

Eagle Forum Report

founded by Phyllis Schlafly

200 W. Third St., Ste. 502 • Alton, IL 62002 • (618) 433-8990 • Eagle@EagleForum.org • EagleForum.org

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Border Disorder

THE BORDER IS STILL ON FIRE

by Congressman Chip Roy, R-TX

We are two and a half years into the worst border crisis in our nation's history. The Biden Administration's reckless policies have single-handedly brought record-breaking numbers of illegal migrants, bad actors, and deadly narcotics to our shores. All of it was avoidable. After decades of failed attempts, Republicans in the House have finally passed a plan — the Secure the Border Act — to address this crisis, but Republicans must be willing to use all leverage points available to make passing this bill matter.

As soon as he took office, President Joe Biden and his handlers plunged our southern border into chaos by scrapping one border security policy after another.

To start — and on his first day on the job — Biden ended border wall construction, eliminating a measure

that successfully prevented the illegal entry of migrants.

He ended the “Remain in Mexico” policy that required asylum seekers to wait in Mexico while their asylum claims were processed, minimizing meritless asylum claims, and protecting border patrol resources. This accord was instrumental in achieving operational control of the southern border, as the Department of Homeland Security pointed out in 2019.

Biden reinstated the “catch and release” policies allowing endless numbers of migrants to be released into the country instead of detaining them as current law requires.

The president has abused parole statutes by releasing nearly all illegal aliens appearing at the border straight into American communities. The Administration has abused this

statute — which is meant to be used only sparingly and, on a case-by-case basis — so far as to create a program to fly in tens of thousands of foreign nationals from select countries straight into the U.S., where they will be released while awaiting an asylum adjudication. These adjudications can take years. The administration's undeniable violation of parole laws has provided one of the biggest magnets for more illegal activity.

In addition, recently, the Administration stopped using “Title 42”, leaving the border without a single enforcement mechanism to turn away illegal border crossers. Some have noted the decrease in illegal entrants since the public health order was lifted. However, the Administration has buried the actual numbers by diverting would-be illegal aliens, who would turn themselves into border authorities, to the taxpayer-funded CBP One app, scheduling an “appointment,” counting as a “legal” entry.

Implementing such a weak border posture has signaled to the entire world that virtually anyone is allowed to enter the United States — and the rest of the world has indeed taken notice.

The 5.3 million illegal crossings at the southern border are more than



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the population of 27 states (world-populationreview.com/states) in the U.S. Nearly 2 million aliens have been released into the country and at least 1.5 million “gotaways,” which are migrants who successfully evaded detection or apprehension from authorities. Of those released, how many were properly screened? What guarantees are in place to ensure these migrants will appear for their court date?

Every American should be asking who are the individuals that managed to get past border officials and infiltrate the interior of our country. These are national security and public safety problems that we must probe the Administration about.

The flow of poisonous drugs should also set off alarms. Since President Biden took office, more than 43,000 pounds of fentanyl have been seized at the U.S.-Mexico border. In addition, over 17,000 pounds of the same drug have been seized along the border in the first nine months of FY 2023 alone, surpassing the entire amount of fentanyl seized in FY 2022 — an already record-breaking year for fentanyl. It’s not just the fentanyl seized that should alarm Americans but it’s the fentanyl that has not been seized.

Proponents of open borders often point to the intercepted fentanyl as a success because authorities detected these substances. Yet, these figures do not account for the unknown number of illicit narcotics that penetrated our border, ports of entry or not, and made it into our communities to be peddled to individuals. Indeed, in 2022, more than 83,000 Americans

died of fentanyl “poisoning,” a 15% jump from 2021. More than 2,000 Texans died last year from fentanyl, which is a 500% increase from 2019. How many more lives need to be lost before action is taken to secure our home front from toxic substances?

Texas is bearing the brunt of the border crisis.

More than 30 counties and cities, including Laredo, El Paso, and Brownsville, have declared emergencies due to the influx of migrants in their communities. Homeless shelters, hospitals, and schools are under duress trying to accommodate temporary housing and medical services for migrants.

The human costs have extended farther from the border. A year ago, 53 migrants died of heat exposure and asphyxiation in a tractor-trailer in San Antonio, leaving another 12 injured. This tragedy would have almost certainly never happened if we did not have directives encouraging migrants to journey to the southern border and human traffickers and smugglers taking full advantage of these vulnerable individuals.

The Lone Star State has been forced to try and step into the breach, which means working to protect the frontier and repelling the illicit activity that is seeping across its borders. Other states have answered Texas’ 911 calls for help, but these sister states can only do so much. The federal government has the authority and duty to protect our borders.

While city after city declares emergencies, the Administration claims the border is secure. But no one can genuinely argue we are operating like a sovereign nation with secure borders.

The United States cannot exist with open borders. For the first time in modern history, the House of Representatives has passed a bill to end

crises at our southern border once and for all. H.R. 2, the Secure the Border Act of 2023, is the best border package brought before the American people to fix the longstanding issues with our asylum, detention, and border security needs.

H.R. 2 puts the country’s needs of sovereignty and security first, abandoning the decades-old trope of including amnesty and mechanisms meant to increase legal immigration levels.

The Secure the Border Act would restart the border wall’s construction, raise the credible fear standard for asylum-seeking migrants to minimize bogus claims, restore tight asylum policies, end abuses of parole, and ensure migrant families remain together while their asylum claims are adjudicated. This bill also fixes the Flores loophole that encourages migrant children from non-contiguous nations to embark on the dangerous journey north in hopes of being released to a sponsor in the United States. This was a fix the Obama Administration wanted.

The Secure the Border Act provides more tools to our DHS agents to successfully do their jobs at the border and the interior, and importantly, this bill allows the Secretary of the DHS to turn away migrants when we do not have operational control of our border.

House Republicans came together to make good on their commitment to push legislation to secure the border, but this is not enough. The border is still in crisis. Republicans must not let leverage points slip through their fingers — leverage points such as the debt ceiling or other “must pass” bill that provide for opportunities to sign bills like H.R. 2 into law during times of divided government.

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There are no excuses. We must put out the wildfire that stretches along 1,951-miles of our border. Anything less than getting H.R. 2 signed into law undermines our commitment and the trust the American people have placed in us.

But this act should not be the only focus. House Republicans must fulfill our constitutional duty to hold accountable those who have engaged in clearly impeachable conduct. And make no mistake, Homeland Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas should be impeached.

While Biden laid out his anti-borders blueprint, his enforcer, Mayorkas, has executed his flawed plan, unleashing the disaster upon the border and the rest of the nation. To say the DHS Secretary has failed in his


position is an understatement.

Mayorkas has blatantly refused to enforce our immigration laws and protect the American people. Secretary Mayorkas has foregone the deportation of large categories of aliens, including criminal and gang members; he has terminated border wall construction, despite Congressional appropriation; and he has released scores of migrants into the interior — a clear violation of the law.

Mayorkas has jeopardized the safety and health of Americans by looking the other way when he knows over 1 million people who could be carrying deadly narcotics and weapons have evaded his DHS and escaped into the U.S.

Secretary Mayorkas has abdicated his oath of office. Cabinet officials who

do not fulfill their sworn duty should be unanimously removed. We must hold the Executive Branch accountable for its dereliction of duty; Congress has the power to carry out those actions.

Now is the time to come together and do the most basic thing for our constituencies: protect them from foreign threats and preserve our nation's sovereignty. We cannot sit by and wait until 2025 for a new president to remedy our border troubles. Every action taken by Republicans this Congress should hinge on using leverage to demand a secure border. If not, it should be seen as what it is, a failure to put out the fires of the Biden Administration — a failure to fulfill the commitment we made to Americans who entrusted us with the job to do exactly that. 

U.S. FUNDS CHILD TRAFFICKING AT THE BORDER

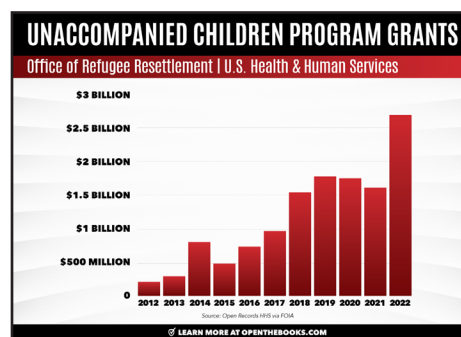
by Adam Andrzejewski, CEO & Founder of OpenTheBooks.com and author, *Operation: Drain The Swamp*, an Encounter Broadside publication.

Last year, the feds spent \$2.7 billion on unaccompanied children at the border, which is roughly \$18,000 per unaccompanied child. For context, the average cost of education in Texas K-12 schools was \$9,800 per student.

The chaos on America's southern border has had unintended consequence — a human catastrophe hurting tens of thousands of unaccompanied, defenseless children.

Despite generous taxpayer funding, the federal infrastructure to provide for these children and ensure their safety is woefully incompetent. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Refugee Resettlement, a part of the Administration for Children and Families, provides social services for unaccompanied children crossing the U.S.-Mexico border.

Earlier this year, the office came under fire for reports children were being placed with abusive “sponsors” and made to work full time in grueling conditions, violating child labor laws. An Inspector General report released in 2023 additionally criticized the agency for not conducting background checks on employees and contractors charged with caring for children.



Our auditors at OpenTheBooks.com found that the agency spent \$2.7 billion to “sponsor” unaccompanied

minors — a staggering \$18,000 per child. Roughly 150,000 unaccompanied minors were encountered at the southern border in fiscal year 2022.

However, today, reports indicate that up to 85,000 “sponsored” children are missing — their locations and whereabouts are not known.

Unaccompanied children are defined as those under 18 who have no lawful immigration status in the U.S. and who do not have a parent or legal guardian that can provide custody.

According to the agency's Unaccompanied Children Program website, the office oversees making placement decisions for these minors, releasing them to “qualified sponsors and family members,” and providing the children with legal representation and advice, among many other responsibilities.

Big Spikes in Federal Funding

OpenTheBooks auditors found

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that between 2012-2022, the program has doled out \$12.8 billion in grants, with a substantial increase in 2018 and again in 2022.

Grant spending in this area has increased by about a billion dollars in 2022 over 2021. This year the budget is \$2.7 billion, up from \$950 million in 2017.

Most spending on unaccompanied minors takes place in Texas (\$7.8 billion) followed by New York (\$1.4 billion) and Florida (\$660 million).

The biggest grant recipients have collected over \$3 billion from FY2012-2022: Southwest Key Programs (\$3.7 billion) and Baptist Child & Family Services Health and Human Services (\$3.1 billion). Three other organizations have split another \$1.3 billion in funding: Comprehensive Health Services (\$484 million), Cayuga Home For Children (\$453 million) and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (\$395 million).

85,000 Missing Children And Allegations Of Child Trafficking

Earlier this year ORR came under fire for reports from the New York Times that children were being placed with abusive “sponsors” and made to work full time in grueling conditions, violating child labor laws.

The report also noted that while

the agency is supposed to check in with children one month after being placed with their sponsors, 85,000 children could not be contacted.

A Florida grand jury report also accused the agency of “facilitating the forced migration, sale, and abuse of foreign children, and some of our fellow Florida residents are (in some cases unwittingly) funding and incentivizing it for primarily economic reasons.”

An Inspector General report released in 2023 additionally criticized the agency for not conducting background checks on employees and contractors charged with caring for children.

In 2021, Tara Lee Rodas worked on Operation Artemis, a plan by the Biden Administration to get control of the humanitarian disaster on the U.S.-Mexico border. In April, Rodas blew the whistle on child trafficking with detailed testimony to the House Judiciary Committee accusing the U.S. of being the middleman in a billion-dollar child trafficking operation:

I thought I was going to help place children in loving homes. Instead, I discovered that children are being trafficked through a sophisticated network that begins with being recruited in home country,

smuggled to the U.S. border, and ends when ORR delivers a child to a Sponsors — some sponsors are criminals and traffickers and members of Transnational Criminal Organizations.

Some sponsors view children as commodities and assets to be used for earning income — this is why we are witnessing an explosion of labor trafficking.

Director refuses to answer or doesn't know key information


In April 2023, Robin Dunn Marcos, the director of the Office of Refugee Resettlement — the office responsible for the unaccompanied child program was asked about operations and the 85,000 children the agency reportedly lost contact with.

During questioning, Marcos said she did not believe the sponsor vetting system was inadequate. However, Marcos would not state whether the 85,000 missing children number is accurate.

Additionally, Marcos did not know the rejection rate of sponsorship applications. (<https://bit.ly/43J2yad>)

There is little accountability or transparency.

Leadership cannot answer basic questions. Bad actors are taking advantage. Non-profit social service organizations are reaping billions.

Taxpayers are left paying the skyrocketing bill for a corrupt and overwhelmed system. 



EAGLE FORUM

President: *Kris Ullman*
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