



Nora Vargas

CHAIRWOMAN

San Diego County Board of Supervisors

February 7, 2023

The Honorable Sara Jacobs
United States House of Representatives
1314 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Juan Vargas
United States House of Representatives
2334 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Scott Peters
United States House of Representatives
1201 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Levin
United States House of Representatives
2352 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Darrell Issa
United States House of Representatives
2108 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Alex Padilla
United States Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Members of the San Diego Congressional Delegation:

On behalf of the County of San Diego, we urge Congress to prioritize comprehensive immigration reform during the 118th Congress. In addition to ensuring humane entry into the United States for those seeking asylum into our country, we ask that legislation also include adequate funding for local governments and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) along the border as we provide services and supports to immigration efforts. Lastly, we request that potential legislation include prohibiting the practice of lateral transfers that often results in California border communities receiving busses and flights of migrants from Texas and Arizona.

San Diego County is proud of our binational community, and of the work done by our local NGOs every day to assist those seeking asylum in our country. As the end of Title 42 draws near, we remain extremely concerned about the capacity of these already under resourced and over worked partners. The County of San Diego and State of California have worked in partnership for the better part of the year to assist the NGOs and the federal government in

County Administration Center • 1600 Pacific Highway, Room 335 • San Diego, CA 92101

Phone: (619) 531-5511 • Fax: (619) 531-6262

Email: Nora.Vargas@sdcounty.ca.gov

Printed In-House

responding to increased migration. This includes receiving lateral transfers of migrants into the San Diego ports of entry flown from Texas or bussed from Arizona multiple times weekly.

As we have seen during times of increased migration during the fall and winter of 2022, our hospitals, our public health department, our social services, and our homeless service providers are already at maximum capacity serving vulnerable residents in San Diego. Those seeking safety and asylum in our country have a right to humane treatment and local entities cannot bear the brunt of this need created by federal policies. The time is now for comprehensive immigration reform to ensure those fleeing persecution have a path to enter our country, while still maintaining safety and security. Asylum seekers have a right to enter this country with dignity and respect, and they add an important component to the fabric of our communities.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter and we look forward to continued coordination and collaboration as we address our nation's most significant challenges together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nora E. Vargas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

NORA VARGAS
Chairwoman, San Diego County Board of Supervisors
Supervisor, First District

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

By proactively outlining appropriate roles for the County and the local nonprofit organizations that have the expertise and ability to assist asylum seekers, and identifying short-term and long-term actions and funding opportunities, we can ensure our region has the necessary resources to continually assist this population and prevent additional homelessness in San Diego County.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with the recommended actions in the current fiscal year. Although the recommended actions may result in future fiscal impacts, staff would return to the Board for consideration and approval of these changes. Upon return by staff, funding for future costs will need to be identified by the department and will proceed once identified. At this time, there will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ACTION:

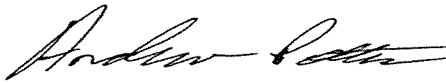
ON MOTION of Supervisor Vargas, seconded by Supervisor Anderson, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended.

AYES: Vargas, Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Fletcher, Desmond

State of California)
County of San Diego) §

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Original entered in the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors.

ANDREW POTTER
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors



Signed
by Andrew Potter

