

# HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY



February 20, 2019

Congressman Gus Bilirakis  
2227 Rayburn HOB  
Washington DC 20515

Honorable Congressman Bilirakis,

The Hillsborough County Democratic Executive Committee, urges you and Senators Rubio and Scott and Representatives Castor, Spano and Buchanan in the strongest terms to oppose, by any legislative and judicial means possible, the "national emergency" enacted by President Trump.

This is an outrageous affront to the rule of law and our constitutional democracy. It undermines the cardinal basis of our tripartite form of government, with its fundamental separation of powers. The Congress is the lawful decision maker about the use of taxpayer funds.

This "national emergency" is not one as acknowledged by the President when he said "I didn't need to do this" and "I wanted to do it a little faster". Further, you well know the assessment of the national security leaders about the lack of a national emergency on the southern border. The annual military threat assessment does not include the southern border in its priorities. Data from the DHS and DOJ do not show a need for a border wall as proposed by the President.

Border security is an important security concern. The cogent recommendations by Congressman William Hurd R-Tx 23rd, an ex- CIA agent, are a road map for serious border security. These represent a broad-based approach using enhanced technology, coastal security, and employment, adequate pay and training for Border personnel.

Your support of our positions will be appreciated. We will be watching your actions in this time of a constitutional crisis. While there have been earlier national emergencies by this and former Presidents, there have been NONE instituted on the basis of overturning the fundamental rules of governance in pursuit of purely political and self-enhancing goals. This action cannot be allowed to stand.

Respectfully,

Ione Townsend, Chair

**Ione Townsend**  
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