

FEMA and Increased arrivals Talking Points (FBT) 3/15/21

Values Messaging:

- We need to protect vulnerable children. Period. It is the right thing to do and the requirement of US law and we are here to lend all the support we can give.
- The goal is to make sure the arriving children are **safe, housed, fed and cared for**
- **We have the capacity, resources**, and can do anything we decide we want to do, including protecting vulnerable children and families in need.
- FEMA's deployment is a sign that the Biden administration is taking this seriously and ensuring people are **processed and transferred** efficiently
- We need an all-of-government approach and mobilization of resources and active collaboration with the groups that have been doing this for years to manage efficiently
- Why is this happening? Because Trump created a horrible set of policies the infrastructure was **chipped away** the last several years with the goal of wreaking havoc and causing an unnecessary backlog
- It's going to take a **holistic approach** from the Biden administration but we hope these good faith efforts are being done with the goal of moving past the cruel immigration policies of exclusion and MPP
- The Biden administration directed (FEMA) to support the processing of children at the southern border, but too much of the coverage is on how this is going to land politically. That's the wrong question. **The issue is how are we as a nation going to center the wellbeing of children and families.**
- We are working around the clock to ensure that families are safe, healthy, and reunited with their loved ones as quickly as possible. We are **monitoring** the situation closely.
- We understand the task President Biden has before him: **Dismantling one of the most** heartless immigration systems our country has ever known. It's time to focus on putting families first and treating people with care and dignity.
- We need to push back on the notion that we as a country cannot rise to this task: We can. What's happening at the border isn't new, but our response can be. We have the resources, the capabilities, and most of all, the will to say yes to welcoming children and families with compassion and dignity.

- Children and families have sought refuge from desperate and dangerous situations throughout our history, many times because our country is their last **hope**
- For the last two years, we've cruelly turned many away, causing a well-documented **backlog** at the border. Additionally, two devastating hurricanes hit Central America at the end of last year, leaving many parents facing the most difficult question: What would you do to protect your children?
- Now is the time to be **bold, to double down on our values of dignity and compassion**, and process these children immediately
- Immigration increases have happened under the last 3 presidencies. The challenge in our hands right now is because Trump **gutted our** system and refused to welcome families
- Falling back on Trump-era policies is a threat to families. We must dismantle Trump's immigration program and **rebuild** a system built on care & compassion.
- Children and families coming to the border are not a "**surge**" — they are people in need seeking safety and a better life.
- Kids fleeing for their lives should be treated as kids fleeing for their lives. Let's keep doing the work to #WelcomeWithDignity. **We can do this.**
- FEMA's deployment is a sign that the Biden administration is taking this seriously and ensuring people are processed and transferred efficiently — a stark **contrast** from the last administration's disregard for immigrant lives.
- There is NOTHING humane about **shutting the door** on children and families fleeing for their lives. We have the resources to protect these families and must use them.