

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

March 14, 2024

President Joe Biden  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We request that you immediately designate the Tren de Aragua, Venezuela's largest criminal gang, as a Transnational Criminal Organization (TCO). This designation is crucial to effectively mobilize national awareness as a result of this threat, as well as deploy necessary resources and sanctions that will help to curb the escalating crime and violence threatening communities across the United States. How many more innocent victims will have to suffer before we fully recognize and address the grave threat Tren de Aragua gang members cause to the peace, stability, and the national security of our nation?

Tren de Aragua is an invading criminal army from a prison in Venezuela that has spread their brutality and chaos to U.S. cities and small towns. If left unchecked, they will unleash an unprecedented reign of terror, mirroring the devastation it has already inflicted in communities throughout Central and South America, most prominently in Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, and Peru. The breadth of Tren de Aragua's operations encompasses murder, drug and human trafficking, sex crimes, extortion, and kidnapping, among other brutalities. It is clear that most state and local law enforcement agencies are not yet prepared to handle the magnitude of this grave threat.

In Ecuador and Colombia, Tren de Aragua has plunged communities into chaos. Similarly, in Chile and Peru, they have sown fear and instability, undermining the credibility of government institutions, as well as the safety and security of innocent civilians. We cannot afford to underestimate the devastating damage posed by Tren de Aragua. Failure to designate Tren de Aragua as a TCO will only embolden its expansion, leading to heightened violence and criminality within the United States. We cannot permit our cities to become battlegrounds for such organizations, nor can we allow our citizens to suffer at their hands.

Heinous crimes committed by the Tren de Aragua, like the rapes of multiple children and the murders of retired police officer José Luis Sánchez Valera and nursing student Laken Riley, must stop. By designating the Tren de Aragua as a TCO, we will send a clear message that its reign of terror will not be tolerated, and that we will stand united in our resolve to protect our communities from the scourge of transnational organized crime. The time to act is now.

Sincerely,



Marco Rubio  
U.S. Senator



María Elvira Salazar  
Member of Congress



Bill Cassidy, M.D.  
U.S. Senator



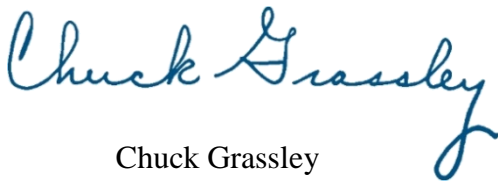
Chris Smith  
Member of Congress



Shelley Moore Capito  
U.S. Senator



Andy Ogles  
Member of Congress



Chuck Grassley  
U.S. Senator



Carlos Giménez  
Member of Congress



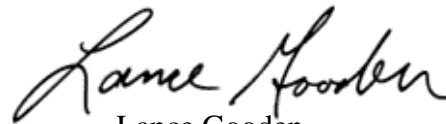
Rick Scott  
U.S. Senator



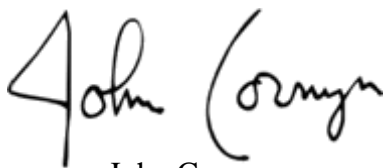
Tony Gonzales  
Member of Congress



Tim Scott  
U.S. Senator



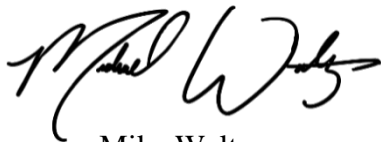
Lance Gooden  
Member of Congress



John Cornyn  
U.S. Senator



Jenniffer González-Colón  
Member of Congress



Mike Waltz  
Member of Congress



Joe Wilson  
Member of Congress



Gus Bilirakis  
Member of Congress



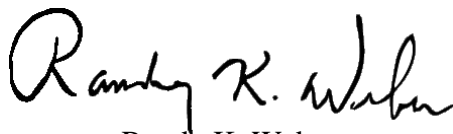
Dan Crenshaw  
Member of Congress



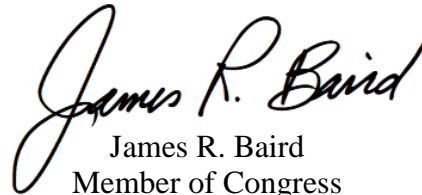
Mario Díaz-Balart  
Member of Congress



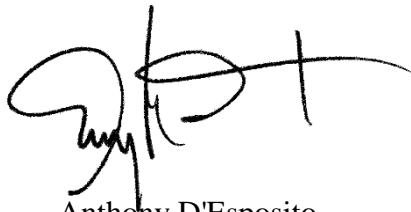
C. Scott Franklin  
Member of Congress



Randy K. Weber  
Member of Congress



James R. Baird  
Member of Congress



Anthony D'Esposito  
Member of Congress