

Immigration (Part 2 of 2) – Challenges & Possible Solutions

Last week, we covered the history of immigration, DACA, and the naturalization process. In this issue, we'll discuss the challenges facing our nation as hundreds of illegal immigrants from 150+ countries cross our U.S. southern border daily. We'll start with Pennsylvania.

Nearly 85,000 of the 13 million U.S. citizens in Pennsylvania live with at least one family member who is undocumented.

Pennsylvania has become the latest location where flights filled with illegal immigrants are being flown under the cover of darkness. In December, at least five flights carrying illegal immigrants from Texas landed at airports in Scranton and Allentown. After arriving, they were reportedly loaded onto buses and transported to unknown locations.

Pennsylvania students are required to be vaccinated against a number of diseases including: polio, hepatitis, mumps, and measles before they enter school. There is no evidence that those children were inoculated at all. These immunizations are required by law, yet there has been no proof that health screenings are being conducted.

To put things in perspective, only 16 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties have a larger population than the 239,416 immigrants that crossed the U.S. southern border in May 2022.

The Challenges of Open Borders

In addition to the individuals entering our country illegally, there are many more that enter the U.S. with a visa but decide to illegally remain past their allowed duration of stay. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) believes this group represents as much as 40% of the total illegal alien population. Of all the illegal aliens, DHS estimates more than 48,000 "overstayers" from the ten countries most associated with terrorism. Is our system so broken that we're unable to monitor those with a visa, green card or other temporary permit?

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has encountered nearly 1.8 million illegal immigrants at the U.S. southern border since President Joe Biden took office, with an unknown number released into the country through the Office of Refugee Resettlement. The Department of Health and Human Services also places migrant children from the border throughout the country.

And, according to CBP data, the Biden Administration's historic border crisis is only worsening. Turn on the evening news and watch people in record numbers crossing the Rio Grande. They're crossing not at entry points, rather between points to expedite their entry into the U.S. The Federal government doesn't advise where illegal immigrants are transported.

According to the Drug Enforcement Agency, fentanyl and methamphetamine seizures are up at the ports of entry, 719% and 781%, respectively.

Almost half of all criminals prosecuted in Federal courts are aliens. These Federal numbers are only a fraction of the crimes committed by criminal aliens. The crimes committed range from drug trafficking to "violent offenses" including murder, sexual assault, robbery, and kidnapping. In fact, 24% of all Federal prosecutions for drug offenses were of aliens. We're not talking about simple possession. Drug offenses are defined as the manufacture, import, export, distribution, and dispensing of dangerous drugs like methamphetamine. Instances of drug related offenses are rising significantly. In a recent border drug bust, CBP found enough fentanyl to kill millions of Americans. Drugs are smuggled in cars, trucks and/or are being brought by illegals. Illegal aliens are a major source of the debilitating drug problem that is a scourge on our society. It must end.

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New U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) data reveals 50 people on the FBI's terror watch list have been arrested by Border Patrol at the Southern border so far in 2022. That's already higher than the previous 5 years combined – and it doesn't include those who got away. The open borders policy of the Biden Administration has emboldened terrorists from around the world who seek to harm Americans.

With the Biden administration's open border policies, the U.S. is facing one of the worst national security, immigration, and public safety crises in its history. Yet, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas insists that our southern border is closed. Mayorkas was confirmed by a U.S. Senate vote of 56-43. Remember that as you elect your next U.S. Senator from Pennsylvania.

Now we're going to get a bit wonky, but it's important information that you need to know and share.

Elections Have Consequences

The Trump-era "Remain in Mexico" policy required some asylum-seeking migrants to wait for their immigration court hearing in Mexico instead of the U.S. Meanwhile, Title 42 blocked and turned away all asylum seekers to try to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

On his first day in office in January 2021, President Biden suspended "Remain in Mexico" and set a May end date for Title 42, but a Federal District Judge recently ruled it had to remain in effect, and it is the current status of the policy.

In a separate action, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled President Biden acted legally when he ended the "Remain in Mexico" policy.

In a report obtained June 21, 2022 by Fox News Digital from the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Republicans highlighted how President Biden's policies are worsening the immigration crisis at the southern border, and suggested solutions to help curb the influx of illegal migrants.

The report drew a connection between the policies of the Obama administration and those implemented by the Biden administration, highlighting how Biden's policies "incentivized illegal migration and undermined the ability of U.S. law enforcement to secure our borders."

Meanwhile, tens of thousands of heavy steel slats, worth at least a quarter of a billion taxpayer dollars once destined to become part of President Trump's border wall, are slowly rusting while disease, terrorists, human trafficking and deadly drugs cross our southern border every single day.

In November, we won't be voting for President but we will choose our Senators and Representatives. Ask yourself if you want to vote for Senators and Representatives who will enable President Biden to continue on his current path; or, will you vote for Senators and Representatives who are willing to help him change course. Choose wisely.

Effects of Illegal Immigration

According to a March 1-18, 2022 Gallup survey, forty-one percent of Americans report worrying a great deal about the issue of illegal immigration, with another 19 percent worried a fair amount. Following are just a few of the major effects:

- Strain on Public Utilities – The cost to U.S. taxpayers on the use of public services such as health facilities, transportation, parks and other similar utilities. However, they don't pay taxes for the building and maintenance of these utilities.
- Strains on Public Schools – Districts across the United States are suffering under a massive unfunded mandate imposed by the Federal government to educate millions of illegal aliens, the school age

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children of illegal aliens, refugees and legal immigrant students. The Federal government provides approximately 8 percent of public school funding. The rest comes from state and local resources split roughly down the middle. In many municipalities, Limited English Proficiency programs are growing faster than the school district's ability to run or fund them.

- Ready Supply of Cheap Labor – Illegal immigrants normally don't mind working for less pay, and are willing to take just about any kind of work as long as it guarantees a steady income. It doesn't matter how hard or how hazardous.
- Loss of Jobs for Citizens – Because illegal immigrants are usually ready to work at the lowest pay, many times, they take away jobs meant for U.S. citizens.
- Loss of Tax Revenue – Employing illegal immigrants means that the employer gets away without paying requisite taxes. This leads to significant savings, and consumers could enjoy cheaper products and services thanks to lower costs of production. While that sounds like a positive impact, the loss of tax revenue could undermine government programs.
- Rise in Criminal and Terrorist Activities – While most illegal immigrants are only looking for employment opportunities, there is a number of them that are involved in criminal activities. The MS-13 gang is one example of illegal immigrants turned criminals. Without proper monitoring of those entering illegally, criminals and terrorists will find their way into the U.S.
- Reduced Motivation for Legal Immigration – Many people are keen to follow the right procedures for immigration; however, some could decide to take shortcuts if they're convinced that it's possible, even more rewarding, to enter the U.S. illegally.

Illegal immigration is already having serious impacts on the economy of the U.S. as well as on the lives of the illegal immigrants themselves.

What Can Be Done?

Enforce immigration laws already on the books and modify those that require modification. According to Jerry Kammer of the Center for Immigration Studies (CIS) "Presidents occasionally stepped up activity, but neither the executive nor the legislature ever truly had the guts to punish businesses that hired illegal immigrants – the most promising way of actually addressing the problem."

Meanwhile, resistance to immigration enforcement has only hardened. As Kammer details, even the *New York Times* editorial board saw the damage that uncontrolled immigration can do. Yet in recent years, that clarity has disappeared. Kammer notes that the only way to reach a grand bargain "...is to trade amnesty for enforcement. But last time, this meant amnesty without enforcement, and conservatives are not about to be fooled again."

The solutions to illegal immigration may not always be easy to implement. They will not please everyone. At some point, compromise is going to need to happen for results to be achieved.

Immigration without assimilation is simply invasion both physically as well as financially.

What You Can Do

Write or call the White House and express your views on President Biden's open borders policy:

Email: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/>
Telephone: 202-456-6213

Write a Letter to the Editor about the impact of illegal immigration on our community.

Do the research. Follow the issues that matter to you – monitor a Congressional Committee website, follow legislation as it winds its way through Congress or through Harrisburg.

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Share information you find with your family, friends, neighbors and co-workers, and encourage them to do the same. Share the spin, then share the truth.

Volunteer to help a candidate that shares your beliefs on this and other important issues.

Contact your U.S. Senators and U.S. Representatives to express your views on illegal immigration and open borders:

U.S. Senator Pat Toomey

Email: <https://www.toomey.senate.gov/contact/email-senator-toomey>

Telephone: 814-266-5970 or 202-224-4254

U.S. Senator Bob Casey

Email: <https://www.casey.senate.gov/contact/share>

Telephone: 814-357-0314 or 202-224-6324

U.S. Representative Fred Keller

Email: <https://keller.house.gov/zip-code-lookup?form=/contact/email-me>

Telephone: (570) 322-3961

U.S. Representative Glenn “GT” Thompson

Email: <https://thompson.house.gov/contact>

Telephone: (814) 353-0215

Sources: The Atlantic, Newsweek, History.com, Center for Immigration Studies, fairus.org, uscis.gov, usa.gov, National Review, Losing Control, Gallup Inc., EarthEclipse, New York Post, Heritage.org, VisionLaunch