

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **What Tennessee Leaders Are Saying About the Secure the Border Act**

Our communities are reeling from the devastating impact of the purposeful crisis at the border. In response, the *Secure the Border Act* was developed with the firsthand insight gathered during the Homeland Security Committee's trips to El Paso, field hearings in Pharr, conversations with Border Patrol agents, and discussions with border communities. One thing is certain; under this administration, every state is a border state—including Tennessee. Leaders across the Volunteer State want sensible solutions to a devastating problem. H.R. 2 delivers those solutions.

#### **Here's what they're saying:**

"I commend Chairman Green's efforts to stop the flow of fentanyl into our communities. I, like everyone here in Tennessee, want safe communities—we aren't getting that under this administration. The *Secure the Border Act* is the tangible solution we need to ensure the safety of Tennesseans and Americans alike. This isn't about partisan games. H.R. 2 is a sensible and effective piece of legislation that supports the men and women on the frontlines of the border crisis."  
***Senate Majority Leader Jack Johnson***

"H.R. 2 puts the teeth back in our border security. It also reinforces our Border Patrol agents, of which are 50% Latino. As Chair of Latinos for Tennessee, this is not a racial issue but a safety issue. I stand with Congressman Green in his fight for putting safety first."  
***Tommy Vallejos, Chairman of Latinos for Tennessee***

"The rule of law is indispensable for America's success and prosperity. Unfortunately, this president has turned a blind eye to the lawlessness happening on our U.S.-Mexico border. As a result, we are in the middle of a humanitarian and immigration crisis unlike one our country has ever seen. Fortunately, Chairman Mark Green and Reps. Jordan and McCaul have introduced H.R. 2 that will, among other things, help institute much needed order to stop illegal immigration into our country. On behalf of millions of Latinos living in the U.S. and in Tennessee who support both legal immigration and a secure border, we thank Chairman Green for his leadership on this critical issue for our country. The House should approve this legislation without delay."  
***Raul Lopez, Executive Director for Latinos for Tennessee***

“I’m deeply concerned about the flow of illicit drugs into our communities nationwide. Back home in Tennessee, we know the key to strong families and prosperous neighborhoods is health. Fentanyl is the leading cause of death for young Americans—directly hurting the wellbeing of our constituents. As physicians, Rep. Green and I understand firsthand the dangers of fentanyl. I’m glad to support H.R. 2 because it’s a common sense bill that supports personnel at the border and chokes off fentanyl in Tennessee.” **Mayor Ken Moore, Franklin, Tennessee**

“The *Secure the Border Act* is a targeted effort that will positively impact Tennesseans and Americans from coast to coast. Unaccompanied minor children must be protected, and that means our current laws must be strengthened to protect them from trafficking. I’m glad to see H.R. 2 going to the House Floor, and I commend Rep. Green for his Committee’s diligent work.” **State Representative Sam Whitson, COL (Ret.)**

“Our nation is being systematically invaded and occupied by millions of illegal aliens. Instead of fulfilling his constitutional duties, President Biden and his administration have turned a blind eye to this very dangerous situation. Congressman Green and his fellow Republicans should be commended for their efforts to deal with this national security crisis.” **Todd Starnes, Best-Selling Author and Radio Host**

“Fentanyl is crippling our communities across the country—and Tennessee isn’t immune. Fentanyl is the number one cause of death for young Americans and too many of our leaders don’t seem to care, which is startling in and of itself. We need common sense legislation to put a stop to this crisis. That’s why I commend Chairman Green’s efforts to pass the *Secure the Border Act*. This bill will cut off the cartels and stop allowing these heinous criminals to make money off of the backs of vulnerable migrants. Securing our border is the best way to protect our country.” **Sheriff Dusty Rhoades, Williamson County, Tennessee**

“I support the *Secure the Border Act* 100%. All states have become border states. The increase in the drug flow is out of hand. To those who may think this policy hurts illegal aliens—it protects them. Often, the illegal aliens suffer internal crimes and abuse because they will not reach out to local law enforcement for help because of their perceived status. Now that’s a crime!” **Sheriff Tim Eads, Dickson County**

“As a State Senator and physician in Tennessee, I strongly support the *Secure the Border Act* legislation because our southern border continues to be a serious problem for our country with the inflow of illegal immigrants as well as fentanyl flooding our border. I strongly support this legislation and hope that Congress can do what our president has refused to do in securing our border.” ***State Senator Joey Hensley, MD***

“While President Joe Biden ignores his sworn duty as commander-in-chief to secure our borders, this crisis continues to endanger the safety of Americans and cost Tennesseans and taxpayers across this nation. We thank Congressman Green and his Republican colleagues for stepping up to ensure law enforcement has the manpower as well as the tools and resources they deserve to defend our nation against these catastrophic immigration policies.” ***State Representative Clay Doggett***

“I fully support H.R. 2, also known as the *Secure the Border Act*. The passage of this legislation is vital to the protection and sovereignty of our great nation. It is imperative that our government secure the southern border of the United States. The surge of illegal aliens streaming across our border is a national security risk and an economic drain on resources meant for the citizens of this country. The lack of border security has also led to numerous lives destroyed by traffickers and proliferation of fentanyl, which has led to countless unnecessary deaths. The passage of H.R. 2 is sorely needed so that we can protect the great people of the United States.” ***State Representative Rusty Grills***

“It’s crucial that we pass H. R. 2, the *Secure the Border Act* of 2023. This piece of public policy will help rural and urban Americans the same by not placing an undue burden on our communities in the form of public safety and the economic impact of keeping our communities safe. This is an opportunity to avoid an unfair and unjust problem with open borders. I am all for immigration done the correct way as my wife is an immigrant from Ukraine and is an example of ‘The American Dream’ done the right and legal way! I am blessed to be in my 21st year as the Mayor of Lobelville, Tennessee, and I do not send out letters of support very often. However, this is a very important piece of legislation that needs to be passed.” ***Mayor Robby J. Moore, Lobelville, Tennessee***

“All American cities are negatively impacted by having an open border. We have seen increased incidents of human trafficking and fentanyl deaths caused by lax border policies. I stand with Congressman Green in his efforts to secure our border with my full support of H.R. 2.” ***Mayor Lisa Anderson, City of Fairview***

“In support of all law enforcement, CBP, and agents that protect our great nation at the border, The Montgomery County, Tennessee GOP supports the key issues in H.R. 2 to keep our men and women protected and resourced to perform their critical duties. Without conservative approaches towards border control and law enforcement, Americans will no longer be safe from illegal immigration, even as far as our small town in Tennessee.” ***Chairman Doug Englen, Montgomery County Republican Party***

“The Biden administration’s failure to properly secure our southern border has resulted in an unprecedented humanitarian crisis that continues to threaten our national security. Even here in rural Tennessee, our communities are being forced to deal with the consequences of these disastrous open border policies. The *Secure the Border Act of 2023* will benefit our state and others by providing much-needed solutions to address this growing crisis. I applaud Congressman Green and the House Republican Conference on their efforts to bring law and order back to our nation’s borders with this legislation.” ***State Representative Kip Capley***

"The people in my district are being affected directly and negatively by our open border. The highly potent methamphetamine coming from Mexico is causing a rise in property and violent crimes. The fentanyl is so plentiful that it has supplanted almost all other opioids and is killing our citizens. Something must be done to stem the flow of these drugs at the southern border." ***District Attorney General Brent Cooper, 22nd Judicial District of Tennessee***

"Even in a small southern town, we are seeing the growing effect of illegal and undocumented immigrants in our community rise steadily. One of the more concerning problems we are seeing grow is the fact that so many undocumented immigrants are driving on our streets without licenses or insurance. That may not seem like a major issue to some people but take the time to see the long term effect it has when one of these immigrants causes an accident and leaves the country, leaving the victim with medical costs, sometimes for life, and the burden it's placing on American citizens through increased insurance and healthcare costs. I support Rep. Green’s efforts to secure the border through his work on H.R. 2.” ***Chief of Fire and Police Dennis Honholt, Dover, Tennessee***

"The *Secure the Border Act* is a vital piece of legislation and has broad support from Tennesseans. It aims to strengthen our border security and protect our state and nation from threats posed by illegal immigration. Passage of this bill will ensure the safety and security of our citizens and prevent the entry of criminals,

drugs, and other illegal activities into Tennessee and our country. I appreciate Congressman Green for his work on this measure and urge Congress to pass it.”  
***State Senator Bill Powers***

“I have known Congressman Green for years. I also know how hard he and his Committee worked to craft portions of H.R. 2, the *Secure the Border Act*. Our Border Patrol needs help—now. I’m glad to see the increased use of technology and the building of a physical border wall at the forefront of this legislation. These are the kinds of targeted and commonsense solutions we need to keep our communities safe.” ***State Representative Mary Littleton***

“As a County Commissioner in the State of Tennessee, I can confidently say that the open border is directly impacting the citizens of our county. The most concerning of which is the amount of fentanyl flooding into our communities and schools. These are our kids, our neighbors that are falling victim to this oftentimes fatal drug. Financially, this impacts the local funding required to adequately support local law enforcement, judicial services, correctional facilities, and the full range of emergency and medical services. Without an end to the influx of illegal migrants, we will end up having to raise the taxes on our citizens to offset the rising costs. Therefore, I fully support H. R. 2 (*Secure the Border Act*) to establish a secure border and to stop the inhumane activity occurring at the border and across our country due to human and drug trafficking. This is, after all, a key responsibility of our federal government and it is the humane thing to do. It is time they get to work, stop making excuses, and start doing their job and let the U.S. CBP and ICE do theirs.” ***Commissioner Mary Smith, Williamson County, Tennessee***

“As Americans, we are facing severe drug problems, therefore we are looking to our leaders to try and keep our country as safe as possible. I am in support of H.R. 2.” ***Mayor Lesa Fitzhugh, Dover, Tennessee***

“Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan once cogently observed that the federal government’s first obligation is to keep its people alive and free. For too long, the Biden administration has failed to meet this obligation. It has intentionally failed to secure our southern border, allowing mayhem to occur on our streets and in our communities and allowing fentanyl to kill many of our young people. Congratulations to Chairman Mark Green and his colleagues in the House for bringing forth legislation to plug the gaping holes the Biden administration has blown in our national security at our southern border. I urge all members of

Congress to honor our federal government's first obligation to its people and support the *Secure the Border Act of 2023*." ***State Representative Gino Bulso***

"With drugs entering our Southern border in record amounts, I applaud Congressman Green and his fellow colleagues for introducing H.R. 2! All of our rural Tennessee communities have become border towns due to failed Biden policies; however, this bill gives me great hope that we will set America back on the right track!" ***State Representative Brock Martin***

"I am in full support of H.R. 2, *Secure The Border Act of 2023*. The Founding Fathers of The United States of America gave the responsibility to the federal government to secure and protect our borders. The invasion on our open Southern border allowing harmful drugs and people that want to do harm to our country must be addressed and stopped. Hear the American citizens cry, 'secure our border' and pass H.R. 2. and sign [it] into law." ***State Senator Ed Jackson***

"My father, a surgeon in Wayne County for over 40 years, immigrated to the United States in the 1950s on a student visa. After finishing his surgical residency at St. Thomas hospital in Nashville, he went back to the Philippines because his visa expired. He then received another visa to return and became a naturalized American citizen. He was always in favor of people with the desire to come to the United States but was adamant about entering the proper way. I'm proud to offer my support for H.R. 2." ***County Executive Jim Mangubat, Wayne County, Tennessee***

"Williamson County supports LEGAL immigration but is negatively impacted by the policies of the current administration that encourages illegal immigration. As Williamson County Mayor, I support Representative Green's efforts to stem the flow of illegal drugs and criminals into the U.S. and Williamson County. I support the *Secure the Border Act*." ***Williamson County Mayor Rogers Anderson***

"The security of the Southern Border is extremely important to all government officials in Tennessee. H.R. 2 will enhance this security and will prevent the entry of illegal aliens into the United States. I commend Rep. Green for helping pass this legislation." ***Alderman Richard Holland, Sardis, Tennessee***

"I am in total support of H.R. 2, the *Secure the Border Act*, sponsored by Congressman Mark Green. The borders are an open door to our nation under the Biden administration, and I greatly appreciate the hard work that Congressman

Green is doing to remedy this national security risk.” **Mayor Mike Creasy, Decatur County**

“Congressman Green, please do all you can to secure our southern border to protect Americans from illegal crossings. Our immigration policies are in need of major repair and improvement, but while we work to create better pathways for those wanting to work in America, our border needs to be secure.” **Ted Williams, business leader, Dickson, Tennessee**

“This is a prime example of the type of legislation that has been so long absent from Congress. This legislation, H.R. 2, very specifically addresses the needs of the Southern border. If funding is approved, this will go a long way toward righting the ship. Thanks, Congress, for a strong step in the right direction!” **Dr. John H. Sullivan, DDS, Lexington, Tennessee**

“I support this comprehensive plan to secure the borders of our Great Nation. The ability for Customs and Border Protection to perform their duty is paramount. This bill frees their hands and provides them with much needed support.” **Allen Livengood, Director of Hickman County Ambulance Service, Centerville, TN**

“It is absolutely vital that our federal government take steps to secure our national borders. Congressman Mark Green is one of the few leaders I know of who is actually trying to do something about our dire situation, and I fully support his efforts in H.R.2.” **Hickman County Mayor Jim Bates, Bon Aqua, Tennessee**

“People from around the world have come to America for the dream and hope of freedom and a better life for their families. America has welcomed them by the millions. Many immigrants have sacrificed all they had to come to America and start over as citizens of this great nation. To continue to allow the uncontrolled crossing of our borders is an egregious disrespect to those that have followed our laws, as well as those charged with enforcing them. It is time we ‘provide for the common defense’ and secure our borders. The wellbeing of our nation depends on it!” **Duane A. Dominy, District 28 Councilman (Retired), Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County**

“By failing to secure the border, this administration has violated their oaths of office to uphold our U.S. Constitution. Our non-profit organization, The 917 Society, honors and celebrates Constitution Day in our schools and promotes Constitution Education. We stand by the Constitution and support the *Secure the*

***Border Act as affirming Section IV Article 4 of our U.S. Constitution.” Joni Bryant, The 917 Society***

“Completing the border wall is paramount to the security of our nation. It is time for real leadership to implement solutions. H.R. 2 does just that. I applaud Chairman Mark Green and his boldness for addressing this head-on.” ***LTC Fred Gurley, (Ret.)***

“We heartily endorse H.R. 2 because we feel it is essential to the safety of our nation. We must protect our borders, or we will not survive as a sovereign nation.” ***COL James C. Harding, USAF (Ret.), America’s 25th Most-Decorated Military Veteran***

“As a native of Nashville, I fear the future of my city and state. The number one issue facing the nation is the open southern border. The damage is immediate but five years from now, the damage will be deep. Crime increases, hurting the public school system, and the welfare system will be our downfall. The problems at the southern border are fixable and have simple solutions. Thank you for stepping up with courage and logic. Make this happen, not for me, but for my grandchildren.” ***Norm Partin, Nashville businessman***