



April 30, 2021

The Honorable John Cornyn
517 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Henry Cuellar
2372 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kyrsten Sinema
317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tony Gonzales
1009 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators Cornyn and Sinema and Representatives Cuellar and Gonzales,

I'm writing today to thank you for putting forward a solution for the current crisis at the border. Your leadership on this proves what many of us know to be true — that border security need not be in conflict with our history and heritage as a welcoming nation for those fleeing persecution.

As you know, this current crisis, though it is one in a decades-long series of southern border crises, has grown worse in recent months. According to a recent [Customs and Border Patrol report](#), officers encountered nearly 19,000 unaccompanied minors in the month of March 2021 alone — more than double the numbers from February. Once in custody, many of the children in these facilities described unacceptable conditions and hunger. Sadly, these stories are but one aspect of a complex situation without a simple fix.

Southern Baptists care deeply about both national security and those fleeing persecution. In 2018, the Southern Baptist Convention passed a [resolution](#) calling for immigration reform that includes “an emphasis on securing our borders,” maintains “the priority of family unity,” and honors “the value and dignity of those seeking a better life for themselves.” The resolution echoes the language of the [Baptist Faith and Message 2000](#), which affirms the dignity of every human being because all are made in God's image and calls every Christian to “seek to bring industry, government, and society as a whole under the sway of the principles of righteousness, truth, and brotherly love.”

Solving the longstanding problems at the southern border will take careful work by government leaders on both sides of the aisle and at every level of local, state, and federal authority. We need solutions to address both the humanitarian and security concerns that plague our immigration system.

Thank you for your work on this issue. Your efforts provide hope that the reforms that will promote human flourishing through greater security and efficiency in our immigration system are indeed possible.

Respectfully,

Russell Moore
President
Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission