



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

July 23, 2014

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Northwest
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

House Republicans have been clear that we want to work with you to help the victims of the terrible humanitarian crisis at our southern border – particularly the children, who have been cruelly duped into making a perilous journey.

Our Appropriations Committee is continuing to review your supplemental request. But, as I have said many times, the American people will not support providing additional money unless you work with both parties to address the causes of this tragedy.

Earlier today, our Border Security working group – led by Rep. Kay Granger (R-Texas) – briefed our Conference on recommended policy changes to address this crisis. One of their key recommendations is changing the 2008 law which created the disparate treatment for migrants from nations other than Mexico and made it more difficult to resolve this crisis.

In your letter to Congress on June 30, 2014 you said you supported “providing the DHS Secretary additional authority to exercise discretion in processing the return and removal of unaccompanied minor children from non-contiguous countries like Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador.” On July 9, at an event in Texas, you said: “Last week, I sent a letter to Congress asking them to ... give us flexibility to move migrants through the system faster.”

After these public statements, and similar comments from other administration officials, we were surprised that you did not include these changes in your formal supplemental request. Worse, in recent days, senior congressional leaders in your own political party have backpedaled and voiced unswerving opposition to any changes at all.

Frankly, it is difficult to see how we can make progress on this issue without strong, public support from the White House for much-needed reforms, including changes to the 2008 law.

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I hope you will take the earliest possible opportunity to voice your continued support for common-sense efforts to stem the flow of children to our border. Working together, we can help provide crucial humanitarian relief, and work to secure our nation's borders.

Sincerely,



John A. Boehner