

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2302

October 18, 2024

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson:

I write to you today imploring you to allow the House to vote on the bipartisan border agreement.

According to recent reporting, “[n]early one-third of the cameras in the Border Patrol’s primary surveillance system along the southern U.S. border are not working.”¹ This is gravely concerning as this is one of the key tools that Customs and Border Protection has to combat illegal migrant crossings.

The bipartisan border deal negotiated by Republicans and Democrats in the Senate, and endorsed by the National Border Patrol Council, included \$170 million for the procurement and deployment of autonomous surveillance towers and an additional \$47.5 million for mobile surveillance capabilities and replacement of obsolete systems. On top of these important surveillance tools it would fund, the package includes an additional 1,500 border patrol agents and 100 new fentanyl scanning machines.

I believe the Administration waited too long to address the Southern Border, which is why I called on them to use every tool possible to restore order at the border earlier this year, and why I was relieved to see President Biden take executive action shortly thereafter. In fact, according to CNN on September 30th, “Migrant crossings at the US-Mexico border remain at their lowest levels since 2020.”² However, Congress simply must do more to hire more border agents and screen for illicit fentanyl coming across the border through ports of entry.

The safety and security of our nation’s Southern Border is nothing to play politics with. I’ve stood ready to pass comprehensive border security policy and funding legislation and know colleagues on both sides of the aisle are ready to vote for this bill.

Sincerely,



Angie Craig
Member of Congress

¹ <https://www.nbcnews.com/investigations/30-cameras-border-patrols-main-surveillance-system-are-broken-memo-say-rcna175281>

² <https://www.cnn.com/2024/09/30/politics/migrant-crossing-numbers-drop/index.html>