

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3102

April 9, 2021

Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham
Office of the Governor
490 Old Santa Fe Trail #400
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Governor Lujan Grisham,

I write to request you deploy the New Mexico National Guard to our southern border. Since the election of President Biden, the situation at the border has worsened due to both perception and policy of this current administration. The U.S. Border Patrol is overworked, undermanned and under-supplied. It is your duty as the governor of our great state to protect our citizens from both COVID-19 and the cartels that cross our border.

Our state is on the front lines of President Biden's border crisis and I am hearing from constituents on the border every day about the number of immigrants coming across their property. The problem is made all the worse by the unfinished sections of the border wall in New Mexico that are funneling migrants into our state. In March, over 170,000 migrants crossed into the U.S. from Mexico according to U.S. Customs and Border Protection, a 15-year high. Included in that number were 18,800 unaccompanied minors, which accounts for a 99% increase from February. This figure shatters the previous high of 11,861 in May 2019.

This massive influx of migrants at the southern border is a public health threat. The Biden administration has said it will not be adhering to the Title 42 requirements that were designed to prevent COVID-infected, or potentially exposed migrants from entering the United States. This combination of high migration and COVID prevalence puts border communities in New Mexico at risk of losing the progress that has been made to curb the pandemic. My constituents have followed the rules, at times to great personal expense, to get the pandemic under control. Losing that control due to illegal immigration induced spikes would be a slap in the face.

Sending National Guard troops to our southern border is nothing new, as President Trump rightly sent troops to the border during the 2019 surge. The situation we are seeing at the border today is far worse than what we saw in 2019. You decried President Trump's use of national guard as a "charade" and "fear-mongering," but you must realize the situation we are seeing today is even more dire than two years ago. The number of people attempting to cross our southern border is unprecedented and something must change in order to deter migrants from making that life-threatening journey. I believe that change is deploying National Guard troops to the border, and I again call on you to do so.

Sincerely,


Yvette Herrell
Member of Congress

CC:

Major General Kenneth A. Nava, New Mexico National Guard
New Mexico State House Speaker Brian Egolf
New Mexico State Senate President Pro Tempore Mimi Stewart
New Mexico State House Majority Leader Sheryl Williams Stapleton
New Mexico State House Minority Leader James G. Townsend
New Mexico State Senate Majority Leader Peter Wirth
New Mexico State Senate Minority Leader Gregory A. Baca