



**City of McAllen
Office of the Mayor**

JAVIER VILLALOBOS
MAYOR

April 13, 2022

President Joseph R. Biden
Office of the President of the United States of America
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20500

Via email to: president@whitehouse.gov

Dear President Biden:

The City of McAllen, located in Hidalgo County, Texas in the Rio Grande Valley along our nation's southern border with a population of approximately 149,000, is a thriving community- a hub of international commerce with strong agricultural roots. Our region is filled with everyday Americans: small business owners, teachers, police officers, volunteers.

Although our community is giving, well-prepared, and proactive, no amount of preparation will allow for a local government such as the City of McAllen to respond to the dramatic rise in undocumented migration that is anticipated as a direct result of the United States federal government announcing the end of Title 42 effective May 23, 2022. For context, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) reported 1,662,167 total encounters with migrants in FY 2021 and 859,501 for the entirety of FY 2019. Astoundingly, the year-to-date number of encounters for FY 2022 is already reported at 805,157, surpassing FY 2019 and FY 2020.

As you know, Title 42 was initially implemented in March 2020 as a response to the SARS Covid-19 pandemic. While there has been significant reprieve from the pandemic, current data suggests that the coronavirus once again poses a serious threat to public health. Of the migrants released directly into McAllen by CBP January 1, 2022 to present, 12.3% tested positive for COVID-19. For the last twelve (12) full weeks of reporting, the positivity rate was 13.6%. According to the Texas Department of State Health Services, of the 254 Texas counties, Hidalgo County, has been disproportionately burdened as a result of the pandemic having the sixth (6th) most COVID fatalities and seventh (7th) most covid cases in the entire State of Texas.

Moreover, with the BA.2 variant rapidly impacting the northeastern United States such that health and safety protocols are being reconsidered, and reimplemented, a delay in lifting Title 42 affords your administration additional time to mobilize a response to combat the new variant's threat and protect the health and safety of all Americans.

I implore you to prioritize the health and safety of my community, Texans and all Americans, and to reconsider the administration's plan to lift Title 42.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'J' followed by a long, horizontal, wavy line that tapers to the right.

Mayor Javier Villalobos