

**KELLY GANNAWAY**  
SHERIFF



**JOSE MARTINEZ**  
CAPTAIN

**LUNA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**

2462 J STREET, S.E.  
DEMING, NEW MEXICO 88030  
PH: (575) 546-2655 FAX: (575) 546-8533

Congresswoman Yvette Herrell  
1305 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
Phone: (202) 225-2365  
Fax: (202) 225-9599

January 26, 2021

Congresswoman Herrell,

I submit this letter in support of the "Protecting Americans from Unnecessary Spread upon Entry (PAUSE) from COVID-19 Act of 2021" you intend to introduce in Congress. As the Sheriff of a border county, this is of great concern to me and many of my constituents.

In 2019, Luna County was affected by a migrant surge, at our border. When Border Patrol could no longer hold these individuals, the people of Luna County were forced to deal with the problem of hundreds, if not thousands, of people seeking asylum. We were fortunate enough not to have the issue of a pandemic at the time and were able to manage. Several of the employees and volunteers acquired various illnesses from the migrants we sheltered.

Repealing Title 42 during the COVID-19 pandemic places the people of Luna County at great risk. We are already facing a tremendous uptick in positive test results in our small population. Our hospital is struggling to deal with the sick in our community, as it is, and repealing Title 42 would be devastating to our resources. This would also ensure an even greater increase in the sick from COVID-19.

It would be in the best interest of Luna County, as well as the entire country, if there were protections from "open borders" type repeals of laws in existence. Thank you for your efforts in working for the people of New Mexico to fight this problem.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelly Gannaway".

Kelly Gannaway  
Luna County Sheriff