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3RD DISTRICT, ARIZONA
COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEES:
RANKING MEMBER, INTELLIGENCE
AND SPECIAL OPERATIONS
TACTICAL AIR AND LAND FORCES
NATURAL RESOURCES
SUBCOMMITTEES:
INDIAN AND INSULAR AFFAIRS
WATER, WILDLIFE, AND FISHERIES
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
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March 18, 2024

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable David Joyce
Chair
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Henry Cuellar
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Granger, Ranking Member DeLauro, Chair Joyce, and Ranking Member Cuellar:

I write to request robust funding for the Shelter Services Program (SSP) in any bipartisan agreement on full Fiscal Year 2024 appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security. Should funding for border communities be allowed to lapse, the impacts in both my home state of Arizona and across the country could be catastrophic.

The cities and counties in Arizona's Tucson sector, currently the busiest border sector in the nation, are facing a potentially catastrophic funding cliff on March 31st when their SSP funding is set to lapse. SSP allows local leaders to provide temporary shelter, food, medicine, and transportation when people are released from CBP custody. Should this funding be allowed to lapse, these communities will be left on their own to deal with street releases and the corresponding demand on resources, hospitals, and first responders.

A bipartisan agreement on FY24 Homeland Security appropriations before the March 22nd deadline is critical for avoiding this funding cliff. To that end, I request robust funding for SSP of at least \$752 million, as included in the Senate Homeland Security appropriations bill.

Local leaders in Arizona have watched time and again as talking heads attempt to use the struggles faced by border communities for personal gain instead of acting on bipartisan solutions. Regardless of your views on how best to address immigration in this country, I think we can all agree that abandoning border communities dealing with the impacts of increased border crossings is not the right solution.

Although immigration continues to be a polarizing and challenging issue, the American people – Democrats, Republicans, and Independents – are relying on us put our differences aside and pass a Homeland Security bill that secures the border and supports border communities.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Ruben Gallego
MEMBER OF CONGRESS