained at the request of the USG on civil or criminal immigration violations, or who was granted legal status and subsequently arrested and detained in a state or local detention or jail facility for criminal charges;
6. Avoids funding prohibitions of any federal agency or office, officers and employees or contractors of the USG from planning, considering, designing or seeking to have conceived any grants, loans or direct Treasury funds for transfer to any foreign government, public entity, or private NGOs on behalf of the USG that have failed to meet four standards or have circumvented the following actions to have occurred:
 - a. US fund receiving entity has met every metric to advocate for, and repeatedly stated, promoted and took policy steps to cause a cessation of illegal immigrants enter into the US; and lowers arrests for illegal entry to the US;
 - b. Eliminated any incentives, travel, transport, use of funds, or other means to expedite transit of persons from any country seeking to illegally enter the United States (an exception is the DOD Special Immigrant Visa program designed for those supporting members of the military in their explicit combat operations);
 - c. The amount of illegal substances entering the US has drops by 33% annually; human smuggling has drops by 50% from the country of origin; and,
 - d. The Secretary of Homeland Security shall be required to verify all progress on these measures on a quarterly basis and will be prohibited for one year from the last report from hiring personnel outside of the ICE, CBP, CISA, and DHS/INA or key security elements of the protecting the homeland and the federal government assets to work for the Department of Homeland Security. This shall include all schedule A or C personnel not hired by those listed components and others.
7. Allows federal funds to be directed to off-set 100% of any costs of local law enforcement entities, along the 33 Southern border counties or within their jurisdiction. These funds shall be eligible only via direct funding to the applying agencies and shall be available upon the chief law enforcement officers' of the jurisdiction certification of need and use.
8. Allows funds expended from the Treasury via appropriated emergency funds for any USG agencies or Offices to perform work in contravention of the law, equivalent to the Boland Amendment for funding foreign operations.

In lieu of supporting the Administration's request, we propose redirecting the \$14 billion towards critical domestic law enforcement areas. Specifically, funds could be allocated to technology infrastructure for Sheriffs, including fully funding Next Generation 911, implementing a national Jail Database Program, and transferring the National Institute of Corrections to the Office of Justice Programs within the Department of Justice. These projects must commence within the next 12 months.

Our primary duty as public servants is to safeguard the citizens of this nation, regardless of their origin or immigration status. These issues are pivotal to the safety and security of our communities. We urge prompt consideration and support for these critical initiatives to ensure a safer, more secure America.

Sincerely,

 Jonathan Thompson
 Executive Director, CEO
 National Sheriffs' Association