



## STATE OF FLORIDA

**ASHLEY MOODY  
ATTORNEY GENERAL**

January 20, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
United States House of Representatives  
1236 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
2468 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear President Biden, Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, and Minority Leader McCarthy:

I write to express my deep concern with the crisis on our southwest border, where there has been an unprecedented increase in the amount of lethal fentanyl coming into the United States, with disastrous consequences for the States and our citizens. As we recognize the President's first year in office, we cannot ignore the fact that the escalating crisis at the border is having a devastating effect on our efforts to end the national opioid epidemic and save lives.

Analyzing the only data available from President Biden's first year in office, the amount of illicit fentanyl seized at the southwest border has increased more than 50 percent when

compared to the same time period in 2020. In plain numbers, that translates to 8,774 pounds of fentanyl seized, compared to 5,734 pounds seized from February through November 2020. In fact, the amount of fentanyl confiscated during that 10-month period, is enough to kill the entire population of America six times over.

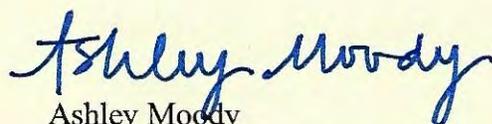
Law enforcement officials know from hard experience, of course, that what is seized is inevitably just the tip of the iceberg. This tidal wave of lethal drugs can only have devastating effects on our citizens. In fact, news reports have stated that fentanyl overdoses have become the number one cause of death for adults ages 18 to 45, surpassing deaths by COVID-19, cancer and car accidents.<sup>1</sup> And it is a direct consequence of the mayhem that now exists on our southwest border, with hundreds of thousands of immigrants crossing our border – U.S. Customs and Border Protection recorded more than 1.85 million migrant encounters from January to November 2021, according to the agency’s own website.<sup>2</sup> This represents the highest number of illegal crossings recorded since at least 1960.<sup>3</sup>

That atmosphere of chaos on our border gives free rein to some of the worst actors in the criminal world – including the Mexican drug cartels – to smuggle drugs in enormous quantities. And we know that with drug smuggling there is also the smuggling of people, including thousands of children, and the ugly specter of human trafficking.

It is high time for Congress and the executive branch to stop posturing, to acknowledge the magnitude of the crisis, to take immediate and forceful action to regain control of our southwest border and to combat the illicit importation of fentanyl and other synthetic opioids. I urge you to enforce our existing immigration and drug trafficking laws vigorously, to provide the funds necessary for that vital enforcement effort, and to enact any additional legislative measures necessary to bring this crisis to a close now. Those measures should include enactment of the FIGHT Fentanyl Act, HR 3269, which will permanently add fentanyl-related compounds to Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act, and which I urged Congress to pass last year.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this incredibly important public safety issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ashley Moody". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ashley Moody  
Florida Attorney General

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.foxnews.com/us/fentanyl-overdoses-leading-cause-death-adults>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/southwest-land-border-encounters>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/22/us/politics/border-crossings-immigration-record-high.html>