

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 11, 2023

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair
Senate Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Susan Collins
Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Chris Murphy
Chair
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
Security

The Honorable Katie Britt
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Homeland

Dear Chair Murray, Vice Chair Collins, Chair Murphy, and Ranking Member Britt:

As you develop final FY 2024 Appropriations legislation, we urge you to provide not less than \$800 million for the Department of Homeland Security's Shelter and Services Program (SSP) for humanitarian assistance funding, which supports state, local, and nonprofit service providers who are assisting the federal government with providing critical services for asylum seekers.

In light of federal capacity constraints, the federal government relies on SSP to support local nonprofit and governmental social service organizations, as well as states and localities, which provide shelter, food, transportation, and support services to asylum seekers arriving at our southern border. Communities and organizations are on the frontlines of assisting migrants coming to our border, and resources are being stretched thin as these entities perform federal government functions. This funding is vitally important as more cities in the United States receive refugees and asylum seekers.

Given that the federal government has asked states, localities, and nonprofits to perform an essential governmental function, Congress must reaffirm its commitment to these states, localities, and nonprofits by providing significant funding for SSP. These funds are needed to ensure that shelters do not face financial difficulties nor are forced to stop their operations, which would simply shift even more of the burden to our local communities.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, and we look forward to engaging with you to reaffirm this commitment.

Sincerely,



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



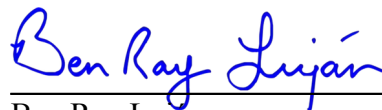
Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



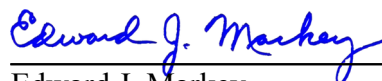
Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



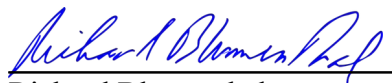
Ben Ray Lujan
United States Senator



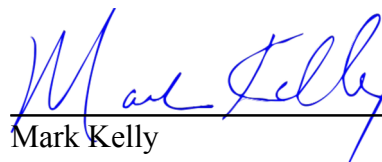
Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Mark Kelly
United States Senator



Peter Welch
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator