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SUBCOMMITTEE ON MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
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November 24, 2026

Kash Patel
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
935 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20535

Director Patel:

My office was recently made aware that the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Field Office in El Paso, Texas will no longer have a Special Agent in Charge (SAC) leading the office. Instead, management of the El Paso Field Office will shift to the FBI Field Office in Albuquerque, New Mexico and the El Paso Field Office will become a Resident Agency. We are urging you to reverse course on this decision and reinstate the position of SAC at the El Paso Field Office and retain its Field Office status.

SACs and Field Office leadership develop and maintain critical working relationships with federal partners, local law enforcement, and elected officials; they lead in making decisions that take into account important local context and concerns. These working relationships are crucial to supporting the FBI's efforts in specific regions while also working to maintain broader domestic safety and national security.

The FBI has had a presence in El Paso since 1908, and an official Field Office since 1911. What's more, the El Paso Field Office is one of only two FBI Field Offices on the southern border, which makes the decision to remove the dedicated SAC feel especially short-sighted. It is imperative that agents and investigators on the ground in El Paso can rely on leadership that is on-site and familiar with the binational region, not over 250 miles away in Albuquerque. Border regions have unique needs and challenges and addressing them effectively to ensure domestic and national security requires a deep understanding of the relationship between both countries and their respective local and state governments, as well as a strong, responsive relationship between federal and local law enforcement and elected officials on both sides of the border.

The safety and security of our community must be central in all organizational and personnel related decisions. I am concerned that a SAC based in Albuquerque, who will have to split their time between two distinct regions, will not have the opportunity to develop the necessary knowledge and relationships to serve El Paso in the way a dedicated El Paso-based SAC would. This would be a disservice to both the communities of El Paso and Albuquerque, and could make both regions vulnerable to threats and less responsive to organized criminal activity.

The decision to recall the SAC from the El Paso and make the existing Field Office a Resident Agency raises serious concerns and leaves unanswered questions. I am particularly concerned about how operations and investigations in El Paso– both new and ongoing – will be impacted by this change. I also have serious concerns about the new chain of command, whether the Resident Agency will be expected to expand or cut back any of its current areas of responsibility, and how, if at all, resources to El Paso may be impacted moving forward.

In addition to calling for the SAC to be reinstated and for El Paso's FBI office to remain a Field Office, I am also requesting the FBI provide a Member- and staff-level briefing detailing the reasons for this decision and to answer questions on what this change means for the El Paso Field Office going forward.

I await your reply to coordinate a briefing between my office and the Bureau no later than December 3, 2026.

Sincerely,



Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress