

CANDICE S. MILLER  
10TH DISTRICT, MICHIGAN

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
320 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-2106  
FAX: (202) 226-1169

DISTRICT OFFICE:  
48701 VAN DYKE AVENUE  
SHELBY TOWNSHIP, MI 48317  
(586) 997-5010  
FAX: (586) 997-5013



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-2210

COMMITTEE ON  
HOUSE ADMINISTRATION  
CHAIRMAN

COMMITTEE ON  
HOMELAND SECURITY  
CHAIRMAN  
BORDER AND MARITIME SECURITY

COMMITTEE ON  
TRANSPORTATION  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

RAILROADS, PIPELINES,  
AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

WATER RESOURCES  
AND ENVIRONMENT

June 24, 2014

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20502

Dear President Obama:

I write to, once again, express my extreme concern with the impact the growing number of Unaccompanied Alien Children (UAC) is having on our nation. Not only is this a humanitarian crisis that needs to be addressed immediately for the sake of these innocent children, but also a matter of economic and diplomatic concern for our nation.

It is now estimated that upwards of 90,000 UACs will have illegally settled into America this year, and as many as 150,000 are expected to cross our border next year. While the southern border continues to remain porous – allowing for this humanitarian crisis to multiply by the day – the U.S. government continues to provide millions of dollars in foreign aid to the same nations that are encouraging families to send their children illegally across our borders. These children come mainly from Central America through Mexico and into our nation betting the odds that they will arrive safely and in the arms of relatives to start a new life. The governments of these nations have been the recipients of large amounts of U.S. foreign aid, and yet, are doing little to nothing to stop the illegal smuggling of children. To the contrary, they are putting their own children at great risk and overwhelming our security operations at our southern border, increasing the possibility of illicit drug activity by dangerous cartels which operate along the border.

Today, the Committee on Homeland Security, of which I serve as Vice-Chair, held a hearing with Secretary Jeh Johnson on this issue. Secretary Johnson listed several solutions the administration believes will “stem the tide.” However, I respectfully disagree that those actions are real solutions. For decades, our nation has sent untold amounts of foreign aid to these countries and joined in free trade agreements giving these nations enhanced access to our markets in the hope that they could build growing economies and stronger civil societies in part to stem the flow of illegal migration to those nations. With what is happening today at the southern border, there is no question that these efforts have failed. Over the past 10 years,

President Barack Obama

June 24, 2014

Page 2

Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, collectively, have received approximately \$5.8 billion in U.S. financial assistance. Since years of financial assistance has not worked, it is now time to try another way to get the attention of the leaders of these nations. We must now cut off further financial assistance to these countries that are unwilling to assist us in stopping UACs from flooding our border.

I also ask that you work with Congress to re-open, re-evaluate and possibly withdraw the U.S. from the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the Dominican Republic-Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR). While the original intent of these agreements was to encourage open access to U.S. markets for goods produced in those countries and for increased export opportunities for U.S. farmers and manufacturers and to build stronger economies throughout North and Central America, this generosity has detrimentally impacted our economy, our security and now our sovereignty. While America has been a great neighbor, our neighbors to south have not.

Mexico and Central America have historically experienced high levels of crime and poverty, in addition to a weak judicial system and security sector. These bilateral agreements were supposed to assist with developing these nations into more prosperous and stable partners on the world stage. Yet, the opposite has occurred and our nation now finds itself in the midst of one of the most severe foreign-generated humanitarian crisis in recent memory. Mexico and the Central American countries have not demonstrated any interest in assisting us. Therefore, we should not turn the other cheek and continue to assist them. We must act now. We must act decisively, and we must stop providing financial assistance and engaging in any formal trade agreements with nations that are complicit in shipping innocent children to our soil illegally.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your prompt reply and action.

Sincerely,



Candice S. Miller

Chairman

Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security

Committee on Homeland Security