



# OFFICE OF THE COUNTY JUDGE

## County of Hidalgo

RICHARD F. CORTEZ  
County Judge

President Joe Biden  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

President Biden:

I write you today to follow up on my letter dated May 2, 2022. Today, our border communities are once again faced with a serious issue on the horizon. A repeal of the CDC Order limiting asylum seekers pursuant to Title 42 without a detailed and comprehensive strategy to manage the influx of asylum seekers may prove disastrous to Hidalgo County, TX and with all probability transform a manageable challenge into an unmanageable crisis.

President Biden, while I am sympathetic to those seeking asylum, I must also communicate to you that current policies are placing an undue burden on those who have committed to protecting and defending our country. Every day these brave men and women of local, state and federal law enforcement and the U.S. Armed Forces place themselves at risk for our safety. Yet, current policies and the possible repeal of Title 42 does little to assist them in carrying out their duty. Instead this system is increasing their burden and does a disservice to those who give of themselves for all of us.

In the time between my first letter and today our community has been able to manage this extremely difficult situation along our border. This undertaking however, has not been easy. Our resources are limited, local, state and federal law enforcement partners are frustrated and even the most giving of our social organizations find themselves exhausted in their efforts.

During the current prohibition to entry, refugee camps have been established along the border in Northern Mexico. These camps are growing larger as individuals from around the world gather in anticipation of a renewed opportunity to enter our country. Repeal of the Title 42 prohibition will create an immediate and unmanageable flow of immigrants into our country. Hidalgo County and other border communities are not equipped to manage population inflows of this size.

President Biden, the border is our home. As someone who experiences the reality of this challenge on a daily basis I respectfully suggest the following:

1. Provide leadership to delay the suspension of the Title 42 prohibition until a comprehensive strategy is developed to handle the expected increase of migrants.
2. Immediately visit Hidalgo County and learn first hand what the challenges are, directly from those tasked with addressing the problem.
3. Prioritize comprehensive immigration reform for the next session of Congress.

I look forward to your response and commit to assisting you and your administration in confronting this critical issue.

In Service,

Richard F. Cortez  
County Judge  
Hidalgo County, Texas