

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3813

May 22, 2019

The Honorable Tom Wolf
Governor of Pennsylvania
508 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Wolf,

Our country currently is facing a security and humanitarian crisis at the southern border. In April, more than 109,000 undocumented immigrants crossed the border. Around 98,000 of those 109,000 migrants were apprehended between ports of entry. On March 26th, U.S. Customs and Border Protection detained more than 4,100 migrants in one day, the highest such total in a decade.

Experts from both political parties have confirmed that illegal immigration has created an emergency at the southern border. Former Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Kirstjen Nielsen likened the situation to a category five hurricane. Kevin McLennan, Acting Secretary of DHS, has called it a “breaking point.” Former Secretary of DHS Jeh Johnson has described the southern border as, “truly in a crisis.”

Considering these recent developments, the Trump administration is asking Congress to give the Department of Homeland Security the authority to:

- Ensure unaccompanied alien children arriving at our border can be returned home and reunited with their families
- Allow families to be sheltered together during immigration proceedings and returned home together if needed
- Tighten asylum eligibility and raise the credible fear standard so immigrants can no longer abuse the system

As Members of Congress, we support all these legislative initiatives and hope to vote in support of them soon.

President Trump has also stated that he needs additional manpower at the southern border to gain control of the current situation, and may call for additional Troops to be deployed there. On April 4th, Secretary Nielson said that the administration is, “working with the National Guards and working with the states.”

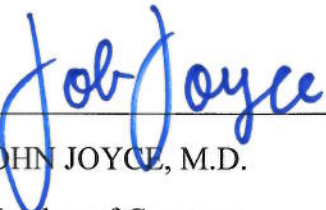
It is our position that Pennsylvania should lend to the President as many National Guard Troops as possible until the crisis is resolved.

However, given your statement from July 19, 2018 expressing that you would not honor a request from President Trump to send the National Guard to the border, we wanted to write to you in order to ensure that is not still the case. We would like to inquire whether you have refused any requests from the Trump administration to send Pennsylvania's National Guard Troops to the southern border, and if not, we would like you to offer those resources to the Administration as soon as possible.

We understand that you "proudly sent troops to help Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico in the last year to assist with disaster relief," so we expect you will again be willing to do so given the Trump administration views the crisis on the border as the equivalent of a national disaster.

We thank you for your consideration on this matter and hope you join us in our effort to address the current emergency.


Sincerely,



JOHN JOYCE, M.D.
Member of Congress



GUY RESCHENTHALER
Member of Congress



LLOYD SMUCKER
Member of Congress



SCOTT PERRY
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Mike Kelly". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline that extends under the name.

MIKE KELLY

Member of Congress