

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 18, 2022

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Vice Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Chris Murphy
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Homeland Security

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Homeland Security

Dear Chairman Leahy, Vice Chairman Shelby, Chairman Murphy, and Ranking Member Capito:

As you consider the FY 2023 Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Appropriations bill, we urge you to ensure robust funding for the Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP). Specifically, the humanitarian assistance funding through this program must be fully funded so that localities, nongovernmental organizations, and shelters who provide critical services for migrants arriving at the border do not face financial difficulties that could force them to stop their operations.

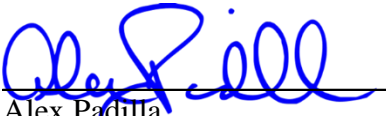
EFSP is managed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and was established in 1983 to help public and charitable institutions at the state and local levels better respond to the widespread homelessness and food insecurity brought about by economic crises. The program has provided funding to over 14,000 service agencies in more than 2,500 communities across the country. EFSP, through supplemental funding, also provides reimbursements to local nonprofit and governmental social service organizations, as well as states and localities, that offer shelter, food, transportation and support services to migrants arriving at our southern border who are waiting for their asylum cases to be adjudicated.

This past March, Congress appropriated \$150 million to the EFSP humanitarian assistance to migrants for FY 2022. Congress also appropriated \$110 million for EFSP for humanitarian assistance to migrants through the *American Rescue Plan Act of 2021*. However, funding levels for EFSP humanitarian assistance to migrants have still not been sufficient to keep up with the substantial need and, as a result, grantees of the program are being asked to take on additional costs. Communities and organizations on the front-lines of assisting migrants coming to our border and resources are being stretched thin as they take on the role of performing a federal government function.

Congress has an opportunity to reaffirm its commitment to protecting migrants and the right to seek refuge by extending robust funding for EFSP. Furthermore, Congress must ensure that border communities have the tools necessary to humanely and adequately support migrants as they flee violence and economic instability.

We look forward to engaging with you to reaffirm this commitment. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

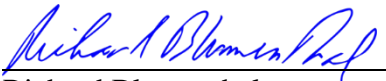
Sincerely,



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



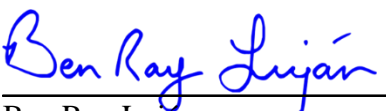
Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



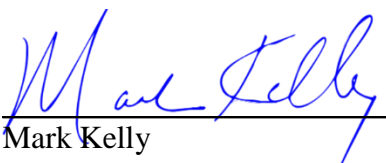
Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



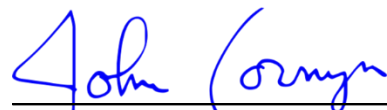
Ben Ray Lujan
United States Senator



Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator



Mark Kelly
United States Senator



John Cornyn
United States Senator

Kirsten Gillibrand

Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

Elizabeth Warren

Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator