

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 6, 2022

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Vice Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations

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

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Homeland Security

Dear Chairman Leahy, Vice Chairman Shelby, Chairman Murphy, and Ranking Member Capito:

As you develop final FY 2023 Appropriations legislation, we urge you to provide \$500 million for the Department of Homeland Security's Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) for additional humanitarian assistance funding, which supports state, local, and non-profit 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 EFSP to reimburse local nonprofit and governmental social service organizations, as well as states and localities, for providing shelter, food, transportation, and support services to asylum seekers arriving at our southern border. Communities and organizations are on the front-lines of assisting migrants coming to our border, and resources are being stretched thin as they take on the role of performing a federal government function. 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 non-profits to perform an essential governmental function, Congress must reaffirm its commitment to these states, localities, and non-profits by providing significant additional funding for EFSP. These funds are needed to ensure that shelters do not face financial difficulties or are not 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



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



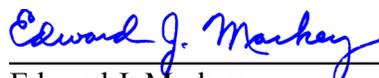
Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Ben Ray Lujan
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



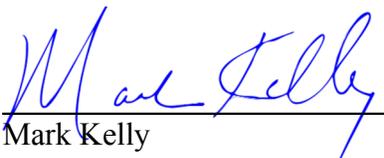
Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator


Mark Kelly
United States Senator