

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 25, 2019

The Honorable Steven Mnuchin
Secretary of Treasury
United States Department of Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20220

The Honorable Michael Pompeo
Secretary of State
United States Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

The Honorable Christopher Wray
Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation
Federal Bureau of Investigation
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20535

Dear Secretary Mnuchin, Secretary Pompeo, and Director Wray,

We write to you regarding the horrific massacre of nine American women and children in northern Mexico on November 4. We mourn with the families who lost loved ones and demand justice. While we wait for these butchers to be identified and brought to justice, we ask that your departments proactively consider the full and creative use of existing sanction authority in response to this tragedy to be implemented upon public attribution of the massacre.

We are encouraged to hear that the Mexican government has requested the assistance of the Federal Bureau of Investigation to bring those responsible to justice and arrests have been made, but we remain concerned about Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador's security policy. López Obrador's stated policy of "hugs, not bullets" is clearly insufficient to address this drug-fueled crisis of violence and lawlessness. What is required is the imposition of physical and financial costs on the cartels to deny them both territory and economic resources. We trust the United States Government is unified in its efforts to encourage the Mexican government to change its current security strategy and is advocating for an active response to the tragedy on November 4.

As more details emerge regarding which cartels or gangs are responsible for this heinous violence committed against American citizens, we ask your departments to consider the full and creative use of existing sanctions authorities against those responsible. Among the sanction authorities available for possible use are sanctions authorized by the Kingpin Act and the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act. This crime cannot go unpunished. The cartels and the Mexican government must unequivocally understand the United States will respond strongly

to the violence and corruption of the cartels which directly impact the American people. We will not tolerate attacks on U.S. citizens and we will protect the American people.

We respectfully request that within 60 days after the FBI concludes its assistance to the Mexican government, we receive a briefing on the Administration's formal efforts, including the implementation and effect on sanctions, and informal pressure of the Mexican government to act in a matter that better aligns with the safety and security of the American people.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to working together to ensure justice for these Americans and secure our southern border.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ben Sasse". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "B" and a long, horizontal tail on the "S".

Ben Sasse
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael S. Lee". The signature is highly stylized and cursive, with a large "M" and a long, sweeping "L".

Michael S. Lee
United States Senator