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3RD DISTRICT, ARIZONA  
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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0307**

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August 19, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Mayorkas:

I write to request that your Department prioritize the full deployment of fentanyl detection technology and the full staffing of Ports of Entry on the southern border when determining future personnel and resource distribution. As Ports along the border, including in my home state of Arizona, continue to act as a first line of defense against fentanyl trafficking, it is vital that they have the resources they need.

As you know, earlier this month, Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers at the Lukeville, Arizona Port of Entry seized approximately 4 million blue fentanyl pills – weighing more than 1,000 pounds – in the largest singular fentanyl seizure in CBP history. This operation, conducted as part of the counter-fentanyl Operation Apollo-Arizona, which focuses on intelligence collection and disrupting drug supply chains, is the latest in a long string of success stories in which Arizona's Ports and CBP Officers have stemmed the flow of fentanyl over our southern border.

Fentanyl poses one of the greatest threats to our national security, killing thousands of Arizonans each year, and much of it is smuggled into the United States through Ports of Entry. I am glad that the Ports in the Tucson Sector are nearly adequately staffed based on agency modeling, but it is my understanding that deploying more staff to these Ports would allow for greater use of cutting-edge fentanyl detection technology without disruption to other operations. Each additional officer in Arizona's border sectors would improve technological deployment and protect communities in Arizona and across the country.

I understand that greater CBP staffing is needed across the southern border, as is more funding for officers. That is why we must also streamline hiring practices for Border Patrol and increase funding for the Department of Homeland Security, particularly for CBP.

As I continue to push these efforts in Congress, I request that you prioritize staffing and technological implementation along the southern border. Doing so very well may be a matter of life and death.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ruben Gallego". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R" and "G".

Ruben Gallego  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS