

## Southern Border Talking Points (March 29, 2021)

**SOURCE:** <https://alliance4action.org/action-groups/immigration/>

**Despite Title 42 (CDC Covid-related restrictions causing rapid deportation of the newly-arrived), the U.S. Southern Border continues to be open for certain groups including these:**

1. Over 10,000 trucks (with vegetables and hard goods) that drive into the U.S. from Mexico each day.
2. Thousands of people who commute to and from Mexico each day for work, education and health care.
3. Unaccompanied Minors
4. A few asylum-seekers, approved for hearings in the U.S. but forced to wait in Mexico, now being allowed entry.

**TITLE 42** - Currently, most asylum-seekers are prevented from entering the U.S. due to Title 42. **We request** that Customs and Border Protection cease deporting people in the middle of the night into northern Mexico or into small Mexican communities without adequate services or transportation. **We request** that the Biden administration remove Title 42 which causes family separations as parents send their children alone.

**UNACCOMPANIED MINORS** - **We support** the Biden administration's decision to end the rapid expulsion of unaccompanied minors into unsafe conditions in Mexico which occurred during the Trump administration. **We support** the Biden administration's decision to prioritize the processing of these unaccompanied minors within DHS and HHS in order to ensure safe transportation to their sponsors in the U.S. We, along with others, urge the Biden administration to move as quickly as possible to reduce the backlog of unaccompanied minors that are being held in CBP facilities – as we recognize these facilities are not adequate, humane, nor operating within the confines of the U.S. legal system as it pertains to unaccompanied minors.

**ASYLUM-SEEKERS WAITING IN MEXICO** - **We understand** that there are still over 25,000 Central Americans and Mexicans who qualify for asylum hearings in the U.S. but who, over the last 16 months, were sent by the Trump administration to live in northern Mexico under the “Remain in Mexico” program. **We support** this administration's decision to start processing these people back into the U.S. **We stand ready** to help in the processing of these asylum-seekers as they relocate to communities around the country to live with their sponsors while they await their immigration hearings, per U.S. immigration law. **We oppose** detention for asylum-seekers per international treaties that the U.S. has signed.

**INCREASE CAPACITY AT PORTS OF ENTRY** – **We urge** the Biden administration to increase the capacity of CPB to process incoming visitors at the ports of entry and discourage people from entering the U.S. between the ports of entry in order to seek lawful asylum. This change would discourage human trafficking and help to prevent migrant deaths.

**TRANSPARENCY and OVERSIGHT** - **We urge** the Biden administration to provide transparency to the media and the general public as well as improved oversight at each step of the immigration process. We acknowledge that the government must protect the privacy of all individuals in the process.

**PARTNER WITH LOCAL NON-PROFITS AND COMMUNITIES** - **We request** that the Biden administration continue to partner and communicate with local organizations so that plans can be shared to ensure proper preparation for an influx of visitors. **We request** that the Biden administration allocate more financial support to our local nonprofits and communities who are currently handling an increasing influx of visitors. **We remain eager to partner** with the federal government to support the health and security of our communities while at the same time providing humane as well as lawful treatment of our visitors.