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Congress of the United States
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WATER RESOURCES
AND ENVIRONMENT

June 13, 2014

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I write to express my extreme concern over the astonishing increase of Unaccompanied Alien Children crossing our southern border and the effects it is having on our nation's border security. This is a humanitarian crisis which needs to be addressed immediately. The southern border is an increasingly dangerous environment for young children whom are exposed to extreme weather conditions and can fall victim to Transitional Criminal Organizations.

The Department of Homeland Security expects more than 60,000 migrant children to illegally cross the border this year alone and estimates could reach over 127,000 children in 2015. Such massive influx of Unaccompanied Alien Children is causing significant strain on border security resources along the southern border. Rather than carrying out their regular duties, U.S. Customs and Border Patrol officers and agents are put in the position of providing basic child care. This diversion away from normal patrol responsibilities will result in an increase of drugs and migrants illicitly crossing our border.

This increase of migrant children is due in large part to your decision on Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals. This decision to give children who have been brought to this country by their parents a special status was done without the consent of Congress and is not authorized by law. Furthermore, it has caused the rise of rumors throughout Central America that if parents send their children to United States they will be allowed to stay.

It is time to change the message. I urge you to launch a robust public relations campaign informing people throughout Central America that no change has been made to U.S. law and that their children are not eligible for any special status upon their arrival. Children attempting to cross the border alone are vulnerable to exploitation, violence and death along the route. You must make it clear, if parents send their children to our border unaccompanied they will be sent home.

Lastly, I fully support providing the Department of Homeland Security with the needed resources to solve this crisis, but immediate action must be taken. I strongly urge you to call upon the National Guard to assist our overwhelmed border agents in not only addressing the unfolding

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humanitarian crisis, but also to assist our agents in defending our border against the violent drug cartels who are increasing smuggling operations as a result of this crisis. Vital to the success of the National Guard along the border is providing them authority to not only patrol the border but to also enforce our laws and assist in arresting those illegally crossing the border.

I appreciate your immediate attention to this issue.

Sincerely,



Candice S. Miller

Chairman

Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security