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Chairmen Wiggam, Vice Chair John, and Ranking Member Kelly, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony urging the United States government to secure its southern border

According to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection enforcement data, the number of migrants detained along the U.S. Mexico border exceeded 200,000 for the first time in 21 years in July.

The United States Border Patrol is overwhelmed. Local law enforcement and mayors are calling out for help. Citizens in border communities are concerned for their safety. This has caused a humanitarian crisis that is endangering the lives and welfare of U.S. citizens, as well as those attempting to come here.

In July alone, over 212 thousand migrants were taken into U.S. custody. Over 18 thousand were unaccompanied teenagers and children, an increase from June. Our government continues to struggle with the influx of kids, thousands of whom just earlier this year were ordered to wait in border patrol facilities unsuited for minors for longer than the legal 72 hours. Despite attempts to address that issue, the number of kids in Border Patrol custody went back up to over 1,000 as of recently released data.

The Biden administration has faced criticism for their management of the border crisis which has led to COVID-19 outbreaks and backlogged processing. Our federal government does not have a centralized system for tracking or responding to COVID-19 cases among those attempting to enter the U.S. The disjointed federal response has limited the Biden administration's ability to contain potential outbreaks in packed detention facilities and if uncontained, those hot spots could also spread into the wider U.S. population.

To put this into prospective, the administration released roughly 50,000 migrants, who crossed the southern border illegally, into the U.S. without a court date in July, this just one sign of how overwhelmed some sectors of the border continue to be.

Over 1 million arrests of migrants attempting to cross the U.S. – Mexico border have been made since last October, after June set a 20-year record for that month. I urge you to support this resolution calling for the federal government to secure our nations border.