As elected law enforcement officers, we must uphold our oaths of office and protect the legal residents of our jurisdictions. While we are committed to upholding the law and maintaining public safety, the federal government has failed in its responsibilities to secure our nation’s borders. During the 2022 Fiscal Year, encounters at the Southwest Border hit record numbers, and encounters in Fiscal Year 2023 are nearly twenty percent higher than in 2022. The consequences of the federal government’s abdication are being felt across the nation. Cartels and gang members are bringing record levels of
fentanyl and other drugs into our communities as our officers work around the clock to battle these criminal institutions. As Sheriffs, we are thankful that Florida has recognized the crisis at our border and we are partnering with the Sunshine State to bring law and order back to our streets.

Under the leadership of Governor Ron DeSantis, Florida has recognized how the porous border has had far-reaching impacts and has stepped in to support public safety. This includes creating a nation-leading human smuggling and drug trafficking strike force in partnership with local sheriffs, lending physical support by deploying members of their national guard, highway patrol and state law enforcement to the border, and enacting a program to voluntarily transport illegal immigrants to so-called sanctuary jurisdictions across the United States. It is unfortunate that the federal government has effectively abandoned border states and forced states like Florida to deal with this burden on their own. We can no longer sit by and watch our nation become overrun by gang activity and drug-related violence.

While we have been urging the federal government to step up their efforts to secure our border, or at the very least help us deal with the impacts of the border crisis, these pleas have fallen on the deaf ears of an administration that is purposefully unwilling to enforce our nation’s immigration laws. The undersigned Sheriffs join together to partner with Governor DeSantis and the state of Florida to preserve the safety and well-being of the citizens we serve.

We call on other law enforcement agencies to do the same.

Signed,

Sheriff Robert D. Schultz, III, Gilchrist County Sheriff’s Office (Florida)

Sheriff Bill Leeper, Nassau County Sheriff’s Office (Florida)

Sheriff Michael J. Chitwood, Volusia County Sheriff’s Office (Florida)

Sheriff Gordon Smith, Bradford County Sheriff’s Office (Florida)
Sheriff Michelle Cook,  
Clay County Sheriff’s Office (Florida)

Sheriff Chad Bianco,  
Riverside County Sheriff’s Office (California)

Sheriff Allen Cooper,  
Fremont County Sheriff’s Office (Colorado)

Sheriff Eddie Farris,  
Putnam County Sheriff’s Office (Tennessee)

Sheriff Tyler Appel,  
Roberts County Sheriff’s Office (South Dakota)

Sheriff Dale J. Schmidt,  
Dodge County Sheriff’s Office (Wisconsin)

Sheriff Chad Bianco,  
Riverside County Sheriff’s Office (California)

Sheriff Kevin Rambosk,  
Collier County Sheriff’s Office (Florida)

Sheriff Allen Cooper,  
Fremont County Sheriff’s Office (Colorado)

Sheriff Gene R. Lillard,  
Montrose County Sheriff’s Office (Colorado)

Sheriff Eddie Farris,  
Putnam County Sheriff’s Office (Tennessee)

Sheriff Wayne Strawn, II,  
Marshall County Sheriff’s Office (Illinois)

Sheriff Tyler Appel,  
Roberts County Sheriff’s Office (South Dakota)

Sheriff Wayne Strawn, II,  
Marshall County Sheriff’s Office (Illinois)

Sheriff Jeff Gahler,  
Harford County Sheriff’s Office (Maryland)

Sheriff Jeff Bullard,  
Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office (Illinois)
Sheriff Richard Watson, St. Clair County Sheriff’s Office (Illinois)

Sheriff Chris Nocco, Pasco County Sheriff’s Office (Florida)

Sheriff Wayne Ivey, Brevard County Sheriff’s Office (Florida)

Sheriff James F. Potter, DeSoto County Sheriff’s Office (Florida)

Sheriff Gary Bettencourt, Gilliam County Sheriff’s Office (Oregon)

Sheriff Clinton “C.J.” Walters, Bradford County Sheriff’s Office (Pennsylvania)

Sheriff John W. Hanlin, Douglas County Sheriff’s Office (Oregon)

Sheriff Kurt Hoffman, Sarasota County Sheriff’s Office (Florida)

Sheriff Eric J. Weaknecht, Berks County Sheriff’s Office (Pennsylvania)

Sheriff Craig S. DuMond, Delaware County Sheriff’s Office (New York)

Sheriff Travis Johnson, Malheur County Sheriff’s Office (Oregon)

Sheriff Frederick W. Brown, Hunterdon County Sheriff’s Office (New Jersey)
Sheriff Wesley Holt, Greene County Sheriff's Department (Tennessee)

Sheriff David Black, Otero County Sheriff's Office (New Mexico)

Sheriff Neil Gross, Shelby County Sheriff's Office (Iowa)

Sheriff Mark Dannels, Cochise County Sheriff's Office (Arizona)

Sheriff Michael J. Murphy, Livingston County Sheriff's Office (Michigan)

Sheriff D. Keith Davis, Wayne County Sheriff's Office (Iowa)

Sheriff Johnny Moats, Polk County Sheriff's Office (Georgia)

Sheriff Darby Butler, Dixie County Sheriff's Office (Florida)

Sheriff Joey Terrell, Habersham County Sheriff's Office (Georgia)

Sheriff David Clouse, Navajo County Sheriff's Office (Arizona)

Sheriff Mark Garton, Polk County Sheriff's Office (Oregon)

Sheriff Zachary L. Schroeder, Divide County Sheriff's Office (North Dakota)

Sheriff Corey Helton, Lea County Sheriff's Office (New Mexico)
Sheriff Daniel Coverley, Douglas County Sheriff’s Office (Nevada)

Sheriff Thaddeus “Thad” Cleveland, Terrell County Sheriff’s Office (Texas)

Sheriff Todd Hood, Madison County Sheriff’s Office (New York)

Sheriff James B. “Jim” Reed, Bureau County Sheriff’s Office (Illinois)

Sheriff Frank Levindoski, Tioga County Sheriff’s Office (Pennsylvania)

Sheriff Donny Youngblood, Kern County Sheriff’s Office (California)

Sheriff Rick Staly, Flagler County Sheriff’s Office (Florida)

Sheriff Joe McGill, Nye County Sheriff’s Office (Nevada)

Sheriff Larry Kendrick, Owyhee County Sheriff’s Office (Idaho)

Sheriff Bob Nolan, Cape May County Sheriff’s Office (New Jersey)

Sheriff Neal Rohlfing, Monroe County Sheriff’s Department (Illinois)

Sheriff Michael R. “Mike” Kile, Screven County Sheriff’s Office (Georgia)

Sheriff Alan W. Cutler, Pender County Sheriff’s Office (North Carolina)
Sheriff Tom J. Kleinholter, Dubois County Sheriff’s Office (Indiana)

Sheriff Jared F. Miller, Wakulla County Sheriff’s Office (Florida)

Sheriff Michael A. Lewis, Wicomico County Sheriff’s Office (Maryland)

Sheriff Donald L. Edenfield, Jackson County Sheriff’s Office (Florida)

Sheriff Micah C. Harmon, Lavaca County Sheriff’s Office (Texas)

Sheriff Brad Whitehead, Union County Sheriff’s Office (Florida)

Sheriff Mike Harrison, Gulf County Sheriff’s Office (Florida)

Sheriff Michael C. Bonham, Osage County Sheriff’s Office (Missouri)

Sheriff Robert S. Leahy, Clermont County Sheriff’s Office (Ohio)

Sheriff René King, Lincoln County Sheriff’s Office (Idaho)

Sheriff Dennis Banther, Kingfisher County (Oklahoma)
Sheriff Buddy Money, Liberty County Sheriff’s Office (Florida)

[Signature]

Sheriff Morris A. Young, Gadsden County Sheriff’s Office (Florida)

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