



American Security TASK FORCE

HOUSE REPUBLICANS: WE MUST SECURE THE SOUTHERN BORDER

The Biden administration has been defined by the crises it creates—particularly at the Southern border. Upon taking office in January 2021, the Biden administration immediately halted wall construction on the Southern border, paying contractors to not build wall, leaving over 150 miles of planned border wall left unbuilt, and materials left to rust in the desert; undercut Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) efforts by prohibiting agents from carrying out deportations for 100 days; and took immediate steps to end the Migrant Protection Protocols.

The results speak for themselves. There have been nearly 3 million migrant encounters along the Southern border since President Biden took office. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has lost operational control of the border as record number of illegal aliens, criminals, and gang members are being apprehended and unprecedented amounts of drugs are flowing across the border into American communities. The Biden administration has turned its back on the crisis. In the half-century since President Biden began his career as a federally elected official, he has never visited the Southern border. In contrast, during the 117th Congress alone, 140 members of the House Republican Conference have visited the border to see the crisis first-hand and thank the men and women of the U.S. Border Patrol.

The American Security Task Force (ASTF) focuses on border security, cyber security, and law enforcement. ASTF members traveled to various locations along the Southern border hosting roundtables and briefings while hearing directly from front-line personnel on the impacts the border crisis is having. These roundtables informed the work of the ASTF in producing policy proposals for House Republicans to enact if they secure a majority in the 118th Congress.

The following commonsense framework, **endorsed by the National Border Patrol Council (NBPC)**, would be prioritized in a Republican-led House of Representatives.

- ◇ ***The Border Security for America Act*** would require the federal government to secure our nation's international borders through the renewal of **border wall** construction contracts, investments in **advanced technologies**, and bolstering **support for federal law enforcement** officers and specialists.
 - **Building the Border Wall.** Securing the Southern border is vital to national security and physical infrastructure is needed to meet the challenges of a dynamic border threat environment. A robust border wall system and road infrastructure allows our frontline law enforcement officers within CBP to fully obtain operational control of the border.
 - **Modernizing and Enhancing Technology.** To protect the nearly 2,000 miles of the Southern border, as well as our northern and maritime borders, CBP would benefit from integrating new, advanced, and improved technologies into its operations.
 - **Bolster Border Staffing.** Law enforcement personnel lead the important mission of safeguarding our nation's borders while facilitating lawful trade and travel. CBP officers and agents are also responsible for preventing terrorists from entering the United States, as well as the illegal trafficking of narcotics, weapons, and people.
 - **Clear the Carrizo Cane and Salt Cedar.** These invasive species along the Rio Grande River impede CBP's activities along the border. The non-native plant is also an obstacle for first responders and should be eradicated.

- ◇ ***Expand Authorities Like Title 42 to Address the Fentanyl Crisis and the Unprecedented Increase of Illegal Border Crossings.*** Under current law, Title 42 Public Health Authorities can only be exercised to limit the spread of a communicable disease, such as COVID-19. However, as the country faces a mounting public health crisis from illicit narcotics coming across the Southern border, we must ensure DHS has the authority to immediately expel illegal aliens to gain operational control of the border, and for Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to suspend the entry of people or property in order to mitigate the flow of fentanyl and other lethal drugs into American communities.



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- ◇ **Regain Operational Control of the Southern Border.** Over the past 18 months, the Biden administration has lost operational control of the Southern border by refusing to enforce common sense laws and practices to maintain order and protect the wellbeing of Americans and legal immigrants. This has only empowered and enriched criminal drug cartels, who must be confronted and defeated with the full force of the U.S. Government. House Republicans propose the following steps that should be taken to regain control:
- **Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP).** Require implementation of an MPP that ends the Biden administration's lax border enforcement and restores order at the Southern border.
 - **End Catch and Release.** Fix the *Flores* settlement to enable DHS to keep children and their parents together while their immigration cases are pending.
 - **Strengthen the Asylum Process.** Change asylum laws to protect legitimate claims and prevent fraudulent claims, strengthen the asylum process, and ensure that those seeking asylum apply in a safe country through which they traveled instead of waiting to apply in the U.S.
 - **End the Disparate Treatment of Unaccompanied Alien Children (UACs).** Reform the removal process for non-trafficked, UACs from noncontiguous countries, to ensure consistency and eliminate a dangerous pull factor while deterring trafficking and smuggling of UACs.
 - **Fund Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).** Reject the Democrats' "abolish ICE" policies by fully funding ICE enforcement and removal operations, including detention bedspace, criminal investigations, and drug trafficking mitigation efforts
 - **Ensure Employers Use E-Verify.** Protect U.S. jobs for Americans and legal immigrants, by ensuring U.S. employers use the E-Verify system to confirm that their employees are eligible to work in the United States.
 - **End Abuse of Parole Authority.** Ensure that Secretary Mayorkas can no longer abuse Congressionally-provided parole authority to create mass avenues for immigration that do not exist in law.
 - **Prevent Benefits Abuse.** Ensure that illegal aliens are not enrolled in taxpayer funded welfare programs like Medicaid/Medicare and Social Security.
 - **Increase Penalties for Visa Overstays.**

Biden's Border Crisis BY THE NUMBERS

- In June 2022, CBP had 207,416 migrant encounters at the Southern border.
 - This is the **HIGHEST** number of June encounters in DHS history.
- Since President Biden has been in office there have been **over 3.9 million migrant encounters** at the Southern border.
 - Including **3.1 million** encounters by CBP at the Southern border and **over 800,000 known gotaways**.
- As of June 30, **56 people** whose names appear on the terror watch list were stopped trying to cross the U.S.-Mexico border between ports of entry this fiscal year.
 - This is **twice as many as the last 5 years combined** AND more than **3 times the number of those encountered all last year**.
- The number of known gotaways continues to increase at a record rate along the Southern border, so we cannot be certain exactly how many known terrorists have entered the U.S. amidst the Biden administration's disastrous border crisis.
- In FY 2022, CBP has already **arrested 20,668 individuals** attempting to cross the border **with criminal convictions** and **549 known gang members**, including **220 members of MS-13**.