

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 25, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20500

President Biden,

We write today to inquire about reports indicating that your Administration is obstructing the right to freedom of the press as enumerated in the First Amendment.

The southern border is clearly in crisis, and your Administration appears not only to disseminate myths to the American people about the dire situation, but is also actively engaging in behavior that is preventing transparency and accountability to the American people you were elected to serve.<sup>1</sup>

It has been reported that 5,000 unaccompanied alien children (UACs) are being held in a Customs and Border Protection (CBP) tent holding facility in south Texas and other border stations. Reportedly, and surpassing the 72-hour statutory limit, UACs are spending an average of 136 hours in CBP custody due to CBP resources being spread too thin. Further, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is also currently housing roughly 11,000 UACs in emergency housing facilities and shelters.<sup>2</sup>

There are more than 16,000 UACs in government custody and your Administration is not only being dishonest about the situation but actively misleading the American people and blocking access to transparency. For example, your Press Secretary repeated this week that "children, presenting at our border, who are fleeing violence, who are fleeing prosecution, who are fleeing terrible situations is not a crisis."<sup>3</sup> This is despite your Administration's opening of a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) facility in Midland, Texas to house young migrants.<sup>4</sup>

This crisis is out of control. Indeed, it is far worse than most realize, largely because your Administration is not only mischaracterizing the crisis but also prohibiting journalists from witnessing and documenting the crisis up close. This is an insult to the purposes of a free press – as defended in our Constitution – which are to inform the public and hold those in power accountable.

Seeing as your Administration refuses to publicly acknowledge the crisis in contradiction to demonstrable facts, denying reporters access can only be seen as a craven effort to keep the public from fully realizing the extent to which this administration's policies have created chaos, lawlessness and human suffering along our southern border.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://nypost.com/2021/03/21/journalists-granted-zero-access-to-cover-border-crisis-photog/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.wbtv.com/2021/03/23/us-races-find-bed-space-migrant-children-number-unaccompanied-minors-government-custody-hits/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2021/03/22/biden-border-czar-roberta-jacobson-goes-mexico-discuss-migration/4799428001/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.kcrg.com/2021/03/16/midland-texas-leaders-blindsided-by-arrival-of-migrants-at-holding-facility/>

We request that your Administration immediately stop blocking media access to current border operations, and to be straightforward with the American people about what is truly happening at our southern border.

Sincerely,



Chip Roy  
Member of Congress



Tom McClintock  
Member of Congress



Liz Cheney  
Member of Congress



Andy Biggs  
Member of Congress



Glenn Grothman  
Member of Congress



Randy K. Weber  
Member of Congress



Ted Budd  
Member of Congress



Ann Wagner  
Member of Congress



W. Gregory Steube  
Member of Congress



Jody Hice  
Member of Congress



Bill Posey  
Member of Congress



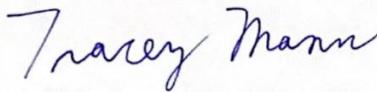
Jake LaTurner  
Member of Congress



Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S  
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Ashley Hinson  
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Tracey Mann  
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Lisa McClain  
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Marjorie Taylor Greene  
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James R. Baird  
Member of Congress



Dan Bishop  
Member of Congress



Madison Cawthorn  
Member of Congress



Brian Babin, D.D.S  
Member of Congress



Earl L. "Buddy" Carter  
Member of Congress

cc. The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas  
Secretary  
Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20528