

Pass Secure the Border Act

Send a message urging your U.S. Representative to support and pass the Secure the Border Act before the July 4th recess.

On June 11, the Department of Justice announced a series of indictments against illegal aliens accused of exploiting a broken government program to take custody of unaccompanied children.

Prosecutors say these “sponsors” submitted fraudulent applications to the Office of Refugee Resettlement – using stolen identities, fake birth certificates, and foreign consular ID cards to falsely claim they were the children’s relatives. In one case, a man who lied his way into custody of a 14-year-old girl went on to sexually abuse her.

These prosecutions are part of a wider federal effort to track down tens of thousands of children who were released to sponsors who were never properly vetted, and to hold accountable the smugglers and traffickers who profited from placing them in harm’s way.

The Secure the Border Act – the landmark border-security bill House Republicans passed as H.R. 2 – closes this exact loophole. It requires the Department of Health and Human Services to obtain full information on every sponsor, including the sponsor’s immigration status, and directs DHS to begin removal proceedings against sponsors who are in the country illegally. The bill also restores order to a broken asylum system: it strengthens the credible-fear standard, requires asylum seekers to present themselves at lawful ports of entry, reinstates safe-third-country and Remain-in-Mexico protections, and ends the catch-and-release policies that fueled years of border surges.

House leadership has now committed to bringing the Secure the Border Act to the floor for a vote before July 4th. This is a time-sensitive opportunity that cannot be squandered. The recent reconciliation law funds border and interior enforcement through the end of the President’s term, but funding is not the same as permanent law – a future administration could unravel these gains with the stroke of a pen. Codifying these reforms is the only way to lock them in and make sure no child is ever again handed to a fraudulent sponsor.