



PHIL BRYANT
GOVERNOR
July 18, 2014

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the ongoing crisis at the United States' southern border. Illegal aliens—many unaccompanied children—are flooding into our country in record numbers. Recent media reports highlight just how badly out of control the situation is: secretive attempts to funnel the immigrants into states without consent and the escalation of reprehensible human trafficking practices.

Our nation is faced with this very serious issue yet your administration's most recent proposal has been to pass the bill on to the American people by seeking to spend billions in tax dollars caring for the immigrants and running some sort of "messaging" campaign in Central America that is somehow supposed to dissuade people from seeking to enter the United States illegally. Mr. President, a secure border—which American citizens, congressmen, governors, and other leaders have begged you to prioritize—is what would dissuade illegal immigration, and it is frankly insulting that you would ask to put your hand in the wallets of working Americans to correct a problem you have caused.

Your administration's lax immigration policies and flagrant disregard for federal immigration law are exactly why thousands of immigrant children are facing serious threats of violence and abuse at the hands of human traffickers. In 2012, you unilaterally and unconstitutionally announced that your administration would stop enforcing our Nation's immigration laws with respect to more than 1.7 million illegal immigrations. In response, on behalf of the State of Mississippi, I joined a lawsuit, filed by a group of concerned federal immigration enforcement officers, challenging your unlawful executive actions. As you know, a federal judge subsequently agreed with our position that your administration's actions violated federal law, although he felt constrained to dismiss the case on technical grounds in a ruling that has been appealed. Despite the federal judge's opinion, your policy of non-enforcement has continued unabated, thereby encouraging continued illegal immigration.

I am also writing to inform you that, to the extent permitted by law, I intend to prohibit the federal government or its agents from housing large numbers of new illegal immigrants in the State of Mississippi. Illegal immigration imposes real and substantial costs on the states, and it is

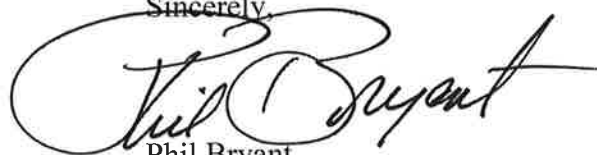
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unfair to expect the states to bear the costs of a problem created by the federal government's failure to enforce the law. In 2012, I signed an Executive Order protecting Mississippi against failed federal immigration policies. The Order, which still stands, prohibits illegal immigrants from receiving public benefits in the State of Mississippi.

Like many Governors, my office must monitor rumors about the transport and housing of illegal immigrants because your administration apparently prefers to conduct these acts under cloak of secrecy instead of in consultation with states, which have the right to monitor and secure their own borders. With that said, I request that your administration and its agents notify my office immediately of any plans to transport or house illegal immigrants in the State of Mississippi.

Mr. President, it becomes clearer by the day that your approach to immigration policy is deeply flawed. I can only hope, along with my fellow Americans, that the magnitude of the crisis at the southern border serves as a serious motivator for you to follow the rule of law and address this issue appropriately.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phil Bryant", written in a cursive style.

Phil Bryant
GOVERNOR