

# United States Senate

April 5, 2022

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
3801 Nebraska Ave. N.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20016

Secretary Mayorkas:

I write to raise concerns about the Department of Homeland Security's preparedness for ending Title 42. The White House recently announced it would terminate the program on May 23, 2022. Ending this policy without sufficient preparation risks undermining our national security. I urge the Department to provide Congress with a comprehensive plan on how it will address the increased strain on our immigration system and increased security needs before Title 42 is now set to expire next month.

Ending Title 42 is expected to cause a significant increase of migration to the United States and put more pressure on an already broken system. These problems do not only affect the southern border, but put more strain on those working to secure the northern border as well.

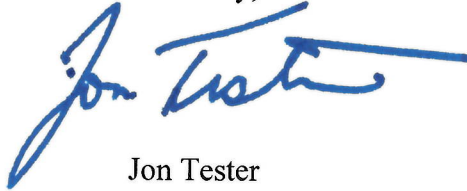
Reports indicate that the Department is developing contingency plans, but it has not provided sufficient information to Congress. The Department must provide additional information on how it is working with other federal, state, and local agencies to ensure that additional staffing, processing, humanitarian, and security resources are in place, and how it is prepared to address the increased numbers of encounters and asylum claims that are expected to follow.

Customs and Border Patrol's (CBP) own staffing models show a current shortage of more than 1,000 officers, and I continue to hear from officers that frequent reassignments to the southern border are negatively impacting security at the northern border, officer morale, and staffing levels. I also urge the Department to provide additional information about how it is working to address this staffing shortage, and improve recruitment and retention of CBP officers. The Department must also ensure that CBP officers from the northern border ports of entry will not be subject to frequent reassignments to the southern border and that the northern border will remain secure.

Title 42 is an emergency order and should not stay in effect indefinitely, especially as we continue to make headway in combatting the COVID-19 pandemic. But we should not end this policy without ample preparation. I appreciate your work to ensure the Department provides Congress with a comprehensive plan that will safely ease immigration restrictions.

I stand ready to work with you on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jon Tester". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jon Tester