



STATE OF FLORIDA

ASHLEY MOODY
ATTORNEY GENERAL

February 22, 2022

The Honorable Alejandro N. Mayorkas
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Mayorkas:

We, the Attorneys General of 14 States, write to demand your immediate resignation.

It is the core function of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to “secure the nation from the many threats we face.”¹ Yet, since taking office, you have purposely taken repeated actions impairing the safety and security of Americans. As you publicly boast about your abject refusal to enforce the laws enacted by Congress to keep us safe,² our southwest border is a disaster and our nation is on the verge of a national security crisis. Some of our States lie on the southwest border and live with your catastrophic actions daily. Others of us have traveled to the southwest border and witnessed first-hand your utter malfeasance as Secretary. The effects of your dismal leadership at DHS are felt in each of our States.

Mexican drug cartels and human smugglers wasted no time exploiting your open border policies. From the time you took office to December 2021, Customs and Border Protection (CBP) seized enough fentanyl to kill every man, woman, and child in our country **SIX TIMES** over—an increase of over 30 percent since before you took office.³ If that much was detected and seized, we shudder to think how much more is slipping through each day you remain in your position. According to the Commission on Combating Synthetic Opioid Trafficking Final Report, Mexico is now the top importer of fentanyl into the U.S.⁴ Any competent leader facing such disastrous results would quickly alter their policies to abate the extraordinary harm, including the unnecessary deaths of tens of thousands of Americans, that he was causing. Yet you continue undeterred, oblivious (or indifferent) to the destruction and deaths you are causing in American communities.

¹ <https://www.dhs.gov/about-dhs#:~:text=The%20Department%20of%20Homeland%20Security,analyst%20to%20chemical%20facility%20inspector.>

² [https://www.dhs.gov/news/2022/01/20/secretary-mayorkas-delivers-remarks-us-conference-mayors.](https://www.dhs.gov/news/2022/01/20/secretary-mayorkas-delivers-remarks-us-conference-mayors)

³ <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/drug-seizure-statistics>

⁴ https://www.rand.org/pubs/external_publications/EP68838.html

While it may be easy for you, living in Washington, D.C., to forget about the effect fentanyl has on our communities, we see every day the devastation fentanyl is causing in our States. The opioid crisis claimed approximately 70,000 lives in one year according to the most recent data.⁵ According to preliminary numbers from the CDC, the number of drug overdose deaths likely will surpass 100,000 people per year for the first time in this nation's history. The main cause for the extraordinary growth of both drug overdose deaths and opioid deaths is fentanyl. In each of our communities, we are even seeing teenagers taking a single pill laced with fentanyl and dying. The profound tragedy of these deaths and the grief faced by those American parents and families has caused us to conclude that your failed leadership must end.

But it's not just with drugs that your appalling policies are harming our communities. The truth is that we, just like you, have no idea who is coming into our country. What we do know is that the number of sex offenders arrested entering our country increased by an astounding **213 PERCENT** over the last fiscal year.⁶ Given your unlawful catch and release policies, we are left with many other unanswerable questions, like how many children are now being trafficked in our communities and how many sex offenders now prowl our streets.

That more criminals are entering our country is, of course, a natural consequence of your refusal to enforce the law. Deportations have fallen a staggering **70 PERCENT** since 2020.⁷ According to a news report, Immigration and Customs Enforcement deported 55,590 illegal immigrants in 2021; representing the fewest deportations in the past five years and down from 267,258 in 2019.

Perhaps most egregiously, you have refused to deport some of the most dangerous criminals, even though you are required by law to do so. That decision is shocking, especially because Democrats and Republicans alike have always prioritized the removal of criminals here illegally, including when you were Deputy Secretary of DHS from 2013–2016. In fact, given your willingness to enforce the law in the past, the only explanation is that you have consciously and intentionally caved to the far-left mob that has hijacked this administration from our vacant president.

You were sworn in as Secretary of DHS on February 2, 2021. On that day, you solemnly swore to “support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies foreign and domestic.” You have violated that oath every day since you took office. Americans have died because of your failure to obey the law and do your solemn duty. More Americans will unnecessarily die and suffer for as long as you remain as Secretary.

You must resign immediately.

Sincerely,

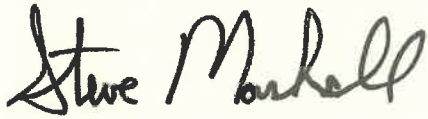
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ashley Moody". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ashley Moody
Florida Attorney General

⁵ <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/drug-overdose-data.htm>

⁶ <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/cbp-enforcement-statistics/criminal-noncitizen-statistics>

⁷ <https://freebeacon.com/biden-administration/ice-deportations-down-70-in-2021-under-biden/>



Steve Marshall
Alabama Attorney General



Mark Brnovich
Arizona Attorney General



Leslie Rutledge
Arkansas Attorney General



Christopher M. Carr
Georgia Attorney General



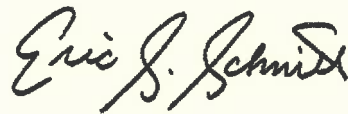
Todd Rokita
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John O'Connor
Oklahoma Attorney General



Alan Wilson
South Carolina Attorney General



Ken Paxton
Texas Attorney General



Sean D. Reyes
Utah Attorney General

Patrick Morrissey

Patrick Morrissey
West Virginia Attorney General

cc: President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer
Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell
Speaker Nancy Pelosi
House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy
Senator Gary Peters, Chair, Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs
Senator Rob Portman, Ranking Member, Committee on Homeland Security &
Governmental Affairs
Senator Ron Johnson
Senator Rand Paul
Senator James Lankford
Senator Mitt Romney
Senator Rick Scott
Senator Josh Hawley
Congressman Bennie Thompson, Chair, Committee on Homeland Security
Congressman John Katko, Ranking Member, Committee on Homeland Security
Congressman Michael McCaul
Congressman Clay Higgins
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