

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 17, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to you out of concern for families across Iowa and the nation who are struggling to purchase infant formula as a result of recent supply chain shortages. Families have faced difficulties in obtaining infant formula due to supply chain disruptions and labor shortages.¹ Now, these challenges are intensified by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) closure of an Abbott Nutrition facility in Sturgis, Michigan, one of the nation's largest producers of infant formula. While we are pleased to hear about the recent consent decree reached between the FDA and Abbott, the factory is still two months away from putting formula on shelves.

It deeply concerns us that the closure of a single factory can bring so much harm to families across the country. We are also concerned with recent reports which indicate that your administration is prioritizing illegal immigrants along the southern border to receive infant formula over families in our local communities, to whom the critical supply of infant formula should be made available during this crisis.²

Parents across this country are scared. It is not a guarantee that they will find the formula they need to feed their babies. Even if they can find this precious resource, it is often rationed in quantities that are wholly insufficient to meet their needs.³ Now is the time for action, and we request that your administration immediately provide a briefing to our offices on the action you will take to ensure that the supply chain around baby formula in the United States is more resilient in the future.

This is a matter of life or death for our most vulnerable. Thank you for your immediate attention to this serious matter.

Sincerely,



Joni K. Ernst
United States Senator



Randy Feenstra
Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable Robert M. Califf, MD, Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration

¹ <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/05/10/us/baby-formula-shortage.html>

² <https://nypost.com/2022/05/12/border-detention-center-has-baby-formula-amid-shortage-photos/>

³ https://www.wsj.com/articles/baby-formula-shortage-prompts-rationing-at-target-kroger-walgreens-and-cvs-11649781594?mod=article_relatedinline