

March 13, 2024

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Senate Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Leaders Schumer and McConnell,

We, the attorneys general of the undersigned states, are writing today to respectfully urge the United States Senate to vote on the recently passed Laken Riley Act, H.R. 7511. The bill would require detention of any illegal alien who is charged with burglary, theft, larceny, or shoplifting offenses. It passed the U.S. House of Representatives with bipartisan support and deserves immediate attention.¹

Unfortunately, the entire country has seen the news of the tragic and avoidable murder of Laken Riley. In broad daylight, Jose Ibarra is alleged to have brutally attacked and killed Riley while she was on a morning run. Reports show Riley's skull was beaten so violently with an unidentified object that her skull was disfigured.² Ibarra is a Venezuelan national who is in the United States illegally.

¹ "Roll Call 66 Roll Call 66, Bill Number: H. R. 7511, 118th Congress, 2nd Session." *Office of the Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives*, 7 Mar. 2024, clerk.house.gov/Votes/202466.

² Steinbuch, Yaron. "Migrant Suspect in Laken Riley Murder Accused of 'seriously Disfiguring' Nursing Student as Affidavit Reveals Grim Details in Case." *New York Post*, New York Post, 27 Feb. 2024, nypost.com/2024/02/27/us-news/migrant-charged-with-laken-riley-murder-disfigured-her-skull-affidavit/.

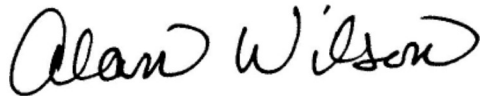
Riley’s death could have been prevented on multiple fronts, but the system failed her. In August 2023, Ibarra was arrested in New York for alleged child endangerment but was released before immigration officials could request local authorities hold him in custody. Then, in October 2023, Ibarra was charged with alleged shoplifting in Georgia. He failed to show at his court appearance in December 2023, and there was a bench warrant out for his arrest.

But Ibarra could have been deported even before his repeated arrests. He entered the country through El Paso, Texas illegally in September 2022 and was detained. The Department of Homeland Security said he was then released back into the United States due to lack of detention space.³

President Biden’s repeated actions of ignoring the rule of law and abandoning successful policies have created a border crisis of historic proportions. As attorneys general, we are fighting to preserve the rule of law and keep our states safe when the federal government fails to act or, in the case of illegal immigration, actively makes it worse. To that end, we applaud the bill’s enforcement provision for State Attorneys General.

We believe the Laken Riley Act is a strong bill that can act as another arrow in the quiver when it comes to combatting illegal immigration and protecting Americans. Please advance this bill to a vote as soon as possible. Laken Riley should still be alive. Let her memory be used to protect others before it’s too late.

Sincerely,



Alan Wilson
South Carolina Attorney General



Ashley Moody
Florida Attorney General



Christopher M. Carr
Georgia Attorney General

³ Dorn, Andrew, and Brian Entin. “Georgia Student Killing Suspect Illegally Migrated to Us: Authorities.” *NewsNation*, NewsNation, 24 Feb. 2024, www.newsnationnow.com/crime/uga-death-nursing-student.



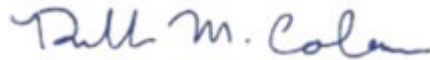
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Alabama Attorney General



Kris Kobach
Kansas Attorney General



Treg Taylor
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