



MARK BRNOVICH
ATTORNEY GENERAL

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF ARIZONA

April 9, 2021

Xavier Becerra
Secretary of Health and Human Services
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Becerra:

I write with a crucial invitation for you to join me for a tour of the southwest border in Arizona, at your earliest availability. There can be no doubt that the conditions here now constitute a clear threat to the health of Arizonans, Americans and the thousands of undocumented immigrants that are entering our country with each passing day.

Law enforcement officials are reporting that not all of these immigrants are originating from Mexico, but they are arriving from all over the world. They are working tirelessly to identify what threats these people may pose, including the transmission of COVID 19, its variants and other possible diseases.

Moreover, seeing thousands of immigrants, including young children, packed into very tight federal processing facilities appears contrary to all of the precautions that we have been told are necessary to prevent the spread of the deadly pandemic. With the moratorium on deportations, overflowing facilities have been forcing Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to release a growing number of detainees directly into our cities without appropriate coordination with local law enforcement or public health officials.

My sincere hope is that together we can review what is actually transpiring at the border, speak with the people on the frontlines, and that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services can help ensure that Arizona is doing everything possible to protect the well-being of Americans as well as undocumented immigrants.

Please let me know when you can join me for this important tour. I will make myself available any day of your choosing. We must meet this great humanitarian and health crisis with urgency and transparency, as it is now expanding far beyond our border towns and into communities across our country.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Brnovich". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Mark Brnovich