

THE BIDEN BORDER CRISIS: PART II

HEARING BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS FIRST SESSION

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2023

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THE BIDEN BORDER CRISIS, PART II

Thursday, February 23, 2023

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Washington, DC

The Committee met, pursuant to notice, at 4 p.m., in Yuma City Hall, One City Plaza, Yuma, Arizona, Hon. Jim Jordan [Chair of the Committee] presiding.

Present: Representatives Jordan, Gaetz, Biggs, McClintock, Tiffany, Bishop, Spartz, Cline, Van Drew, Nehls, Moore, Kiley, Hageman, and Fry.

Also present: Representative Gosar.

Chair JORDAN. The Committee will come to order.

Without objection, the Chair is authorized to declare a recess at any time.

We want to welcome everyone to today's hearing on "The Biden Border Crisis, Part II."

I'd like to start our proceedings with Mr. Gosar, who's been kind enough to let us come to his great district.

Where is Paul? I haven't seen—oh, here comes Mr. Gosar.

We'd like to ask Congressman Gosar to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance. If you would, if you'd all stand for the pledge.

ALL. I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Thank you. Paul, thank you.

First, I want to say thanks to the good folks here in Yuma for hosting us. We've had a wonderful 24 hours. I guess it's been 24 hours, Supervisor, seeing all kinds of interesting things. We want to thank you for your hospitality.

To the mayor, thank you for the facility and for all your hospitality as well, and our witnesses who we'll get to you. We talked to doctor earlier today, and, Sheriff, we're glad to have you with us, as well as so many folks from our law enforcement community.

It's not easy. It is not easy being in law enforcement today, so we want to thank all of you for what you do.

[Applause.]

Obviously it's even tougher when we're down here on the border and dealing with what we have.

It's a shame that not one Democrat Member of Congress would join us on this trip despite having weeks of advance notice. It's disappointing, but it's not surprising. In fact, the Democrats have

called this a stunt. I would argue it's not a stunt, not what we've—my guess is our witnesses wouldn't call it a stunt, what we've learned today from them, what we've seen last night on the border. It's disappointing that they're not here.

Democrats dismiss the experiences of these real people that we've had a chance to visit with the last 24 hours, people affected by the Biden border crisis, and Democrats seem to believe that solutions can only come from bureaucrats in Washington. We actually think they come from the American people.

[Applause.]

If Democrats were here and saw what we're seeing, maybe we'd have a chance at ending this crisis and actually securing our southern border.

According to Border Patrol agents, last night, there were over 200 folks who crossed the border last night. We got to see the unfinished wall. Everyone tells us that walls work, walls help. Every agent we've talked to says that's the case, and yet we saw places where it should've been finished but wasn't.

This morning we were at the Yuma Regional Medical Center. We heard from Dr. Trenchel and his great staff about the \$26 million in uncompensated care that they've had to administer. Now, they're willing to help everybody, and they do, but it would be nice to get actually paid for the great work that they do, and some other concerns that they had, that impact the residents of this wonderful community.

Of course we saw the damage—we heard from growers today—the damage that happens to them, and the crops in the fields, and a host of other issues that we'll get to in the course of our hearing this afternoon.

By not being here and seeing firsthand is no excuse for inaction. Numbers don't lie. The January southwest border encounter number was 156,000, 30 percent higher—36 percent higher than the total number of encounters in January 2021 and January 2020 combined.

Let me just say that again. The number of encounters this January, last month, were more than a third higher than the last two Januarys of the Trump Administration combined. Yet, a Biden Administration official touted this 156,000 encounter number as the result of, quote, “a highly effective border security strategy.” Only in Joe Biden's America is over 5,000 illegal migrants encounter per day on the southwest border a cause to celebrate.

Never forget what happened on day 1. Day 1, January 20, 2021, Joe Biden said:

We're not going to build the wall anymore, we're not going to keep the Remain in Mexico policy, and we're not going to deport any illegal migrants who come in for an immigration violation.

So, think about that. They're not going to—there's no wall to get over, you won't have to wait in Mexico to have your asylum claim evaluated, and you will not get deported, you'll get to go wherever you want. Well, it's no wonder so many migrants want to come to the greatest country ever. That's the situation he had.

He's also called on Congress to pass a massive amnesty package. All these reckless actions let people around the world know that

our border is open, and the illegal border crossings haven't stopped since that day.

Again, numbers don't lie: 4.75 million encounters since Joe Biden's been in office. Nearly a million of those have crossed in just the first four months of Fiscal Year 2023. Over 1.89 million illegal aliens encountered along the southwest border have been released into American communities by the Biden Administration.

There was 14,700 pounds of fentanyl were seized by Custom and Border Protection officials during Fiscal Year 2022; 12,500 pounds of fentanyl seized by Customs and Border officials just in the first four months of this fiscal year.

Americans are dying as a direct result of President Biden's open border policies.

It's a shame that the Democrats did not join us today in Yuma. They would have learned a thing or two. They could've heard from the farmers and landowners and the growers that I talked about earlier. They would've seen how overrun the hospital is with illegal migrants and the cost to our healthcare institution here in Yuma. They would've heard directly from the people here in Yuma who live President Biden's border crisis each and every day.

Instead, they've accused us of political grandstanding because we're here trying to hear from real people outside of Washington, DC.

Why don't Democrats want to hear from local law enforcement? Why don't Democrats want to talk to hospital administrators? Why can't Democrats be bothered to hear how fentanyl continues to kill tens of thousands of people in communities across this great country.

I think the answer—I think we know why. It's because Democrats' open border policies caused this crisis, and rather than choosing to do anything to fix it, they want to call it a stunt and they want to play political games.

I want to thank our witnesses for being here today, and I hope we can discuss what Congress can do to help fix this problem.

With that, I would like to recognize our Subcommittee Chair—there he is—our Committee on Oversight and Accountability, from the great State of California.

Mr. McClintock is recognized.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Thank you.

Mr. Chair, as you know, the morning of inauguration day 2021, illegal immigration had slowed to a trickle and our borders were finally secure for the first time in decades. The border wall was nearing completion, the Remain in Mexico policy had all but stopped phony asylum claims, and ICE was actually enforcing court-ordered deportations.

By the afternoon of that same day, Joe Biden had reversed these successful policies and initiated an unprecedented illegal mass migration on a scale that no civilization in history has ever survived.

Since that afternoon, this administration has deliberately admitted into the interior of our country 1.9 million illegal immigrants, 600,000 of whom have not even been given notices to appear in court. While the Border Patrol has been overwhelmed changing diapers and taking names, another 1.2 million known got-aways have entered our country as well.

So, that totals 3.1 million illegal immigrants who've been allowed into our country to violate our borders and demand billions of dollars of taxpayer resources that were supposed to be helping Americans. The 3.1 million is a population larger than the entire State of Arkansas, a State that has Seven Congressional Districts. That's just in the last 25 months.

The vast proportion of these people are homeless, impoverished, and desperate. Gallup warned us last year that there are 42 million people living in poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean alone who intend to come here now that they can, and they are.

There's no question that this policy is deliberate and calculated. For two years, we couldn't get the Democrats to hold a single hearing on this crisis, not one. In the first six weeks of this session, Republicans have held two, and we've come to the border today to ask the people who are at ground zero to tell us of their experiences. Not a single Democrat on this Committee has bothered to show up to listen.

If not already affected, every American soon will be, because every community will soon face the practical effects of this collapsed border.

We have to ask ourselves; how does it make our schools better to pack classrooms with non-English speaking students? How does it make our hospitals more accessible by flooding emergency rooms with illegals demanding care? How does it strengthen our social safety net by adding millions of impoverished individuals to a system that's already strained to the breaking point?

How does it make our children safer with fentanyl flooding our neighborhoods and killing nearly 300 Americans a day? How does it make our communities safer to introduce violent cartels into them and make it all but impossible to deport criminal illegal aliens?

How does it help working Americans to undercut them by flooding the labor market with cheap, illegal labor?

We are here today to listen to our fellow Americans who live with the full impact of this new and lawless age, one that's rapidly making its way to every town and every neighborhood in the country.

On my last trip to Yuma this past fall, I asked rank-and-file Border Patrol officers what laws they needed us to write to do their jobs. To a person, every one of them said the same thing: We don't need new laws, we need to enforce our existing laws.

[Applause.]

When President Trump faithfully executed those laws, our borders were secure. There's still much that can be done legislatively to assure this never happens again.

The law requires every asylum claimant to be detained until their case is adjudicated. We need a Title 42-type mechanism to assure that we have the capacity to enforce this law. Credible fear standards need to be tightened to prevent the admission of anyone who has a criminal record or who has passed through a safe country. Unaccompanied minors need to be returned safely to their own homes immediately. E-Verify should be required to streamline compliance with the law that protects Americans' jobs. The current abuses of parole authority must be stopped.

Well, the two parties are far, far apart on this issue, as evidenced by the lack of any interest by the Democrats on this Committee today to even address the crisis or listen to the people who've been directly affected by it.

The trust gap is also immense. If this administration refuses to enforce existing laws, why would anyone trust it to enforce future laws?

This won't stop us from trying. That's why we're here today. I'm afraid that this is going to get worse until the American people demand that these policies be reversed.

History is screaming this warning at us. Countries that cannot or will not enforce their borders simply aren't around very long. We can't and we won't let that become the epitaph of the American Republic.

I yield back.

Chair JORDAN. I thank the gentleman. Well said.

[Applause.]

Without objection, all other opening statements will be included in the record.

I want to introduce, we have three great witnesses today who are—and I want to introduce them—who are here to give us the facts, to give us the truth, not here to complain. Complaining doesn't solve—what's the old—the great football coach, Lou Holtz, said that, "stop complaining about your problems, 90 percent of the people don't care, and 10 percent are glad you got them," right?

That is not what this panel is about. These are folks who want to give us the facts and the truth from here on the ground on the front lines, and we welcome them being here today.

Mr. Jonathan Lines has served as District 2 Yuma County Supervisor for two years, a previous Chair of the Republican Party of Arizona. He is now a Member of the Arizona-Mexico Commission, serves as Vice-Chair of the new Water Infrastructure and Finance Authority for Arizona and, of course, as you all know, is a small business owner here in this community.

The Honorable Leon Wilmot. Sheriff Wilmot has served in law enforcement in Yuma, Arizona, for 38 years. This is our second hearing, and this is the second hearing where we've had a sheriff from this great State. We had Sheriff Dannels a few weeks ago up in Washington, DC. It's interesting, I think he served 28 or 38. I think you've served 38 years, and currently serving his third term as sheriff of Yuma County. He's a veteran of the United States Marine Corps—thank you for that service too—and serves on the Executive Committee on the National Sheriffs' Association.

Of course, our third witness is Dr. Robert Trenchel. He's President and CEO of the Yuma Regional Medical Center where we spent the morning. Amazing facility. He has nearly 20 years of experience in senior management of medical care. Graduated from medical school at Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, which is dear to my colleague's heart here from the great State of Florida, and was in private practice from 1990–2000. Dr. Trenchel holds a master's degree in public health from Florida International University in Miami, Florida.

We want to welcome all three of our witnesses and thank them for appearing here today.

As I said earlier, I also want to welcome several Arizona sheriffs. Now, I'm not sure if I got everyone listed, but I'm going to go on my list, and if I didn't get you, I want you to stand up and tell us who you are. I want to make sure I pronounce these.

Lu Paz, Lu Paz, did I say that county right?

VOICE. La Paz.

Chair JORDAN. La Paz, OK, county sheriff—that's what a Buckeye does when he gets to Arizona.

Sheriff William Ponce and Chief Deputy David Gray, are they here?

Oh, right there, there we go. Thank you, thank you.

Pinal County Sheriff—did I get that one right.

Mr. BIGGS. Pinal.

Chair JORDAN. Pinal. You got to help me, Biggs. What the heck. [Applause.]

Pinal County, Sheriff Mark Lamb, and Chief Deputy Matthew Thomas, thank you as well.

Cochise—I got that one right—Cochise County, Mark Dannels. That's because I had that before. He was there two weeks ago. I know Mark couldn't make it, but he was there in DC.

Graham County Sheriff Preston Allred. Excuse me. Yes.

[Applause.]

Gila—thanks for the help—Gila County Sheriff Adam Shepherd. Thank you, Sheriff. Thank you.

Yahopie, wow—

Mr. BIGGS. Yavapai.

Chair JORDAN. Yavapai. I would've never got that one. Sheriff David Rhodes, thank you as well.

[Applause.]

Navajo—I would've got the last one—Navajo Sheriff David Clouse, thank you as well for being here.

God bless you all.

[Applause.]

We need to—we will begin by swearing in our witnesses.

If you'd all stand and raise your right hand, our three witnesses here.

Do you swear or affirm under penalty of perjury that the testimony you're about to give is true and correct to the best of your knowledge, information, and belief, so help you God?

Let the record show that each witness answered in the affirmative.

We're going to give you five minutes. You guys can be seated. We'll start with Dr. Trenchel, and we'll go right down the line, five minutes, and then the sheriff and then Mr. Lines, and, yes, pass that microphone.

I'll give you a little mike tap with the gavel when you get to about 4½ minutes, but we're going to be—we're among friends here; if you got to go a little longer than 5–5½ minutes, that'd be fine too.

So, Doctor, you're recognized. Thank you again.

STATEMENT OF DR. ROBERT TRENSCHEL

Dr. TRENSCHEL. Thank you, Chair.

Good afternoon, Chair Jordan and Members of the Committee. I'm Dr. Robert Trenchel, President and CEO of Yuma Regional Medical Center. Thank you for being here in person today to get a firsthand account of the impact that open borders have had on our hospital and community over the past year and more.

I've been in Yuma for close to eight years as CEO, and I bring over 30 years of experience in healthcare administration. Yuma Regional Medical Center is a 406-bed hospital that offers a full range of acute care services. The closest hospitals that do what we do are located 180 miles away in Phoenix or San Diego.

Given our geographic location, our hospital and health system hold a deep responsibility of keeping local families close to home for care whenever possible. For many who live here, traveling out of town for care is simply an unbearable challenge. They depend on us to be here.

Our mission to meet the needs of the community is always in the forefront of every decision.

I also want to acknowledge the work and heart of our staff at Yuma Regional Medical Center who continue to work and care for patients each and every day. They provide the same high level of care for every patient. We do not treat anyone differently, and we take pride in that. If your mother or grandchild walks through our doors or if a migrant walks through our doors, they will receive the same level of care.

We've had a significant increase in the number of migrants crossing the border into our community. Our hospital saw an increase in the number of migrants seeking care beginning late fall, early winter of 2021. They arrive to our hospital emergency room in a multitude of ways. Some patients come to us via Border Patrol, who typically release them from custody upon arrival. Other patients walk in, take taxis, some even come by Uber.

As I've said, we're the only acute care hospital in the area, which means diversion to another facility is not an option. We are it.

Some migrants come to us with minor ailments, but many come in with significant disease. We've had migrant patients on dialysis, cardiac catheterization, and in need of heart surgery. Many are very sick. They have long-term complications of chronic disease that have not been cared for. Some end up in the ICU for 60 days or more.

One of the largest cohorts we have seen are maternity patients who present with little or no prenatal care. These higher risk pregnancies and births result in higher complication rates and longer hospital stays. Due to a lack of prenatal care, many of these babies require a stay in our neonatal intensive care unit, some for a month or more at a time.

There are language and cultural concerns with migrant patients. We work through those, but when you consider the volume and associated case management that comes with it, resources have to support this as well.

Migrants often require three times the amount of human resources to resolve their cases and provide them with a safe discharge as defined by CMS. That effort includes assisting in locating families, making sure they have a safe place to go when they are discharged, arranging, and sometimes purchasing durable medical

equipment when needed. We have paid for emergency air transport when they need a higher level of care, hotel rooms, taxis, and car seats.

We do all these things because it's the right thing to do from a humanitarian perspective, but it also allows us to open up a hospital bed sooner for another patient in our community.

None of these expenses are included in the \$26 million figure. Our reality is this: We have delivered over \$26 million in uncompensated care to these individuals in the 12-month period from December 2021–November 2022. That's an auditable figure.

Let me assure you this is not an approximation. That number comes from a detailed review of unpaid patient bills directly attributed to migrant patients.

The \$26 million in uncompensated care is simply not a sustainable business model. While this is a huge number that we have validated, the point is that any number is not acceptable. It is an unsustainable model to have a hospital like ours bear the entire burden of paying for migrant healthcare. No business or service can survive ongoing, large-scale expenses without any offsetting revenue.

Because of this surge in migrant care, we've had to hire additional staff at a time when healthcare labor post-pandemic is higher than ever.

Every dollar in uncompensated care has a direct impact on our hospital. Migrant patients are receiving free care. They have no ability to pay. We have no ability to bill anyone. We don't know their final destination. We don't know anything about them. We cannot provide completely free care to the residents of our community, so the situation is simply not fair and understandably concerning to them.

Let me put this into perspective. The \$26 million is equal to the salary and benefits to support 212 bedside nurses. The city of Yuma has 100,000 people, and we've had over 300,000 people cross the border here. That's three times the population of Yuma coming across the border. We're the only hospital within a three-hour radius, which means they come here.

We've contacted our State and Federal leaders, and no one has a solution. They are willing to listen and are empathetic to our situation, but so far, we have no solutions or reimbursement for the care.

We've been at this for well over a year now. On behalf of our entire healthcare team, I'm here seeking your leadership support to find a payer source for the care we have already provided and will continue to provide in the future, and to put long-term solutions into action that will support our daily commitment to be here for our community for years to come.

One hospital should not and cannot bear the healthcare costs of a national migrant problem that is deeply impacting Arizona and our community. We need a revenue source for the patient population so we can sustainably provide high-quality care to all comers and remain viable for the future.

[The prepared statement of Dr. Trenchel follows:]

Dr. Robert Trenchel, President and CEO, Yuma Regional Medical Center

Good afternoon. I'm Dr. Robert Trenchel, the President and CEO of Yuma Regional Medical Center. Thank you for being here in person today – to get a first-hand account of the impact that open borders have had on our hospital and community over the past year and more.

I have been in Yuma for close to 8 years as CEO. I bring over 30 years of experience in health care administration. Yuma Regional Medical Center is a 406-bed hospital that offers a full range of acute care services with the exception of transplant surgery, neurosurgery and burn. The closest hospitals that do what we do are located 180 miles away in Phoenix or San Diego. Given our geographic location – our hospital and health system holds a deep responsibility of keeping local families close to home for care whenever possible. For many who live here, traveling out town for care is an unbearable challenge. They depend on us to be here. Our mission to meet the needs of our community – is always at the forefront of every decision. I also want to acknowledge the work and heart of our staff at Yuma Regional Medical Center – who continue to care for patients each and every day. They provide the same high level of care for every patient. We do not treat anyone differently and we take pride in that. If your mom, or grandchild walked through our doors – or if a migrant walks through our doors -- they would receive the same level of care.

Over the last approximately year and a half -- we've had a significant number of migrants cross the border into our community. Our hospital saw an increase in the number of migrants seeking care beginning in the late Fall / early Winter of 2021. They arrive to our hospital emergency room in a multitude of ways some patients come to us via border patrol who typically release them from custody upon arrival, other patients walk in, take taxi's and some even come by Uber. As I've said we are the only acute care hospital in the area – which means diversion to another facility is not an option. We are it.

Some migrants come to us with minor ailments but many of them come in with significant disease. We have had migrant patients on dialysis, cardiac catheterization and in need of heart surgery. Many are very sick. They have long term complications of chronic disease that have not been care for. Some end up in the ICU for 60 days or more. One of the largest cohorts we have seen are maternity patients who present with little or no prenatal care. These higher risk pregnancies and births result in higher complication rates and longer hospital stays. Due to a lack of pre-natal care, many of these babies require a stay in our Neonatal Intensive Care Unit -- some for a month or more at a time. There are language and cultural concerns with migrant patients. We work through those but when you consider the volume and the associated case management that comes with it – resources have to support this as well. Migrants often require three times the amount of human resources to resolve their cases and provide them with a safe discharge as defined by CMS [CMS-3317-F]. That effort includes assistance locating their families, making sure they have a safe place to go when they are discharged, arranging and sometimes purchasing durable

medical equipment when needed. We have paid for emergency air transport when they need a higher level of care; we've paid for hotel rooms, taxis and car seats. We do these things because it's the right thing to do from a humanitarian perspective but it also allows us to open a hospital bed sooner for another patient in our community.

None of these expenses are included in the \$26M figure. Our reality is this – we have delivered over \$26 million in uncompensated care to these individuals in the 12 month period of time from December 2021 –November 2022. That is an auditable figure. Let me assure you – it is not an approximation. That number comes from a detailed review of unpaid patient bills directly attributed to migrant patients. \$26 million in uncompensated care is not a sustainable business model. While this is a huge number that we have validated the point is that any number is not acceptable. It is an unsustainable model to have a hospital like ours bear the entire burden of paying for migrant health care. No business or service can survive on-going large-scale expense without any offsetting revenue. Because of this surge in migrant care we've had to hire additional staff, at a time when healthcare labor, post pandemic, is higher than ever.

Every dollar in uncompensated care has a direct impact on our hospital. Migrant patients are receiving free care, they have no ability to pay, we have no ability to bill anyone. We don't know their final destination, we don't know anything about them. We cannot provide completely free care to the residents of our community so the situation is not fair and is understandably concerning to them. Let me put this into perspective -- \$26 million dollars is equal salary and benefits to support 212 bedside nurses. The City of Yuma has 100,000 people and we've had over 300,000 people cross the border here. That's three times the population of Yuma coming across the border. We are the only hospital within a 3-hour radius – which means they come here. We've contacted our State and federal leaders and no one has a solution. They are willing to listen and are empathetic to our situation – but so far, we have no solutions or reimbursement for the care. We've been at this for well over a year now. On behalf of our entire hospital care team – I am here seeking your leadership support to find a payor source for the care we have already provided and will continue to provide into the future and to put long-term solutions into action that will support our daily commitment to be here for our community for years to come.

One hospital should not, and cannot, bear the health care costs of a national migrant problem that is deeply impacting Arizona and our community. We need a revenue source for this patient population so that we can sustainably provide high quality care to all comers and remain viable for the future. Thank you.

Chair JORDAN. Thank you, Doctor. We appreciate your being with us and your testimony.

Sheriff, you're recognized for five minutes. Yes, pull that nice and close, and everyone in the room will be able to hear you.

STATEMENT OF SHERIFF LEON WILMOT

Sheriff WILMOT. Good afternoon, Mr. Chair Jim Jordan and distinguished Members of this Committee. I appreciate the opportunity to address this Committee regarding the status of our southern border from the perspective of our community and local law enforcement.

I've served our border community for over 38 years with the Yuma County Sheriff's Office, and prior to that as a member of our military, serving in the United States Marine Corps, stationed here at MCAS Yuma, located within Yuma County.

I've always been a genuine believer in my oath of office, to protect my country and now Yuma County as a duly elected sheriff for the past 11 years. I'm an active member of the Arizona Sheriffs' Association, currently serve as an Executive Committee Member for National Sheriffs. I'm a board member and past Chair of National Sheriffs' Association Border Security Committee, Executive Board Member at Western States Sheriffs' Association, and an active member and past Chair of the Southwestern Border Sheriffs Coalition.

All these associations share three objectives: Public safety, national security, and addressing humanitarian issues in our communities.

In my submitted brief, I have shared with you all an overview of Yuma County and the history of our border. I have personally experienced the good, the bad, and the ugly of being a border county.

Unfortunately, my office has always had to deal with border-related crimes, death investigations, and the smuggling of illicit drugs, humans, weapons, and cash by our transnational organizations—the cartels.

I am proud of our relationship with our Federal, State, and local law enforcement partners that serve our communities.

I do want to take this opportunity to thank our Customs and Border Patrol officers and agents who have worked tirelessly and diligently to protect this great Nation. I also want to thank all my fellow sheriffs that stand united for the rule of law and the protection of their communities. Finally, I want to thank my constituents for their patience and support in a time of crisis and disarray.

To best understand my presentation, you need to understand where we were two years ago. My county was one of the safest border communities and counties based on our collective governmental efforts, messaging, and yes, delivering a hundred percent consequence delivery and enforcement efforts against the criminal element supported by the rule of law.

Apprehensions by Border Patrol were an average of roughly 40 a day. When the policies of this administration changed, our Federal agents immediately averaged 200 a day, then 400 a day, to over a thousand a day in apprehensions along the river corridor.

Chair JORDAN. Wow, wow.

Sheriff WILMOT. The citizens of Yuma County and law enforcement face a huge migrant crisis along the river corridor. Last Federal fiscal year, you've heard, there were 310,000 give-ups. So far, this Federal fiscal year, we are currently at 93,000 in Yuma County.

We had 28,000 known got-aways last Federal Fiscal Year in the east part of our county alone, and so far, 5,000 this Federal fiscal year.

Yuma County is an agricultural community, supplying 90 percent of the winter leafy greens to the whole of the United States during the winter season. Because of the proximity of the fields to the river corridor, it's visually an environmental disaster on the river area ecosystem with the tons of trash, pharmaceuticals, and biological waste being left by those crossing the river illegally.

Yuma County Emergency Management alone has had to budget general fund dollars to lease Porta-Johns to put down by the river corridor to prevent the defecation in the fields.

The price tag for migrants being illegally smuggled by the cartels begins at roughly \$6,000 per person and up to \$15,000, depending on what country they're coming from. These smugglers include juveniles being recruited, via social media, by the cartels to smuggle not only humans and narcotics into Yuma County, but children are also the pawns on the cartel's money-making schemes.

Roughly 400–800 juveniles cross our border every day to go to school in Yuma County. The cartels use them to body conceal and carry narcotics across and tell them that the Federal Government will not charge a juvenile for smuggling, so you don't have to worry about being arrested.

Border-related bookings of undocumented immigrants committing State crimes in Yuma County has cost us, in Federal Fiscal Year 2021, \$440,000, and last fiscal year, over \$300,000.

These charges included sexual exploitation of minors, narcotics, assaults, kidnappings, burglary, and theft cases, and of recent, we have one smuggler that was caught and is being charged by our agency for committing murder on another individual he was smuggling into this country.

All of this is borne on our local taxpayers' dollar. Our Federal partners across the southwest border made 40,000 arrests of individuals with criminal convictions or individuals that were apprehended and wanted by local law enforcement.

In 2021, over five million dosages of fentanyl were seized on the Arizona border. In 2022, over 12,000 pounds of fentanyl was seized on the southwest border.

From a local's perspective, there were 50 overdose deaths between 2021 and 2022 in Yuma County.

We've also had to encounter 700-plus deaths in the desert along the southwest border as a whole. In 2021, our agency investigated 30 of those. In 2022, we investigated 70 deaths just in Yuma County's desert.

In 2021, 1,821 encounters by my officers with individuals that were smuggled into Yuma. In 2022, my officers encountered over 4,600 who were being smuggled into the United States into our county.

We've had to handle over 750 911 calls through our dispatch center, on and above the ones that Border Patrol gets, from migrants wanting to be rescued out in the remote deserts of our county.

In 2021, I authorized an effort to identify and combat the influx of illegal moneys into Yuma County. The ensuring effort resulted in the discovery of the use of local banking institutions to move moneys from the United States into Mexico.

In the four-month period of September 2021–January 2022, two people and one business moved over \$600,000 from U.S. banks into Mexico. In a two-month period between April and June 2021, one business moved over 300,000 alone.

As the initiative has expanded and matured in 2022, three people were discovered to have moved about 1.6 million in a 10-month period, in addition to another estimated 950,000 from other accounts in a four-month period, for an estimated total of over 2.5 million.

Our initiative continues in the latter part of 2022. Eleven individuals were identified in Yuma County as moving roughly over \$3 million between the U.S. and Mexico in a three-month period, and one company was identified as moving 1.9 million in a 90-day period.

Chair JORDAN. Wow. Sheriff, if you can, we got your written testimony, so on that, maybe just, if you could just finish up, and then we'll—we got your written testimony, it's been given out to every member, and then we can get to Supervisor Lines. Go ahead and finish up if you can.

Sheriff WILMOT. Absolutely. I will cut mine short and I will leave you with this final statement.

We all serve the priorities of Americans based on our shared oaths of office to keep them safe, enhance their quality of life, and support the rule of law, absent political affiliation or the concern of reelection. I ask each and every one of you today to reflect on this statement as you serve those that placed you into the office of trust.

Once again, I thank this Committee for the invitation and the opportunity to provide testimony.

[The prepared statement of Sheriff Wilmot follows:]



▼▼▼▼▼▼▼▼
Leon N. Wilmot
Sheriff

▼▼▼▼
Major Eben Bratcher
Operations Chief

▼▼▼▼
Captain Kelly Milner
Commander
Detention Bureau

▼▼▼▼
Captain Jason Amon
Acting Commander
Patrol Bureau

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Yuma County Sheriff's Office

United States House Committee on the Judiciary

"The Biden Border Crisis: Part Two"

February 23, 2023
2:00 PM

Opening Statement

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman Jim Jordan, Ranking Member Jerrold "Jerry" Nadler and distinguished members of this committee. I appreciate the opportunity to address this committee regarding the status of our southern border from the perspective of our community and local law enforcement.

I have served our border community for over 38 years with the Yuma County Sheriff's Office, and prior to that, as a member of our military serving in the United States Marine Corps stationed here at M.C.A.S Yuma, located within Yuma County, Arizona.

I have always been a genuine believer in my Oath of Office to protect my Country, and now Yuma County as the duly elected Sheriff for the past 11 years. I am an active member of the Arizona Sheriff's Association, and currently serve as an Executive Committee Member for the National Sheriffs' Association, Board Member and past chairman of the National Sheriffs' Association Border Security Committee, Executive Board Member of the Western States Sheriffs' Association and an active member and past chairman of the Southwestern Border Sheriff's Coalition.

All these associations share 3 Objectives: Public Safety, National Security and Humanitarian.

In my submitted brief, I have shared with you all an overview of Yuma County and the history of our border. I have personally experienced the good, the bad, and the ugly of being a border county. Unfortunately, my office has always had to deal with border-related crimes, death investigations, and the smuggling of illicit drugs, humans, weapons and cash by our Transnational Organizations, i.e., criminal cartels.

I am proud of our relationships with all our federal, state and local law enforcement partners that serve our communities. I want to take this opportunity to thank our Customs & Border Patrol Officers and Agents who have worked tirelessly and diligently to protect this great nation. I also want to thank all my fellow Sheriffs that stand united for the Rule of Law in the protection of their communities. And, finally, I want to thank my constituents for their patience and support in a time of crisis and disarray.

"Dedicated to Service"

United States House Committee on the Judiciary
 "The Biden Border Crisis: Part Two"
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To best understand my presentation, you need to understand where we were over 2 years ago. My county was one on the safest border counties based on our collective governmental efforts, messaging and yes, 100% consequence delivery in enforcement efforts against the criminal element supported by the Rule of Law.

Apprehensions by USBP were an average of roughly 40 a day. When the policies of this administration changed, our federal agents immediately averaged 200+ a day, then 400+ a day, to over 1,000 a day in apprehensions.

Direct Impact to My County/Office

The citizens of Yuma County and law enforcement faced a huge migrant crisis along the river corridor. Last federal fiscal year, there were 310,000 give ups. So far this federal fiscal year, we are currently at 93,000. In Yuma County, we had 28,000 known got aways last federal fiscal year, and 5,000 so far this federal fiscal year.

Yuma County is an agricultural community supplying 90% of the winter leafy greens to the whole of the United States during the winter season. Because of the proximity of the fields to the river corridor, it's visually an environmental disaster on the river area ecosystem with tons of trash, pharmaceuticals, and biological waste being left by those crossing the river illegally. Yuma County Emergency Management alone has had to budget general fund dollars to lease porta johns to keep individuals from defecating in crops **(\$70,000.00 impact)**.

The price tag for migrants being illegally smuggled by the cartels begins at \$6,000 per UDA and up.

These smugglers include juveniles being recruited via social media by the cartels to smuggle humans and narcotics into the country. Children are the pawns in the Cartels money-making schemes.

Roughly 400 to 800 juveniles cross our border every day to go to school. In Yuma County, the cartels use them to body conceal/carry narcotics across and tell them that the Federal government won't charge them with a crime due to being a juvenile.

Border related bookings of undocumented immigrants committing state crimes in Yuma County (Detention) Costs

- \$445,122.00 for fiscal year 21
- \$323,325.00 for fiscal year 22

These charges included sexual exploitation of minors, narcotics charges, assaults, kidnapping, burglary, and theft cases, all of which is absorbed by my local taxpayers.

Our Federal partners across the southwest border made **40,359** arrests of individuals with criminal convictions or individuals that were apprehended and wanted by local law enforcement.

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Narcotics Seizures

- In 2021, over 5 million dosages of Fentanyl were seized on the Arizona border.
- In 2022, over 12,000 pounds (54,431,084.40 dosage units) of Fentanyl was seized on the southwest border.

From a local perspective, there were 50 overdose deaths in 2022 in Yuma County.

| | <u>2021</u> | <u>2022</u> |
|----------|-------------|-------------|
| Fentanyl | 11 lbs. | 10 lbs. |
| Heroin | 7 lbs. | 5 grams |
| Cocaine | 65 lbs. | 10 lbs. |
| Meth | 708 lbs. | 740 lbs. |

Immigrant Death / Murder Investigations

700+ deaths in the desert along southwest border

- 2021 = 30
- 2022 = 70
- 2023 = 3 YTD

Smuggled Migrants Encountered

- 2021 = 1,821 encounters with smuggled undocumented immigrants referred to USBP
- 2022 = 4,650 encounters with smuggled undocumented immigrants referred to USBP
- **911 calls from smuggled immigrants abandoned in the Desert = 759**

Financial Crimes

In 2021, I authorized an effort to identify and combat the influx of illegal monies into Yuma County. The ensuing effort resulted in the discovery of the use of local banking institutions to move monies from the United States into Mexico.

In the four month period of September 2021 to January 2022, two people and one business moved **\$664,000** from U.S. banks into Mexico. In the two month period of April-June 2021, one business alone moved **\$329,000**.

As the initiative expanded and matured, in 2022 three people were discovered to have moved about **\$1,600,000** in a 10 month period, in addition to another estimated **\$950,000** from other accounts in a 4 month period for an estimated total over **\$2.5 million**.

Our initiative continues and in the latter part of 2022, another 11 individuals were identified as

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 "The Biden Border Crisis: Part Two"
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moving roughly **\$3 million** dollars between the U.S. and Mexico in a 3 month period; and one company was identified as moving **\$1.9 million** in a 90 day period.

These monies are but the tip of the iceberg, and does not take into account the amount of monies moving through Yuma County crypto-ATMs, which to our estimate exceeds **\$500,000** in a 6-8 month period.

Our effort in this arena continues with our Federal partners and the Yuma County Attorney's Office.

Agents, DPS Officers, Deputies and Local Law Enforcement Officers are facing dangerous scenarios/criminals as a direct result of an "Open Border" exploited by these criminal cartels for violence, fear and greed.

Sheriffs, including myself, collectively met personally with Secretary of Homeland Security Mayorkas when he assumed his position of trust and shared a 16-point action plan of success on the border, which is included in your packet, only to find out he never looked at it.

By allowing our border security mission and immigration laws to be discretionary, as it is being done under this administration's policies, just allows criminal cartels to continue to be the true winners.

Their exploitation of mankind is simply "Modern Day Narco Slavery". Allowing thousands of pounds of illicit drugs into our country that continue to erode the core-values of families, schools and subsequently killing Americans on an average of 270 every day is completely unacceptable at any level. Experiencing migrant deaths without a reasonable process while U.S. Congress and this Administration intentionally avoids reality is gross negligence.

Our voice of reason has been buried during what we call an "Intellectual Avoidance" by this Administration, and yes, members of U.S. Congress.

Communities have been neglected and abandoned, relying solely on our own local and state resources to address a border that is in crisis mode with no real tangible plan by the Secretary of Homeland Security actually being shared or implemented to address these impacts.

Our southern border, against all public comfort statements out of Washington D.C., is in the worst shape I have ever seen in my career.

When one looks at Public Safety, National Security, and Humanitarian, our southern border can only be described as the largest crime scene in the country.

The morale of our Federal agents is extremely low and the collective frustration is very high amongst law enforcement at all levels and most importantly, our citizens.

I am a true believer that Customs and Border Patrol are the experts on Border Security while Sheriffs and Police Chiefs are the experts on community. Together, this is a recipe of success for all communities.

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Our efforts and team work philosophy with our local, state and federal law enforcement partners has proven to be beneficial in bringing overdue solutions to an unsecure border.

Unfortunately, border security has become a discretionary program for those federally elected leaders and policy makers that have been entrusted to protect our freedoms and liberties.

As a Sheriff elected by the good people of my county, my biggest fear—which is shared with all Sheriffs—is the loss of life to one of our citizens and/or law enforcement officers/agents that would be attributed to a border that is NOT secure. We have seen it happen on more than one occasion.

One would hope the priority of securing our border doesn't become just about a price tag and/or political posturing, but rather the legal and moral requirement to safeguard all of America, which so many heroic Americans have already paid the ultimate price for.

Today's opportunity to address this committee in a border community outside of the Washington D.C. environment instills fresh hope that our voice does matter and on behalf of the citizens of Yuma County, Arizona and beyond, we hope that you will carry out your Constitutional mandate to bring positive change to an overdue vulnerable situation.

In closing, my fellow Sheriffs across the border and I have tried to partner with this administration, to include the President of the United States, with high hopes to share a collective message, collective action plan, support the rule of law, prioritize our southern border, and provide updates regarding community impacts and concerns with little to no success.

I will leave you with this final statement. We all serve the priorities of Americans based on our shared Oaths of Office to keep them safe, enhance their quality of life, and support the Rule of Law absent political affiliation or the concern of reelection.

I ask each one of you to reflect on this statement as you serve those that placed you into the office of trust.

Once again, I thank this committee for the invitation and opportunity to provide testimony. And now, I stand ready to answer any questions by members.

Respectfully Submitted,



Sheriff Leon N. Wilmot

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Attachments

1. Sheriff Leon N. Wilmot Biography
2. SCAAP Statistics Summary for Arizona Sheriffs, 2009–2019
3. Letter from Nation's Sheriffs, February 9, 2023
4. SWBSC Vote of No Confidence in Vice President Kamala Harris
5. WSSA Vote of No Confidence in DHS Alejandro Mayorkas
6. Migrant Death location map 2021
7. Migrant Death location map 2022
8. Miscellaneous Photographs

SCAAP

| BLA FY Reporting Period | 2009 | | | | 2010 | | | | 2011 | | | | 2012 | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|--|------------------|-----------------|------------------|--|------------------|-----------------|------------------|--|------------------|-----------------|------------------|--|
| | REQUESTED | RECEIVED | DEFICIT | | REQUESTED | RECEIVED | DEFICIT | | REQUESTED | RECEIVED | DEFICIT | | REQUESTED | RECEIVED | DEFICIT | |
| Alameda County | \$ 59,394.00 | \$ 8,875.00 | \$ 50,519.00 | | \$ 191,805.00 | \$ 15,594.00 | \$ 176,211.00 | | \$ 154,185.00 | \$ 11,619.00 | \$ 142,566.00 | | \$ 154,185.00 | \$ 12,566.00 | \$ 141,619.00 | |
| Collier County | \$ 460,173.96 | \$ 664,267.00 | \$ (184,093.04) | | \$ 791,271.71 | \$ 468,199.00 | \$ 323,072.71 | | \$ 678,255.26 | \$ 70,214.00 | \$ 608,041.26 | | \$ 678,255.26 | \$ 70,214.00 | \$ 608,041.26 | |
| Coconino County | \$ 314,100.00 | \$ 249,123.00 | \$ 69,977.00 | | \$ 290,100.00 | \$ 27,671.00 | \$ 262,429.00 | | \$ 191,250.00 | \$ 17,185.00 | \$ 174,065.00 | | \$ 69,625.00 | \$ 6,936.00 | \$ 62,689.00 | |
| Columbia County | \$ 108,053.14 | \$ 19,403.00 | \$ 88,650.14 | | \$ 220,705.20 | \$ 37,403.00 | \$ 183,302.20 | | \$ 60,475.41 | \$ 10,072.00 | \$ 50,403.41 | | \$ 69,998.02 | \$ 9,700.00 | \$ 60,298.02 | |
| Contra Costa County | \$ 4,163.00 | \$ 3,737.00 | \$ 426.00 | | \$ 17,183.00 | \$ 14,730.00 | \$ 2,453.00 | | \$ 12,600.00 | \$ 12,600.00 | \$ 0.00 | | \$ 62,750.00 | \$ 3,458.00 | \$ 59,292.00 | |
| Crowley County | \$ 4,650.00 | \$ 1,425.00 | \$ 3,225.00 | | \$ 1,650.00 | \$ 314.00 | \$ 1,336.00 | | \$ 6,650.00 | \$ 1,759.00 | \$ 4,891.00 | | | | | |
| La Paz County | \$ 46,607,649.00 | \$ 4,006,872.00 | \$ 42,600,776.00 | | \$ 47,016,440.70 | \$ 2,819,911.00 | \$ 44,196,529.70 | | \$ 39,744,904.85 | \$ 2,241,088.00 | \$ 37,503,736.85 | | \$ 26,597,646.55 | \$ 1,281,403.00 | \$ 25,316,243.55 | |
| Maricopa County | \$ 312,809.16 | \$ 24,135.00 | \$ 288,673.16 | | \$ 462,372.32 | \$ 29,759.00 | \$ 432,613.32 | | \$ 296,547.54 | \$ 29,515.00 | \$ 267,032.54 | | \$ 163,268.00 | \$ 10,077.00 | \$ 153,191.00 | |
| Mohave County | \$ 894,167.11 | \$ 50,457.00 | \$ 843,710.11 | | \$ 825,161.42 | \$ 47,844.00 | \$ 777,317.42 | | \$ 676,638.08 | \$ 38,299.00 | \$ 638,339.08 | | \$ 410,254.77 | \$ 16,300.00 | \$ 394,004.77 | |
| Navajo County | \$ 6,014,935.00 | \$ 832,319.00 | \$ 5,182,616.00 | | \$ 7,796,650.00 | \$ 709,628.00 | \$ 7,086,922.00 | | \$ 5,477,730.00 | \$ 429,650.00 | \$ 5,048,080.00 | | \$ 3,630,950.00 | \$ 247,571.00 | \$ 3,383,379.00 | |
| Pima County | \$ 1,155,555.00 | \$ 213,625.00 | \$ 941,930.00 | | \$ 1,155,555.00 | \$ 213,625.00 | \$ 941,930.00 | | \$ 1,155,555.00 | \$ 213,625.00 | \$ 941,930.00 | | \$ 1,155,555.00 | \$ 213,625.00 | \$ 941,930.00 | |
| Pinal County | \$ 507,139.72 | \$ 273,625.00 | \$ 233,514.72 | | \$ 627,780.00 | \$ 109,385.00 | \$ 518,395.00 | | \$ 333,400.00 | \$ 60,000.00 | \$ 273,400.00 | | \$ 104,860.00 | \$ 20,000.00 | \$ 84,860.00 | |
| Santa Cruz County | \$ 1,671,560.00 | \$ 238,719.00 | \$ 1,432,841.00 | | \$ 1,261,383.00 | \$ 178,463.00 | \$ 1,082,920.00 | | \$ 1,116,703.00 | \$ 116,653.00 | \$ 999,650.00 | | \$ 537,279.00 | \$ 41,853.00 | \$ 495,426.00 | |
| Yuma County | \$ 1,724,811.78 | \$ 162,766.00 | \$ 1,562,045.78 | | \$ 1,346,300.42 | \$ 133,951.00 | \$ 1,212,349.42 | | \$ 1,183,717.40 | \$ 98,406.00 | \$ 1,085,311.40 | | \$ 1,314,760.22 | \$ 84,202.00 | \$ 1,230,558.22 | |
| TOTALS | \$ 64,917,006.87 | \$ 6,346,666.00 | \$ 58,570,340.87 | | \$ 81,632,621.01 | \$ 4,696,798.00 | \$ 76,935,823.01 | | \$ 61,154,072.24 | \$ 3,238,600.00 | \$ 57,915,472.24 | | \$ 34,723,334.28 | \$ 1,850,078.00 | \$ 32,873,256.28 | |

| BLA FY Reporting Period | 2013 | | | | 2014 | | | | 2015 | | | | 2016 | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|--|------------------|-----------------|------------------|--|------------------|-----------------|------------------|--|------------------|-----------------|------------------|--|
| | REQUESTED | RECEIVED | DEFICIT | | REQUESTED | RECEIVED | DEFICIT | | REQUESTED | RECEIVED | DEFICIT | | REQUESTED | RECEIVED | DEFICIT | |
| Alameda County | \$ 84,873.00 | \$ 6,820.00 | \$ 78,053.00 | | \$ 94,278.00 | \$ 4,859.00 | \$ 89,419.00 | | \$ 53,079.00 | \$ 4,861.00 | \$ 48,218.00 | | \$ 78,482.00 | \$ 10,057.00 | \$ 68,425.00 | |
| Collier County | \$ 443,832.79 | \$ 31,423.00 | \$ 412,409.79 | | \$ 292,900.61 | \$ 18,759.00 | \$ 274,141.61 | | \$ 801,734.50 | \$ 48,446.00 | \$ 753,288.50 | | \$ 722,737.34 | \$ 52,083.00 | \$ 670,654.34 | |
| Coconino County | \$ 132,300.00 | \$ 9,008.00 | \$ 123,292.00 | | \$ 252,450.00 | \$ 14,321.00 | \$ 238,129.00 | | \$ 155,025.00 | \$ 9,675.00 | \$ 145,350.00 | | \$ 62,625.00 | \$ 4,578.00 | \$ 58,047.00 | |
| Columbia County | \$ 78,284.79 | \$ 9,648.00 | \$ 68,636.79 | | \$ 26,222.40 | \$ 2,681.00 | \$ 23,541.40 | | \$ 72,767.16 | \$ 6,093.00 | \$ 66,674.16 | | \$ 84,785.76 | \$ 9,308.00 | \$ 75,477.76 | |
| Contra Costa County | \$ 58,639.00 | \$ 3,800.00 | \$ 54,839.00 | | \$ 51,460.00 | \$ 3,586.00 | \$ 47,874.00 | | \$ 9,460.00 | \$ 673.00 | \$ 8,787.00 | | \$ 25,300.00 | \$ 1,887.00 | \$ 23,413.00 | |
| Crowley County | | | | | \$ 11,550.00 | \$ 2,336.00 | \$ 9,214.00 | | \$ 28,650.00 | \$ 6,800.00 | \$ 21,850.00 | | \$ 25,250.00 | \$ 6,128.00 | \$ 19,122.00 | |
| La Paz County | \$ 24,116,650.26 | \$ 1,127,690.00 | \$ 22,988,960.26 | | \$ 25,405,133.05 | \$ 852,073.00 | \$ 24,553,060.05 | | \$ 21,772,009.25 | \$ 762,124.00 | \$ 20,989,885.25 | | \$ 17,734,766.96 | \$ 737,648.00 | \$ 16,997,117.80 | |
| Maricopa County | \$ 175,729.68 | \$ 11,226.00 | \$ 164,503.68 | | \$ 161,335.44 | \$ 7,306.00 | \$ 154,029.44 | | \$ 195,180.03 | \$ 7,143.00 | \$ 188,037.03 | | \$ 160,010.99 | \$ 6,870.00 | \$ 153,140.99 | |
| Navajo County | \$ 395,957.08 | \$ 17,375.00 | \$ 378,582.08 | | \$ 269,103.35 | \$ 12,248.00 | \$ 256,855.35 | | \$ 439,456.00 | \$ 203,946.00 | \$ 235,510.00 | | \$ 3,676,250.00 | \$ 213,893.00 | \$ 3,462,357.00 | |
| Pima County | \$ 5,210,330.00 | \$ 910,851.00 | \$ 4,299,479.00 | | \$ 4,792,065.00 | \$ 227,337.00 | \$ 4,564,728.00 | | \$ 707,211.12 | \$ 64,543.00 | \$ 642,668.12 | | \$ 344,361.36 | \$ 45,188.00 | \$ 299,173.36 | |
| Pinal County | \$ 779,196.60 | \$ 99,032.00 | \$ 680,164.60 | | \$ 534,374.40 | \$ 50,354.00 | \$ 484,020.40 | | \$ 368,630.00 | \$ 33,304.00 | \$ 335,326.00 | | \$ 418,080.00 | \$ 30,003.00 | \$ 388,077.00 | |
| Santa Cruz County | \$ 278,525.00 | \$ 16,426.00 | \$ 262,099.00 | | \$ 427,555.00 | \$ 27,690.00 | \$ 399,865.00 | | \$ 25,000.00 | \$ 2,500.00 | \$ 22,500.00 | | \$ 1,070,078.24 | \$ 22,170.00 | \$ 1,047,908.24 | |
| Yuma County | \$ 891,709.00 | \$ 73,792.00 | \$ 817,917.00 | | \$ 865,038.04 | \$ 67,747.00 | \$ 797,291.04 | | \$ 1,071,221.16 | \$ 95,106.00 | \$ 976,115.16 | | | | | |
| TOTALS | \$ 33,425,616.25 | \$ 1,768,374.00 | \$ 31,657,242.25 | | \$ 33,798,992.09 | \$ 1,260,278.00 | \$ 32,538,714.09 | | \$ 30,144,693.22 | \$ 1,260,673.00 | \$ 28,884,020.22 | | \$ 26,159,331.15 | \$ 1,250,073.00 | \$ 24,909,258.15 | |

| BLA FY Reporting Period | 2017 | | | | 2018 | | | | 2019 | | | | 2020 | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|--|------------------|-----------------|------------------|--|------------------|-----------------|------------------|--|---------------------|-----------------|---------------------|--|
| | REQUESTED | RECEIVED | DEFICIT | | REQUESTED | RECEIVED | DEFICIT | | REQUESTED | RECEIVED | DEFICIT | | REQUESTED | RECEIVED | DEFICIT | |
| Alameda County | \$ 120,819.86 | \$ 11,789.00 | \$ 109,030.86 | | \$ 108,822.96 | \$ 7,448.00 | \$ 101,374.96 | | \$ 10,360.00 | \$ 1,081.00 | \$ 9,279.00 | | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | |
| Collier County | \$ 25,060.00 | \$ 2,765.00 | \$ 22,295.00 | | \$ 43,590.00 | \$ 5,955.00 | \$ 37,635.00 | | \$ 34,440.00 | \$ 5,916.00 | \$ 28,524.00 | | \$ 3,224,251.10 | \$ 7,853.00 | \$ 3,216,398.10 | |
| Coconino County | \$ 10,350.00 | \$ 4,332.00 | \$ 6,018.00 | | \$ 22,380.00 | \$ 7,703.00 | \$ 14,677.00 | | \$ 1,660.00 | \$ 602.00 | \$ 1,058.00 | | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | |
| Columbia County | \$ 120,819.86 | \$ 11,789.00 | \$ 109,030.86 | | \$ 108,822.96 | \$ 7,448.00 | \$ 101,374.96 | | \$ 10,360.00 | \$ 1,081.00 | \$ 9,279.00 | | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | |
| Contra Costa County | \$ 16,866,139.39 | \$ 869,766.00 | \$ 15,996,373.39 | | \$ 16,008,628.29 | \$ 869,766.00 | \$ 15,138,862.29 | | \$ 12,861,023.35 | \$ 711,364.00 | \$ 12,149,659.35 | | \$ 953,103,545.98 | \$ 983,341.00 | \$ 952,120,204.98 | |
| Crowley County | \$ 18,418.62 | \$ 1,314.00 | \$ 17,104.62 | | \$ 37,104.62 | \$ 2,627.00 | \$ 34,477.62 | | \$ 1,307.20 | \$ 82.00 | \$ 1,225.20 | | \$ 1,547,000.40 | \$ 3,559.00 | \$ 1,543,441.40 | |
| La Paz County | \$ 225,953.23 | \$ 10,132.00 | \$ 215,821.23 | | \$ 260,820.00 | \$ 9,627.00 | \$ 251,193.00 | | \$ 162,015.00 | \$ 5,132.00 | \$ 156,883.00 | | \$ 24,115,555.75 | \$ 232,297.00 | \$ 23,883,258.75 | |
| Maricopa County | \$ 3,447,467.26 | \$ 254,789.00 | \$ 3,192,678.26 | | \$ 3,863,855.44 | \$ 294,687.00 | \$ 3,569,168.44 | | \$ 3,269,397.80 | \$ 272,451.00 | \$ 2,996,946.80 | | \$ 13,823,976.90 | \$ 16,721.00 | \$ 13,807,255.90 | |
| Navajo County | \$ 225,953.23 | \$ 10,132.00 | \$ 215,821.23 | | \$ 260,820.00 | \$ 9,627.00 | \$ 251,193.00 | | \$ 162,015.00 | \$ 5,132.00 | \$ 156,883.00 | | \$ 24,115,555.75 | \$ 232,297.00 | \$ 23,883,258.75 | |
| Pima County | \$ 3,447,467.26 | \$ 254,789.00 | \$ 3,192,678.26 | | \$ 3,863,855.44 | \$ 294,687.00 | \$ 3,569,168.44 | | \$ 3,269,397.80 | \$ 272,451.00 | \$ 2,996,946.80 | | \$ 13,823,976.90 | \$ 16,721.00 | \$ 13,807,255.90 | |
| Santa Cruz County | \$ 597,233.00 | \$ 42,850.00 | \$ 554,383.00 | | \$ 573,250.00 | \$ 61,859.00 | \$ 511,391.00 | | \$ 381,750.00 | \$ 43,468.00 | \$ 338,282.00 | | \$ 1,253,070.00 | \$ 428,888.00 | \$ 824,182.00 | |
| Tuolumne County | \$ 218,232.22 | \$ 16,500.00 | \$ 201,732.22 | | \$ 250,359.38 | \$ 61,365.38 | \$ 188,993.98 | | \$ 1,163,555.00 | \$ 179,085.00 | \$ 984,470.00 | | \$ 7,394,175.57 | \$ 39,203.00 | \$ 7,354,972.57 | |
| Yuma County | \$ 23,252,476.24 | \$ 1,332,749.00 | \$ 21,919,727.24 | | \$ 26,550,338.00 | \$ 1,355,723.00 | \$ 25,194,615.00 | | \$ 18,762,655.92 | \$ 1,255,012.00 | \$ 17,507,643.92 | | \$ 3,254,947,025.00 | \$ 1,357,622.00 | \$ 3,253,589,403.00 | |
| TOTALS | \$ 23,252,476.24 | \$ 1,332,749.00 | \$ 21,919,727.24 | | \$ 26,550,338.00 | \$ 1,355,723.00 | \$ 25,194,615.00 | | \$ 18,762,655.92 | \$ 1,255,012.00 | \$ 17,507,643.92 | | \$ 3,254,947,025.00 | \$ 1,357,622.00 | \$ 3,253,589,403.00 | |



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 9, 2023

Nation's Sheriffs Call for the Eradication of Drug Cartels, Starting with the Sinaloa and Jalisco New Generation Cartels

The American Sheriff Alliance implores for action to stop the flow of illicit narcotics into the United States by Mexican Cartels

(Washington, DC) – The American Sheriff Alliance met in Washington, DC, last week to discuss the continued rise in overdose deaths and violence plaguing their jurisdictions in all areas of the country. These troubling patterns can all be traced to two main drivers of illicit narcotics into the United States – the Mexican Sinaloa and the Jalisco New Generation Cartels, both Transnational Criminal Organizations (TCOs) which are headquartered south of the United States border with Mexico.

On September 11, 2001, terrorists killed 2,977 innocent people and our nation was outraged. America's response included declaring a war on terrorism and bringing justice to the victims of this unthinkable tragedy by holding terrorists and terrorist countries accountable.

Last year, on December 14, 2022, the White House issued a statement regarding the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) release of provisional drug overdose death data for the 12-month period ending in August 2022. Over 107,000 overdose deaths were recorded in this one-year period, with most attributed to illicit synthetic drugs like fentanyl and methamphetamine, often in combination with other drugs, including cocaine and heroin. Despite the incredible number of deaths, which can be directly attributed to the trafficking of illegal narcotics into the United States by the Mexican Cartels there has been little call to action or change in foreign policy to address this alarming issue. This crisis has caused 35 more times the amount of death to American citizens in a one-year period than was inflicted upon the U.S. on September 11th by Al-Qaeda and Osama Bin Laden.

The Mexican drug cartels, as well-documented in the successful prosecution of Joaquín Archivaldo Guzmán Loera, also known as El Chapo, operate sophisticated crime operations fueled by fear, terror, intimidation, extortion, and murder. These criminal organizations are directly responsible for the increases in deaths, human trafficking, sex trafficking, and unprecedented violence occurring in cities and counties across our nation. These cartels and their operatives are operating with disastrous effects not just on our southern border, but their influence can also be felt across our northern border and maritime borders as they seek to exploit all avenues to deliver lethal narcotics and violent criminals into our communities.

Sheriff Greg Champagne, of St. Charles Parish, Louisiana, and President of the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) stated, "We can no longer allow these murderers to terrorize our communities. We need every American to join us in demanding our government focus on this crisis and take whatever actions are necessary to eliminate these criminal networks and operations."

"This is not a partisan issue. This is a life-and-death issue," said Sheriff Bill Brown, of Santa Barbara County, California, and Vice President of the Major County Sheriffs of America (MCSA). "Two criminal organizations, the Sinaloa and Jalisco New Generation cartels, operate in Mexico with near impunity, producing and trafficking fentanyl and other deadly drugs that are killing more than 100,000 Americans every year. America's sheriffs are calling for meaningful change in our nation's

foreign policy. The federal government must put greater pressure on the Mexican government to take aggressive action to disrupt and destroy these unlawful cartels. The current situation is intolerable and cannot stand."

Sheriff Brett Schroetlin, of Grand County, Colorado, and President of the Western States Sheriffs' Association (WSSA) said, "These cartels are operating in every part of our nation. It's not an urban, suburban, or rural issue. These massive, well-financed criminal enterprises kill, enslave, and destroy families and communities. We need the people of the United States to demand, that our government commit the necessary resources to eliminate these organizations here and abroad as they did following the horrific events of 9/11.

"This is not an immigration issue; this is a public safety and public health issue. It's not just the violence and drugs, it's the sexual assaults, human trafficking, enslavement, and fear and terror that are destroying neighborhoods here in the United States," stated Sheriff Eddie Guerra, of Hidalgo County, Texas, and Chairman of the Southwestern Border Sheriffs' Coalition (SWBSC). "We are asking every person who knows someone who has died or family who has suffered at the hands of these criminal organizations, to make their voices heard with their federal, state, and local elected officials who have the power to create the necessary change."

Sheriff Eusevio Salinas, of Zavala County, Texas, and Chairman of the Texas Border Sheriffs' Coalition (TBSC) said, "Americans can save lives by calling upon the President of the United States, U.S. Senators, and representatives in Congress and demanding immediate, comprehensive action to identify and destroy these criminal operations, wherever they may exist. Until our elected officials stand up to fight this epidemic sweeping the nation, we will continue to set records related to the number of our loved ones we continue to lose each year at the hand of these violent cartels."

The American Sheriff Alliance is imploring the public to demand their elected officials use every available sanction and accountability tools at their disposal in combating the atrocities committed against our country and its citizens by the Sinaloa and Jalisco New Generation Cartels. Without such action, these dangerous cartels will continue to destroy the very fabric of our families and communities.

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Texas Border Sheriff's Coalition
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The American Sheriff Alliance consists of sheriffs, leadership, and chief law enforcement officers from the National Sheriffs' Association, Major County Sheriffs of America, the Western State Sheriffs' Association, the Southwestern Border Sheriffs' Coalition, and the Texas Border Sheriff's Coalition. This alliance was formed to advocate for policy change and reform in order to keep our nation's citizens safe as well as support the men and women who protect and serve the United States of America.



Clint McDonald
Executive Director

2020-2022
SWBSC Officers

Sheriff Eusevio Salinas
Chairman
Zavala County, TX

Sheriff Eddie Guerra
1st Vice Chairman
Hidalgo County, TX

Sheriff Mark Dannels
Secretary
Cochise County, AZ

Sheriff David Black
Treasurer
Otero County, NM

Sheriff Joe F. Martinez
Director
Val Verde County, TX

Sheriff Leon Wilmot
Director (PC)
Yuma County, AZ

www.bordersheriffs.us

Southwestern Border Sheriff's Coalition

P.O. Box 821 ★ Junction, TX 76849
Tel: (325) 215-2403

April 19, 2022

Whereas, the Southwestern Border Sheriff's Coalition represents Sheriffs from 4 states whose counties are within 25 miles of the Southern Border or contain a permanent federal checkpoint,

Our membership works together with our federal partners to secure our communities and country amidst the ongoing crisis at the border. Over the past 12 months we have witnessed the continued breach of the border by illegal Immigrants who seek to find refuge in the United States. Many are hoping to reach our homeland in search of a life of freedom. Many will come here with a debt owed to the transnational criminal cartels of Mexico and South America. For some, reaching the United States marks the beginning of years of drug distribution, modern-day slavery, and sex trafficking in order to pay back the criminal cartels for the privilege of being smuggled into the United States And,

Whereas, this is not a new phenomenon. This has been occurring for decades. This is the reason our dedicated Officers and Agents from Customs and Border Patrol and our Nation's Sheriffs are coming together to share a common mission to secure our borders and communities. A collective effort to deter the northward flow of illegal immigrants and drugs continues to be a priority for these law enforcement professionals. Over the last year, the problem at our southern border has continued to get worse with an increase in illicit smuggling and criminal violence challenging every community within our nation And,

Whereas, Today, we are witnessing a complete and total breakdown of policies compared to past years. Over a 379% increase of border encounters compared to the previous fiscal year. The getaway numbers are staggering resulting in dangerous criminals flowing into our communities leaving innocent Americans vulnerable. What is significantly concerning is the fact that these are individuals from over 160+ countries and some from countries of special interest with terrorist ties. The Vice President, Kamala Harris was appointed and sworn into her position under her Oath of Office to protect the Rule of Law and Americans. As our nation's Vice President, she is responsible for carrying out those public safety responsibilities delegated to the United States. Since her appointment, we have seen her policies enacted that are focused on her personal and political ideologies that only serve to dismantle the security of our country and the enforcement efforts of the hard-working federal officers assigned to an extremely difficult task And,

Whereas, America's Sheriffs have watched in disbelief as the southern border has turned into an invisible line in the sand. Border Patrol agents have been relegated to daycare supervisors at housing units and when they do attempt to act, they are scrutinized, placed on administrative leave and investigated for political gain. The tragedy of an invisible border is being realized across the United States. Massive amounts of drugs are moving across the interstate highways and small rural roads to a town near you. American citizens continue to die from overdoses in this country at an alarming rate each and every day. Current statistics show that more people have died in the United States from fentanyl overdoses than from COVID in the past 20 months. Fentanyl is coming across our southern border and into the interior of the United States at an alarming and unacceptable rate. Violent crime is increasing throughout the United States and examples of the atrocities carried out by illegal immigrants are beginning to surface in the media.



THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOUTHWESTERN BORDER SHERIFF'S COALITION

After witnessing this disaster over the past year and listening to the continued rhetoric and intellectual dishonesty from Vice President Harris, The Southwestern Border Sheriff's Coalition, and its membership must emphatically state our position of having **NO** confidence in the ability of Vice President Kamala Harris, and her leadership within the office of Vice President, to affect any positive outcome on this matter.

Furthermore, we call on President Joe Biden to take the appropriate steps to remove Vice President Kamala Harris from her leadership position and appoint a new leader who can recognize, respect, and enforce the rule of law for the safety and security of our nation along with the southern and northern borders. We demand, and America deserves, a leader who will work collectively with our nation's Sheriffs and the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol to regain control of our nation's southern border. Finally, A decision to make this change must come immediately. If there is a legitimate "matter of National Security" for this nation, at this time, this is certainly one. America's Border Sheriffs, and specifically our southwest border Sheriffs, stand united and ready to work with our federal administration to restore security and safety on our nation's southern border.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOUTHWESTERN BORDER SHERIFF'S COALITION AT THE BUSINESS MEETING IN EL PASO, TEXAS ON APRIL 12, 2022

William C. McDonald
Executive Director
Southwestern Border Sheriff's Coalition



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 Sheriff Leo Dutton
 Lewis and Clark County, MT

1st VICE PRESIDENT
 Sheriff Brett Schroettlin
 Grand County, CO

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 Sheriff Dave Brown
 Wyoming

WESTERN STATES SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION

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Western States Sheriffs' Association

Position Paper

No Confidence in DHS Secretary Mayorkas

The Western States Sheriffs' Association represents Sheriffs from 17 States. Our membership continues to work together to assist our nation's southern border Sheriffs in the ongoing crisis at the border. Over the past 10 months we have witnessed the continued breach of the border by illegal Immigrants who seek to find refuge in the United States. Many are hoping to reach our homeland in search of a life of freedom. Many will come here with a debt owed to the drug cartels of Mexico and South America. For some, reaching the United States marks the beginning of years of drug distribution, slavery, and prostitution in order to pay back the drug cartels for the privilege of being brought to the U.S.

This is not a new phenomenon. This has been occurring for decades. This is the reason our Border Patrol, southern border Sheriffs and Immigration and Customs enforcement exists. A concerted effort to curb the northward flow of illegal Immigrants has long been the focus of these enforcement officers. For the past several years, much effort and financial resources was focused on the southern border and a great deal of progress was made in limiting the number of illegal crossings.

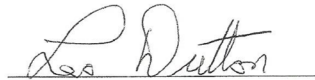
Today we are witnessing a complete and total breakdown of efforts of the past several years. Over a million illegal crossings already this year. Hundreds of thousands of illegal Immigrants who we know for sure entered this country illegally and were never intercepted by law enforcement. What is significantly concerning is the fact that these are individuals from over 160+ different countries and some of those are from special interest countries with terrorist ties. The Secretary of Homeland Security, Alejandro Mayorkas was appointed and sworn into his position to follow the rule of law in securing our nation. Secretary Mayorkas is the head of the Department of Homeland Security and tasked with carrying out those public safety responsibilities delegated to the United States. Since his appointment we have seen his policies enacted that are personal and political ideologies that continue to dismantle the security of our country and the enforcement efforts of the hard-working federal officers assigned to an extremely difficult task.

America's Sheriffs have watched in disbelief as the southern border has turned into an invisible line in the sand. Border patrol agents have been relegated to daycare supervisors at housing units and when they do attempt to act, they are scrutinized, placed on administrative leave, and investigated for political gain. The tragedy of an invisible border is being realized across the United States. Massive amounts of drugs are moving across the patchwork of interstate highways and small rural roads to a town near you. American citizens continue to die from overdoses in this country at an alarming level each and every day. Statics now show that more people have died in the U.S. from fentanyl overdoses than from COVID in the past 20 months. Fentanyl is coming across our southern border and into the interior of the U.S. at alarming and unacceptable levels. Violent crime is increasing in major cities and examples of the atrocities carried out by illegal immigrants are beginning to surface in the media when the media exhibits the courage to report it.

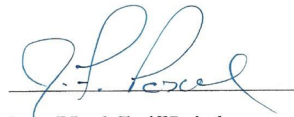
After witnessing this disaster over the past several months and listening to the continued rhetoric and Intellectual dishonesty from Secretary Mayorkas, The Western States Sheriffs' Association, and its membership must emphatically state our position of having ***NO*** confidence in the ability of the Secretary Mayorkas, and his leadership within the Department of Homeland Security, to affect any positive outcome on this matter.

We call on President Biden to take the appropriate steps to remove Secretary Mayorkas from his leadership position and appoint a new leader at the Department of Homeland Security who recognizes, respects and will enforce the rule of law for the safety and security of our nation along with the southern and northern borders. We demand a new leader who will work, together with our nation's Sheriffs and the U.S. Border Patrol, to regain control of our nation's southern border.

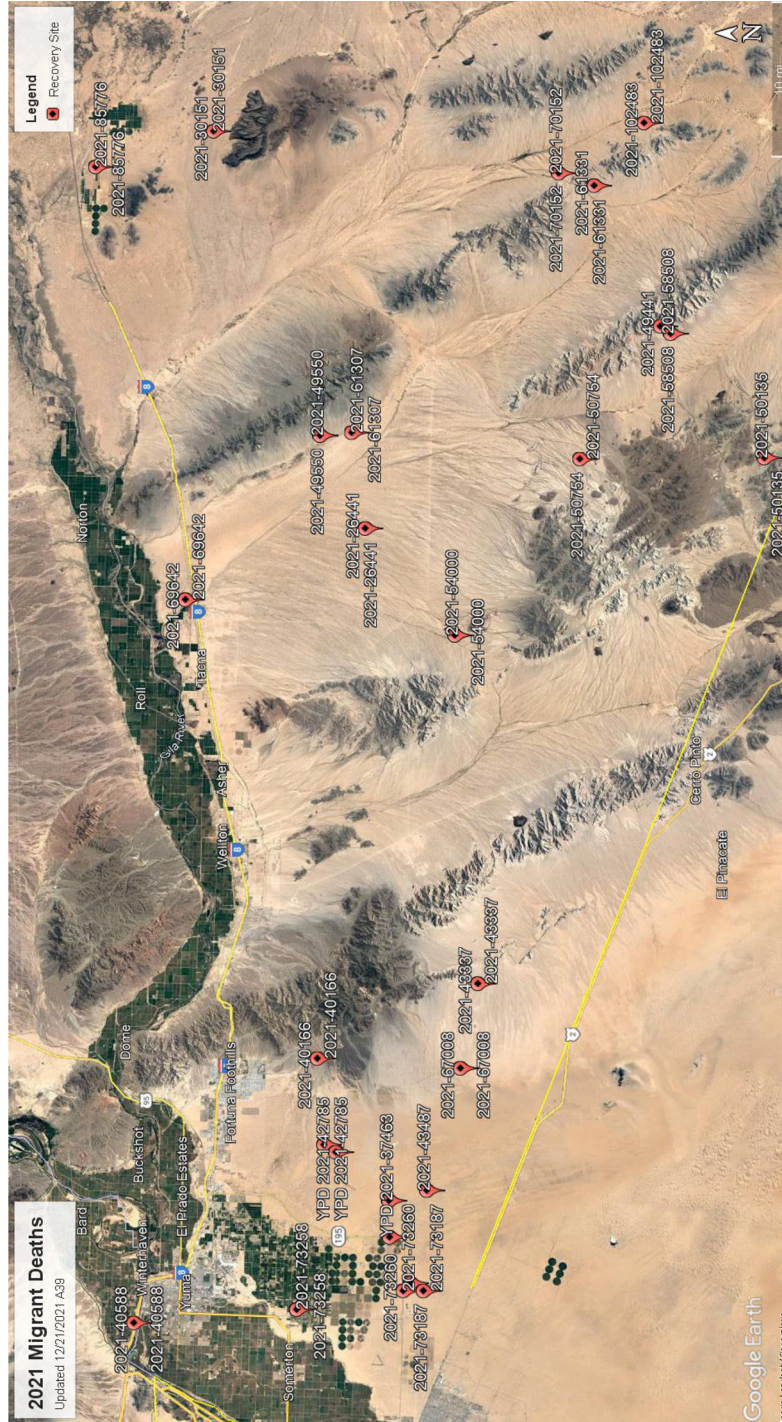
A decision to make this change must come immediately. If there is a legitimate "matter of National Security" for this nation, at this time, this is certainly one. America's western Sheriffs, and specifically our southwest border Sheriffs, stand ready to work with our federal enforcement partners and the administration to restore security and safety on our nation's southern border.

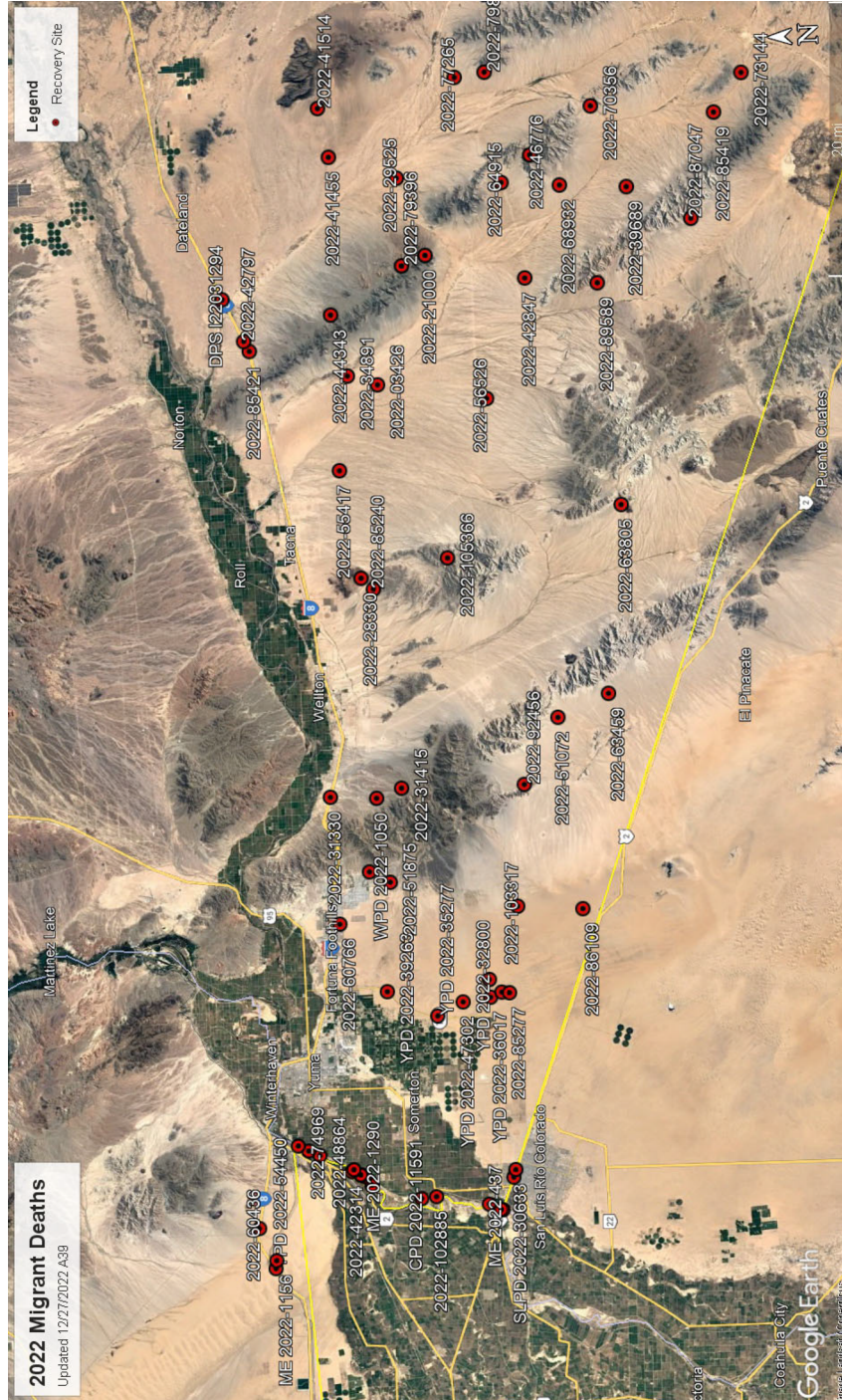


Sheriff Leo Dutton
President
Western States Sheriffs Association



James F Pond, Sheriff Retired
Executive Director
Western States Sheriffs Association













Chair JORDAN. Sheriff, thank you. Very interesting numbers. The financial dealings that you've uncovered too, the stuff going on there is something new that we—I don't know that the Committee had seen much of before. Thank you so much.

Supervisor Lines, thank you. You're recognized for five minutes.

STATEMENT OF MR. JONATHAN LINES

Mr. LINES. Chair Jordan, Members of the Congressional Judiciary Committee, thank you for being here. For many of you—Mr. Gaetz, Mr. Biggs, and my Congressman Mr. Gosar—they've been here multiple times, as well as Mr. McClintock. So, thank you for taking a personal interest in some of the challenges that we have here along our border.

For many of the freshmen that just came into office, congratulations, and hopefully you can come back to discuss other things like great weather. Except for yesterday, we noted.

I'd like to welcome you to the most patriotic community in Arizona as declared by Insurify. I serve my community in many different capacities: As a county supervisor and sitting on boards like the Yuma Community Food Bank, Amberly's Place, and through service organizations.

Yuma has been my family's home since the 1930's, and Arizona, our State, since the 1870's, prior to statehood. Here's where we choose to carve out an existence in the desert.

I am sad to be before you today to discuss the failures of the Biden Administration on the southwest border in the Yuma Sector. Since the first days of this administration, we have seen a significant deterioration in border security, despite the massive efforts from the men and women who have been working tirelessly to secure the border to safeguard our national security.

Since President Biden took office, we saw a huge surge, a record number of people crossing illegally from 106 different countries. Seventeen of those countries are designated as special interests because of the negative relationship with the United States and a desire to do harm, and that has steadily continued these many months.

Along with illegal entry into the United States across an open border, the increase in trafficking of narcotics, both human trafficking and drug trafficking, remain at an all-time high, significantly greater than any other administration in our history.

In addition to the known give-ups, we are extremely concerned about the backgrounds and intentions of the got-aways, the 1.2 million as noted, those who evade law enforcement, enter the United States illegally, who are not willing to give themselves into the custody of Border Patrol for processing. These are estimated to exceed the 1.2 million since Biden took office.

I've had many opportunities to visit with the border from elected officials from all over the United States, and the message they have shared with me is that this is not just a Yuma, Arizona, problem, but that illegal entry, human trafficking, and narcotics, especially fentanyl and methamphetamines, has now compounded and pervaded across the United States to affect every community across our Nation, now making them too into border communities.

These leaders stood with us in asking the President to fulfill his commitment through Secretary Mayorkas at his visit last year, who had pledged to Mayor Nicholls and myself, to close the Yuma gaps in the border wall and provide financial support, safety and security for the men and women who are on the front lines battling a very porous border, which support has yet to materialize from the Executive Branch.

Today you'll have the opportunity, as you have, to hear testimony—and I thought I was going to go first, so I have to change this a little bit. You've heard their testimony, and now you'll have the opportunity to ask them questions.

Last week, we learned that the average number of people who entered illegally across the Yuma Sector is now percolating up at 2,500 a week. Prior to, that number was 5,000–6,000 per week. Yet, at the same time, fentanyl, methamphetamines, and cocaine seizures were up between 200 and 400 percent because the men and women in uniform were able to direct their attention and efforts to border security, national security.

Fentanyl is the scourge of our Nation. It's being shipped from Mexico—to Mexico from China. In conjunction with the cartels, it is being marketed and sold to children through social media apps. These stories are tragic when parents talk about the loss of life of their sons and daughters due to fentanyl and opioids.

My hope today through this hearing is that we can shed light on the challenge we face as a small community, as well as to remind the Nation, like many elected officials have done after coming to see for themselves, that every community in the United States is now a border community due to an abject failure by this administration to control and stem the tide of illegal entry along the southwest border and to commit to take back control of the border from the cartels.

Mr. Chair, thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Lines follows:]

Testimony-Jonathan W Lines

House Judiciary Committee

Chairman Jordan and Members of the Congressional Judiciary Committee,

My name is Jonathan Lines and I would Like to Welcome you to the Most Patriotic Community in Arizona as declared by Insurify. I serve my community in many different capacities as a County Supervisor and sitting on boards like the Yuma Community Food Bank, Amberly's Place and through service organizations. Yuma has been my family's home since the 1930s and Arizona our state since the 1870s prior to statehood. Here is where we choose to carve out an existence in the desert. I am sad to be before you today to discuss the failures of the Biden Administration on the Southwest Border in the Yuma Sector.

Since the first days of this Administration, we have seen a significant deterioration in border security despite a massive effort from men and women who have been working tirelessly to secure the border to safeguard our national security. Since President Biden took office, we saw a huge surge--a record number of people crossing the border illegally from 106 different countries, 17 of those countries are what is designated "special interest" because of the negative relationships with the United States and it has steadily continued these many months. Along with the illegal entry into the US across an open border the increase in the trafficking of narcotics. Both human trafficking and drug trafficking remain at an all-time high, significantly greater than under any other administration in our history.

In addition to the known 'give-ups' we are extremely concerned about the backgrounds and intentions of the 'got-aways' --those people who evade Law Enforcement, entering the United States illegally who are NOT willing to give themselves into the custody of Border Patrol officers for processing. There are estimated to be more than 1 million of those entries since President Biden took office. I have had many opportunities to visit the border with elected officials from all over the United States and the message they have shared with me is that this is not just a Yuma Arizona problem, but that illegal entry, human trafficking and narcotics, especially fentanyl and methamphetamines, has now compounded and pervaded across the States to affect every community across our nation, now making them too into border communities. These leaders stood with us in asking the President to fulfill his commitment through Secretary Mayorkas, at his visit last year, who had pledged to Mayor Nicholls and myself to close the Yuma gaps in the border wall and provide financial support, safety and security for the men and women who are on the front lines battling a very porous border; which support has not yet materialized from the Executive Branch.

Today you will have the opportunity to hear from Sheriff Leon Wilmot who will share some of the challenges experienced by his office, and of the unprecedented number of deaths in this county directly attributable to the illegal entry of people and substances across this border of the United States. You will also hear from Dr Robert Trenchel regarding his concerns about the unreimbursed, direct medical costs associated locally with the treatment of those who have

entered illegally into the United States. Last week we learned that the average number of people who entered illegally across this Yuma sector is at 2,500 per week from a prior 5,000 to 6000 per week, and yet at the same time, fentanyl and methamphetamine and cocaine seizures were up between 200-400 percent because the men and women in uniform were able to direct their attention and efforts to border security and national security.

Fentanyl is a scourge of our nation. It is being shipped to Mexico from China, and in conjunction with the cartels is being marketed and sold to children through social media apps. The stories are tragic when parents talk about the loss of life of their sons and daughters due to fentanyl and opioids.

My hope today through this hearing is that we can shed light on the challenges we face as a small community, as well as to remind the nation, like many elected officials have done after coming to see for themselves that every community in the United State is now a border community due to an abject failure by this administration to control and stem the tide of illegal entry along the Southwest Border and to commit the take back control of the border from the cartels.

Chair JORDAN. Thank you, Supervisor.

Now, I want to go to one of the experts in the U.S. Congress on this issue and done so much to bring its attention to colleagues in the Congress and folks around the country. The gentleman from Arizona, Congressman Biggs, is recognized for five minutes of questions.

Mr. BIGGS. I thank the Chair. I appreciate being here in Yuma, where it's always a very hospitable group of people that greet us, and I'm grateful for that. It's reflective of the unity of this community and how great you are.

We just heard from three great witnesses, and I also tip my hat today to the officers and agents of CBP and law enforcement. We recognize the challenges that you have.

I'm going to try to first undercut a narrative that our colleagues across the aisle raise, and they tell you that 90 percent of fentanyl is seized at the border—at the port of entry, right, port of entry, as if there's not a massive amount of fentanyl and other drugs coming between the ports of entry.

So, I'm going to ask the panel: Why do you suppose that we are more successful at interdicting drug smuggling at a port of entry that has, I don't know, dogs, X-ray machines, material, and more agents, than we would be between ports of entry?

Mr. Lines, you look like you're just chomping at the bit to answer that question.

Mr. LINES. No, the sheriff winked at me and told me to go.

Mr. BIGGS. Very good. Please.

Mr. LINES. Mr. Biggs, Congressman Biggs, thank you for the opportunity. We learned last week, and this number we made public toward the end of the month, but the narrative of 90 percent coming through the ports has been changed a little bit in that because of the downturn over the January timeframe, 48 percent of the fentanyl was being intercepted between the ports and 52 percent at the ports.

To combat that narrative, Border Patrol has now had the opportunity, because they're not spending 1.5, 1.7 hours processing each individual, and so they are now on the border being able to provide national security and border security.

Mr. BIGGS. Sheriff, do you want to add on that?

Sheriff WILMOT. I would just confirm what Jonathan Lines just said.

Mr. BIGGS. Thank you.

Sheriff WILMOT. With our agents being able to get back out in the field, it's helped us intercept that.

Mr. BIGGS. Thank you. Sheriff, I'm going to ask you a question. You mentioned juvenile drug smuggling, juveniles being used and exploited to smuggle drugs coming across, who have legal purpose to enter the country—or legal authority to enter the country through the port of entry. Please tell us about that.

Sheriff WILMOT. That is correct. When we speak with our port of entry personnel, they are the ones that typically are the screeners when juveniles come across from Mexico to go to school each and every day. The cartels exploit them by asking them to carry fentanyl and other narcotics across the border when they're walking into the United States.

These individuals are then apprehended by port of entry personnel, who then get ahold of DEA or the local narcotics task force, and then they end up getting charged as an adult because of the amount of narcotics that they have in their possession.

Mr. BIGGS. Thank you. I'm going to make a quick statement and then try to get time to get to Dr. Trenchel to ask him a question too. There's just so much. This is an incredibly broad topic.

The violation of laws of this administration, I'm going to point out four quick things. They've changed the parole—they haven't changed it. They are violating the parole of the law—the parole law. The parole authority typically would be a case-by-case basis, 12–20 people a year, per year, until the Biden Administration came in.

Last year, more than 300,000 people received parole, and there's a promise of 360,000 more people this year from four different countries: Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Venezuela. That's one violation.

The second is the no deport. One of you mentioned the no deportation law. More than 1.2 million individuals have received due process and an order of removal because their asylum claim was bogus—found to be bogus by a court. This administration has forbidden ICE to pursue, look, and deport.

The third thing is the violation of the first safe nation international law. That's another reference to the Remain in Mexico policy. If you had the First Safe Nation Law and you enforced the First Safe Nation Law, which we did under the Remain in Mexico policy, Yuma Sector, the last year of the Trump Administration had fewer than 9,000 encounters. Last year, well over 300,000 encounters. That's the third thing.

So, I will just leave it there, so I can ask Dr. Trenchel this last question, because you said something that I think every American needs to hear. You are actually expending hospital funds—community hospital funds—to actually move people to family members or elsewhere around the country. There are many that you are sending, that you don't even know their destination. Please expand on that and tell us what that looks like.

Dr. TRENSCHEL. Sure. So, when a patient comes into the hospital, we have to provide them with a safe discharge, per CMS, and we do that. So, a lot of that includes tracking down their family members. We've had to fly them to their families. We've had to air ambulance individuals for higher levels of care. We've just had to—durable medical equipment, wheelchairs, walkers, all these other items that we have to provide for patients for a safe discharge.

Mr. BIGGS. you're not being compensated by the Federal Government or anyone else, and these individuals are not those that have been brought for medical treatment by CBP through some kind of legal mechanism.

Dr. TRENSCHEL. Correct. Some individuals may have walked in, declared themselves a migrant and we treat those. They could've have come in by taxi. They could've come in by any means, yes.

Mr. BIGGS. Thank you.

Mr. Chair, thank you so much. I yield back.

Chair JORDAN. Thanks for all your good work.

The Chair of the Subcommittee on Immigration, the gentleman from California, is recognized for five minutes.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Well, thank you, Mr. Chair.

Dr. TRENSCHEL, you said that your hospital has incurred \$26 million in uncompensated care over the past year. Obviously that money doesn't come from nowhere. It comes out of what you'd otherwise be spending. So, does this mean that there's \$26 million less equipment for your patients, \$26 million less staff to care for them?

Dr. TRENSCHEL. It does. That extra revenue that we would've brought in would've gone back into the community, and we do that as a nonprofit. So, it would've been either to purchase equipment, have additional access ports for patients here, bring in additional physicians. It would've been used for the benefit of our community for sure.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Now, you say you serve all patients equally, but it is a zero-sum equation, isn't it? A bed that's taken by one person is not going to be available for another. An hour of a doctor's time on one person is not going to be available to care for another.

So, if your emergency room, for example, is packed with illegal immigrants, doesn't that mean, just as a simple, mathematical equation, that legal residents must wait exactly that much longer for care?

Dr. TRENSCHEL. Yes, it does. That's very true. We've had that experience in our emergency room. We've had that experience with patients who've had to delay elective surgery because other urgent migrant patients have come in who needed emergent surgery.

We've had to delay maternity patients with planned inductions, because we've simply been out of space in our maternity unit with migrant patients who've had deliveries. Many of them just coming in at the same time for deliveries.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Now, of course, virtually all these migrants don't stay here. Where do they go?

Dr. TRENSCHEL. We don't know where they go. Some may go to Florida. Other—they really go everywhere. We don't know.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. So, this is going to be impacting every hospital in the country?

Dr. TRENSCHEL. Yes, yes.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Sheriff Wilmot, are Mexican cartels operating in Yuma County today?

Sheriff WILMOT. There is a cartel influence in Yuma County between—we have two States in Mexico that border Yuma County. We have the Baja California, which is the Sinaloa cartel in Sonora.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. What are they doing on this side of the border? What are the cartels doing on this side of the border?

Sheriff WILMOT. Well, they're the ones that are orchestrating the smuggling of narcotics and the humans toward the east part of the county.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. What are your greatest concerns for public safety from their activity here?

Sheriff WILMOT. Well, obviously, first concern is the loss of life and the impact on our local communities. It's also the fact that when we have that many get-aways, and we know how many countries have actually come through Yuma County, those also being

special interest countries, what is this country going to expect to happen of these unknown individuals coming into the United States? Where are they going, and what is their intentions?

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Could we expect to see the kind of violent cartel gun battles in our cities that we're now seeing in Mexico?

Sheriff WILMOT. We have seen victims of that come into our county as well as other counties along the U.S.-Mexico border. We have not—

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Is it just a matter of time before we see the same things here?

Sheriff WILMOT. I believe they've already seen it in other States as of late.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. We saw it in Tulare County in California just a few weeks ago.

Sheriff WILMOT. Yes.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. What is your warning to other communities from what you've experienced here?

Sheriff WILMOT. We've been trying to warn other communities for the past couple years in regard to the activities that we're seeing here. It's not staying in the border, it's going across the Nation, and I don't think you'll find a sheriff now throughout the United States that doesn't say that they're actually now a border county because of what the impacts they have had in their communities.

Chair JORDAN. I thank the gentleman.

I now yield to the gentleman from Florida, my friend, Mr. Gaetz.

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Chair, I observe that the people of Yuma are good folks, and they deserve a lot better from the Federal Government than they have been getting, and whether or not they'll get it depends heavily on the House of Representatives, and particularly this group and whether or not we will fight for them.

We don't have a single Democrat that we could even convince to come to this briefing to get evidence from these experts. You think we're going to get President Joe Biden and Chuck Schumer to pass legislation without a fight, without demanding that it go in must-pass bills? We have to use every bit of leverage, or this is a deeply unserious exercise.

Now, Dr. Trenchel, about 1 in 4 of the migrants who use birthing services at your hospital need neonatal intensive care unit services, NICU, right?

Dr. TRENCHEL. That is true, yes.

Mr. GAETZ. That rate, 1 in 4, is way higher than with the non-migrant population, right?

Dr. TRENCHEL. Very much higher, correct.

Mr. GAETZ. You got about 20 beds at any given time?

Dr. TRENCHEL. Correct.

Mr. GAETZ. They fill up sometimes, don't they?

Dr. TRENCHEL. Yes, they do.

Mr. GAETZ. So, when you have those beds that are full up because of the pressure of these migrant communities, where do you have to send the residents of Yuma when they have a baby that needs NICU?

Dr. TRENCHEL. We would have to fly them to Phoenix or another venue.

Mr. GAETZ. That's 170 miles away?

Dr. TRENSCHEL. Yes, it is.

Mr. GAETZ. There are few prayers that I have ever seen more sincere and deeper than the prayers of parents when their little babies are at the NICU. For all the folks on the left who want to lecture to us about how humane an open border is, there is nothing humane about putting a parent on a 170-mile journey when they need NICU services.

Supervisor Lines, we hear Secretary Mayorkas come to us all the time on the Judiciary Committee and testify that the most important partnerships above all else for the Department of Homeland Security are the partnerships with local officials. We hear it time and again.

So here is my simple question for you. Has Secretary Mayorkas ever lied to you?

Mr. LINES. Yes.

Mr. GAETZ. What was the substance of that lie?

Mr. LINES. So, the mayor and I had the opportunity to visit with Secretary Mayorkas, and the Yuma Sector Chief, as well as the chief of the entire Border Patrol at sector headquarters almost a year ago. During that meeting, he committed to, after reviewing the border, both from the ground and the air, to specifically address, quote, "9 of the 11 Yuma gaps," unquote.

Mr. GAETZ. How many of those gaps have been addressed?

Mr. LINES. To date so far, none. We see infrastructure on two, and yet they will not deter anyone.

Mr. GAETZ. This is my fourth time here with you.

Mr. LINES. Yes, sir.

Mr. GAETZ. I think if I come any more often, I'm going to be eligible to vote in Yuma County.

Mr. LINES. Thank you for coming back, Matt. District 2 is great.

Mr. GAETZ. It seems as though it's not a great mystery where the pressure points are, where we have gaps in the wall, and where we have recalcitrant tribes. So, in those circumstances, should we observe that this is a lack of capability or a lack of will to go and plug those holes?

Mr. LINES. A lack of will. We've followed up multiple times, as well as Yuma Sector Border Patrol staff and—with Under Secretaries, and we were told time and time again that they were issuing contracts, that we would have it no later than June of last year, then no later than September, then no later than November. Every time it kept getting pushed out while—

Mr. GAETZ. So, would a reasonable person observe that this is on purpose?

Mr. LINES. My wife says I'm not a very patient person, but I was patient every time that I called, and they continued to push this process out. It's not reasonable.

Mr. GAETZ. Well, the American people are losing their patience, we ought to be losing ours, and while we greatly appreciate the three of you being here to answer our questions, the day will come soon when Secretary Mayorkas has to come and answer our questions.

To my colleagues, if he'll lie to Mr. Lines and lie to the community here, then he will lie to us, and he will lie to the American people, and that's why I'm very proud to cosponsor Representative

Biggs' Articles of Impeachment against Secretary Mayorkas, because this is not a lack of ability, it is a lack of will.

[Applause.]

Mr. Lines, I'll give you the last word.

Mr. LINES. Mr. Gaetz, thank you very much. To what Mr. McClintock was saying as far as the cartel violence, over the last 14 months, the sheriff and I have been made aware of over 200 assassinations in San Luis Rio Colorado, where the cartels are targeting law enforcement. This last weekend we had another officer shot and then retribution the following night.

So, when you talk about that violence, it's here at our border. They are in control, and we want to take our control—our border control back, and we need an administration that has the will to secure our borders. That's what we're asking you to do. I thank you very much for being here.

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Chair, my time's expired. I yield back.

Chair JORDAN. I thank the gentleman from Florida.

I now recognize the gentleman from Wisconsin, Mr. Tiffany.

Mr. TIFFANY. Thank you very much.

Let me followup on that. Sheriff, do you believe the U.S. Government has control of the border here with Mexico?

Sheriff WILMOT. I believe that we are trained, and our Border Patrol partners are trying very hard, but the cartels are the ones that are creating the narrative and controlling the activities all along the 2,000 miles of international boundary.

Mr. TIFFANY. Do you have the ability to identify migrants who are inadmissible to the United States for criminal reasons or prior deportations?

Sheriff WILMOT. We do not have access to that.

Mr. TIFFANY. Is ICE or CBP actively assisting you in processing the migrants, in your charge?

Sheriff WILMOT. In the law enforcement aspect, we work with them quite a bit in regard to those that are in my jail. As far as the immigration side, that is something that is not in our wheelhouse. I can tell you that, because of their constraints, that I've actually cross-deputized our Federal partners in the different entities to be able to seek State charges against individuals that the U.S. attorney would not charge for crimes.

Mr. TIFFANY. Have you had—say that last part again, the United States attorney.

Sheriff WILMOT. The part in regard to the United States Attorney not wanting to charge an individual for a crime, then I've cross-deputized them so they can take that case to a county attorney to get prosecution.

Mr. TIFFANY. Have you had any detainers issued by ICE for migrants in your facilities?

Sheriff WILMOT. Yes, I have.

Mr. TIFFANY. As a result of the illegal migration coming across our border, are they harming the environment?

Sheriff WILMOT. Absolutely. The vast amount of trash, pharmaceuticals, garbage, clothing that's being dumped along our river corridor has been astronomical, and the impacts for our farmers in their fields as well.

Mr. TIFFANY. When we had a hearing just a couple weeks ago, we had a Judge Samaniego, from I believe El Paso, and Sheriff Dannels on the panel. They had very divergent statements to say in regard to fentanyl, that the reason for fentanyl—the expansion of its use in our country and the devastating consequences was not because of the border being open. That was the case being made by Judge Samaniego.

Sheriff Dannels said that it is a result of the borders being opened over the last couple years that fentanyl use and its migration into the United States has gone up exponentially.

Who's correct?

Sheriff WILMOT. I would tend to support Sheriff Dannels' statement in regard to that. I would agree with his statement as well.

Mr. TIFFANY. So, you've seen—are you saying you have seen the same thing as Sheriff Dannels in Cochise County?

Sheriff WILMOT. We have seen the same type of activity where individuals were recruited to come and pick up individuals that entered this country illegally between a port of entry and come to pick them up because it's a money-making adventure. They've also been found to be in possession of narcotics too at the same time.

Mr. TIFFANY. Has Secretary Mayorkas secured the border?

Sheriff WILMOT. No.

Mr. TIFFANY. I just have one further question and then a final statement, Mr. Chair.

Do any—to Dr. Trenchel—do any of the NGO's out there, non-governmental organizations, have they compensated you for any of the uncompensated care that you're providing for migrants?

Dr. TRENSCHEL. No, they have not. We've not received any compensation from anyone.

Mr. TIFFANY. Thank you.

I'm just going to close with this. You know, folks, set aside—we've had the most number of people that are on the terror watch come across our border in the last couple years, in the history of the United States of America.

You can set aside the human trafficking. You have the largest—your U.S. Government, via the Biden Administration, is running perhaps the largest human trafficking—or complicit in perhaps the greatest, biggest human trafficking operation in the history of the world, along with the cartels, along with the International Organization of Migration, a United Nations outfit, and others.

Set those things aside. Just fentanyl alone should be a national emergency in America, and I can't believe we do not have colleagues on the other side of the aisle that are not here today, and even if they're not here today, that are not calling for the same thing that we're calling for: At a minimum, secure the border to stop the fentanyl, or at least reduce the amount of fentanyl coming into America that has made every State, including my State of Wisconsin, a border State.

I yield back, Mr. Chair.

[Applause.]

Chair JORDAN. I thank the gentleman.

I now recognize the gentleman from North Carolina, Mr. Bishop, for five minutes.

Mr. BISHOP. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

That does it.

I sit up here and I wonder what you must be thinking, who are here, kind enough to spend your time watching us today, and you must be troubled that only one of the major parties is here. You must be discouraged as you ponder what it would take for the Federal Government to fix this problem. I appreciate your hospitality and your interest, and I love everything I've seen about Yuma.

How many fentanyl deaths in Yuma this year, Supervisor Lines, in the past year?

Mr. LINES. Mr. Bishop, I was just able to submit data that I acquired from the hospital. That number continues to increase. The average nationwide is 1 in 100,000, and yet we've had 16 fatalities directly attributable to fentanyl, so more than 16 times the national average.

Mr. BISHOP. How many ODs?

Mr. LINES. Sixteen—well, there were 117 overdoses, and 16 of those were fatal.

Mr. BISHOP. Sixteen deaths, right? So, you're way above the national average in that key thing.

You made a point earlier that about—this was very interesting, because a lot of our colleagues in Washington say over and over and over again that the uncontrolled immigration between ports of entry really doesn't contribute to the illicit drugs because they come through the ports of entry. You've touched on that already. You've said your data that Border Patrol has furnished to you is that about half—about half—I hope everybody's listening in Washington—about half of the seizures are occurring between ports of entry.

Mr. LINES. Yes, sir.

Mr. BISHOP. It means it is coming from this uncontrolled problem. Yet, we have colleagues that—Katie Porter said at a hearing, she's a Democrat from California, she said last week at a hearing:

We had a change in President in 2020 and some changes in border policy, and what we can see here is that the facts show we are seizing a lot more fentanyl, and for me, as a mom, that is a sign of success.

I don't even know what to say about that.

Border Chief Raul Ortiz said a couple of weeks ago—put a tweet out that said that Yuma—let's see “so far, in Fiscal Year 2023, we have seized over 476 pounds of fentanyl between ports of entry along our southwest border.” That's enough to kill 100 million people. I'd say that's a problem even that Washington should be able to recognize.

I want to use my remaining time—Supervisor Lines, I hope you won't be offended. I was taken with a moment of conversation between you and me at the lunch before we came in here. I hope you won't mind my sharing it with the Committee and with those attending, because for me it connects to the issue that we are grappling with.

As extraordinary as your story is, I would say that—and I don't articulate it to single you out but to recognize that the law enforcement officers who are sitting next to and behind you and the healthcare professionals, like Dr. Trenchel, and the men and women attending this, there are hundreds of lives who likewise

have fulfilled and even exceeded their potential to contribute to building and sustaining a culture that has proved the most successful in the history of mankind for the flourishing of human beings.

Everyone wants his family—his or her family and children to thrive. I submit that what we're talking about is not really a question of the stresses on the safety net—the provision of food for the people who can't provide if for themselves, the provision of medical care, the jail, the detention services, keeping the community safe—this is about how we maintain and protect a culture that has been the most successful in the world. That is what is at stake too.

You and your wife have 11 children, and with three remaining at home, your wife has undertaken developing subdivisions.

Mr. LINES. Yes, she has.

Mr. BISHOP. You have four grandchildren. Your children are hardworking and productive, and yet you've made time not only to serve in office but as a charitable leader, particularly as Chair of the Food Bank, et cetera.

So, you've not only reckoned with the task of—the awesome task of figuring out how to provide for 11 children, but you've produced and served in a way to demonstrate just how constructive and productive human lives can be.

[Applause.]

Mr. BISHOP. So, I'm grateful to you for having us here, for your hospitality in this great community, to show me that yet again, and to remind all of us that we must act. We must act. The first thing we must do—I'm going to finish this way, because I think everybody's got a responsibility to say: What are we going to do?

Matt Gaetz summarized it correctly, that it is a question of will. The first thing to preserve this culture we must do is we must restore order.

The best vehicle at hand—Chip Roy of Texas is not here today, can't be here today, but his H.R. 29, which says to the Secretary of Homeland Security: Notwithstanding any other provision of law, with respect to every migrant that you encounter, you must detain or turn away.

You cannot just release them into the country, you cannot continue doing this to all our support services, our safety net on which our culture depends, you cannot do this to our culture, or we will surely face, not only what you just—the shocking information you just mentioned, Supervisor Lines, about the assassinations. I haven't heard that story, I'm afraid to say.

[Applause.]

Mr. BISHOP. So, I'm grateful to you for having us here, for your hospitality in this great community, to show me that yet again, and to remind all of us that we must act. We must act. The first thing we must do—I'm going to finish this way, because I think everybody's got a responsibility to say: What are we going to do?

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There was this—on January 5th of this year, I think it's Culiacan, Mexico, there was a warfare, there was a war between the Sinaloa Cartel and the Mexican Army with helicopter gunships firing against people on the ground and burning cars, blocking the entrances to the town so that the people were cowered in their homes.

That will occur in the United States of America if we do not get control of this problem. It sits squarely as the responsibility of the Federal Government, and we must have the will to act.

Mr. Chair, I yield back.

[Applause.]

Chair JORDAN. Well done. Well done. Thank you.

The gentlelady from Indiana is recognized for five minutes.

Ms. Spartz.

Ms. SPARTZ. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

It's my pleasure being here today. I can tell you one thing: That the great State of Indiana will stand with the great State of Arizona to protect your border, I can assure you.

[Applause.]

People do care, because it's not an issue of one State, it's a national security issue. Unfortunately, we can debate and deliberate on a lot of issues and have disagreement, but we're always able to come together to protect our country.

This is a crisis. It's a national security crisis. It's unacceptable. It's unfortunate that my colleagues from this Committee couldn't come here today to see what's really happening, the impact of real life.

I just want to have a couple questions to this panel. I grew up in a Communist, totalitarian regime, under mob rule. So, have lots of guns and ammunition. We have constitutional carry in Indiana. So, I am good to go, but that's not where we want to go.

I sometimes wonder, listen, if I have come here illegally, I would really not have to go through all the struggles I had to go for the last 23 years.

So, my question is for Dr. Trenchel.

When I was listening to you, I thought, like, OK, as a legal immigrant, a legal citizen in this country, you have to pay for healthcare, you have to get insurance, you have to work and do all those different things.

Isn't it we're creating perverse incentives for people to come here illegally? Because it's not just hurting people that try to be within the system, but, actually, you get a free ride, and we have now illegal immigration to welfare.

So, I would like you to comment on that.

Dr. TRENSCHEL. I agree. We're required by law to see all comers and to provide the same level of care we do to everyone else. When

a migrant comes in that crosses the border without insurance, without a payment plan, we give them the same healthcare we provide to the other residents of our community.

We have no ability to bill. We don't know where they're going. We don't know if their name is right. We don't know anything about them.

Ms. SPARTZ. It's unfortunate that we're starting to incentivize the lawlessness in our country.

I have a question to the sheriff. I think really my colleagues on the other side are always talking about this human trafficking and what was happening, and it's really—it's a humanitarian crisis, too, because these people become slaves. It's like modern day slavery. To the cartels, it was a lot of big money made on these people. I understand they're desperate, but we created perverse incentive.

So, I want you to comment on human trafficking and the issues of getaways, how dangerous it is.

Sheriff WILMOT. I'll use the word from the Yuma Border Patrol Chief: It's narco-slavery, every bit of it, that we are seeing along our border, and it's gone to the interior throughout the United States.

There's indentured servitude in a lot of these States and counties because of the cartels controlling the narrative right now. So, there's not been many sheriffs that I have ran into that have not had to investigate those types of crimes.

We've seen in the past where you had indentured servitude discovered by Border Patrol agents happening in the Carolinas, 3,500 cases of children being used, as recycled to get more people in.

So, we have seen the indentured servitude. If you can't pay, you're going to pay another way.

Ms. SPARTZ. So, thank you for your service.

I would like to let you know we have great sheriffs in the State of Indiana. If you need help, let us know, because if we cannot fix it at the Federal level, States can also step up and help each other.

Mr. LINES, some quick question. Even though I have a little problem with being called flyover State, so I need to work on that. Hopefully you'll visit Indiana more often because we have a lot of great things. It's a great State, as well as you have a great State here, too. It's far from a flyover State, but actually farther.

I want to just have a quick question for you. With what we have happening right now with agriculture, and I was actually surprised at some of the numbers, isn't it really pose some issues with food safety and food security, what's really happening at the border?

Mr. LINES. So, it's a challenge along the border. Our agriculture practices here in Yuma exceed the expectations and even the minimum standards or the maximum standards of any growers against any region in the United States. They have about a 500-page volume that they use, it's self-imposed, to make sure, and they have hired people to watch over.

We have had entry into fields. At that point in time, depending upon what they have been able to locate, they either plow it under or remove it altogether.

Ms. SPARTZ. It would add that additional cost placed onto the consumer, right?

Mr. LINES. It's an additional cost, yes, absolutely.

Ms. SPARTZ. Because it's extra cost that everyone has to do because ultimately you have to be able to survive and pay money to be able to run your business.

Mr. LINES. Ms. Spartz, may I comment a little bit just on the narco-labor, narco-trafficking of human trafficking?

It was interesting, just before the China virus hit, the AP did a story, and they were talking about the L.A. Basin specifically, but they estimated that between 65–75 percent of all manual labor was undocumented in the L.A. Basin.

That remains a challenge and a problem today, because many of these people, as they come across the border, are still subject to the cartels to pay a debt and are indefinitely remanded to their service. They actually never leave.

Ms. SPARTZ. Thank you. It's unfortunate.

I yield back.

[Applause.]

Chair JORDAN. I thank the gentlelady.

The gentleman from Virginia, Mr. Cline, is recognized for five minutes.

Mr. CLINE. I thank the gentleman.

I want to thank the witnesses for being here. I want to thank the people of Yuma for being here, too. We stand with the people of Yuma.

My constituents are far, far away from here. They are in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, another farming community, another agriculture community. We have many ties that bind us to Yuma.

We also stand with you in protecting the national security of this country, making sure that we secure our border, and we will do everything in our power to do that.

We recognize it as a national security crisis. The things that we have seen and heard here during this visit have reinforced that view.

My decision to cosponsor legislation that was introduced by Warren Davidson from Ohio to authorize the use of military force to ensure that, Sheriff, you have those resources that are needed to secure this border and make sure that the cartels do not continue their march into this country, into this community, and into our neighborhoods and our homes, we will make sure that you have those resources, sir.

Thank you.

We did see some things that just show and demonstrate the brazenness of what is transpiring here in this community when it comes to the cartels.

On the drive down to the border, to San Luis crossing, we had in our convoy cars that slowed down, that entered, that forced their way into our line of vans. I didn't think anything of it. I thought someone was trying to exit. I couldn't figure it out. It was only today, after, we realized that they were cartel members who were infiltrating our caravan to try and figure out what we were doing, what we were looking at.

Just being able to have that close reinforced just what a security crisis this is on this side of the border.

Sheriff, I've heard of cartel violence erupting similar to the cartel violence that's erupting across the border from Yuma in Texas, leading to members of the cartel actually escaping into the United States and asking for asylum. Have you ever seen that happen?

Sheriff WILMOT. Yes, sir. Thank you for that question.

Yes, Yuma has seen it. Cochise County has seen it. Texas has seen it.

Mr. CLINE. That is shocking and just goes to show just how porous the border has become, how abused it is, when cartel members themselves are creating the violence that's happening and then trying to escape the violence by taking advantage of the very laws that are protecting the citizens and enabling them. The lack of the enforcement by the Biden Administration is enabling them to take advantage of those laws.

Mr. LINES. I want to followup on a conversation we had a little bit earlier. My eyes have been opened to the breadth and depth of the impact of this porous border and this lack of enforcement by the Biden Administration on society in Yuma, but also across this country on districts like mine.

We talked about the impact on hospitals. We went to the hospital. We saw the NICU. We saw the emergency room. We know that there's a finite number of beds, and that when there's a bed being occupied by someone here illegally, there's a bed not available to someone here legally, someone who is a resident of Yuma.

We talked about the food banks and the agriculture. We met with farmers. We listened to them talk about the impact of people, thousands of people crossing their fields, and just one incident taking away a whole entire set of acreage from being able to be harvested.

What other areas are we talking about here where this open border is having such an impact? Talk about the schools, talk about transportation, other areas.

Mr. LINES. Everything that you discussed has been a challenge.

Most recently, I had a call from an ESL teacher who said that she had a significant number of students being enrolled into her classes that did not speak either English or Spanish, and many of them Eastern European or Central Asian. So, there is a concern that we will continue to see that type of influx.

For the most part, people have not been taking up residency in Yuma. So, it was surprising to me that an ESL teacher was calling me to say, "I now have a new challenge here in my classroom," and it wasn't something that she expected to confront.

Mr. CLINE. In terms of housing—

Mr. LINES. Oh.

[Applause.]

Mr. LINES. Well, the sheriff can speak specifically to the jail. I appreciate everything that he's done as a county supervisor, and we work hand in hand.

His Federal reimbursement is at 10 percent. So, when he has cross-deputized the Border Patrol officers to go and assist, because the U.S. Attorney General won't prosecute, he then is faced with those challenges, and it's up to the county to make him whole.

Sheriff, do you want to talk a little bit more about that?

Mr. CLINE. Well, let me just—

Mr. LINES. OK. Or, Mr. Cline, sorry about that.

Mr. CLINE. Let me just wrap up and say, I've been a prosecutor, I've used the ICE detainer process to have illegals who have committed crimes in Harrisonburg deported and made sure that the community is kept safe.

I've talked to troopers who pull over vans on Interstate 81 in my district who encounter the human trafficking that crosses the border here in Yuma. I see the criminal aspect of it in my district.

Never have my eyes been opened to the impact on healthcare, education, housing, food, and agriculture that this porous border is having. I'm going to go home with this information to ensure that we fight even harder to secure this border so that the people of Yuma are protected, but the people of the Sixth Congressional District are protected. We stand with Yuma, and we stand with our citizens.

Thank you all for being here today.

Mr. LINES. Thank you, Mr. Cline.

[Applause.]

Chair JORDAN. I thank the gentleman.

The gentleman from New Jersey, Mr. Van Drew, is recognized for five minutes.

Mr. VAN DREW. Thank you, Chair.

As I was sitting up here, first, great testimony all around, it really is, if you think about what these gentlemen and ladies are saying.

I was thinking of how tired of it I am, how worn out of it I am, how tired I am of the President lying. I know people don't like to say it that way. I'm a little rough around the edges. I don't care. He doesn't tell the truth.

[Applause.]

I'm tired of Secretary Mayorkas even worse, because with the President you can kind of tell when he's lying. He gets that weird look in his face, which is most of the time. Mayorkas will look you dead in the face.

I used to be on the Homeland Security Committee. We interviewed him I think three times. Every time I would ask him, "Is there anything going on, on the border, is anything wrong, are there any problems, anything we should do?" he said, "We fully have it under control."

Then not long after I would go to the border, and you would find that you actually watched the people illegally crossing and getting through. He just wouldn't face the facts. He wouldn't tell the truth.

I'm tired, to be honest with you, of Congress people—and I'm not always partisan, I'm not, but it happens to be on the other side of the aisle—not fulfilling their constitutional responsibility.

They owe it to you to be here today. They owe it to America to debate these issues. They owe it to America to prove why what they've done is a good thing. You know why they're not here? Because they can't prove it, because they can't show it, because they know it's bad.

To the gentlemen over there, both Mr. Bishop—all you guys actually said it. This is more. This is more than just Yuma. It's a big deal in Yuma. I know that. This is the United States of America under attack. We're losing our country.

If you think about it—

[Applause.]

I don't want to digress, because we only have a certain amount of time and there's a couple of questions I want to ask. Think what's going on. There's all this stuff at the border, all over our border—which is now all over the country, by the way.

I tell the folks in New Jersey, they say, "Gee, you're going all the way to Arizona." Because guess what? It's in New Jersey, too. People are dying of fentanyl. Guess what happens? It comes through the border. It's in Michigan. It's in New England. It's everywhere. It's everywhere because of what these people did to a situation that we had fully under control.

I agree that you have those hearings, you have hearings for impeachment. I'm there. I'm voting for it. I've cosponsored it with you. I'm proud to do it because I really believe we have a case where somebody—Mayorkas—has committed treason, has broken the rule of law, and deserves not to be there anymore. What he's done is too bad.

[Applause.]

What we pay in taxes. Do you know how much this costs us? Billions upon billions of dollars. What we're doing to our kids, with our safety. You don't really have the words to say.

It's easy to fix. It was pretty much fixed. Get the fence up everywhere. Get the electronics that are needed up. Get the Remain in Mexico policy back. Get the immediate returns of illegals that do make it through right back to where they came from.

Get agreements made with Mexico. If they don't want to listen to the agreements, you make it clear, like it's been done in the past, that you're going to be in a lot of trouble trade-wise if you don't, so you better do it.

We can do this. We're the most powerful nation still. We're working at demeaning ourselves, but we are still the most powerful nation on the face of the Earth.

[Applause.]

So, it's time to stop it. It's time for us to move on. It's time for us to get back. It's time for us to bring our America home.

So, Supervisor Jonathan Lines: Cartels. Let's just really quickly just make clear. I want people to understand. They make a relationship. It's almost like a contract with the people that they get across the border, which are a lot of them.

Once they get across the border, they get them fixed up to go to a particular area in the United States, and then they own them. Then they push the fentanyl on your kids and my kids, whether it's in New Jersey, New York, or Arizona. Is that correct?

Mr. LINES. Yes, sir.

Mr. VAN DREW. Spreading—how do I say this? We're spreading all this throughout the area. I know we know the answer to this. Has it gotten worse in the last two years? It's a stupid question, but I'm going to ask it anyhow.

Mr. LINES. There's no question that's stupid, right, just the unasked question.

Mr. Van Drew, it has exceeded anything that we could have ever imagined.

Mr. VAN DREW. Exactly.

Mr. LINES. We've had more than 600,000 people come through Yuma since this administration took office.

Mr. VAN DREW. So, we get this administration in. They make you just do a lot of paperwork. We don't protect our people. We don't protect our Americans. Things have gotten worse. Costs to the hospital.

Again, I know you said it, but I want everybody to really think about this. Is anybody helping?

Dr. TRENSCHEL. No.

Mr. VAN DREW. No, Doctor, they're not.

Dr. TRENSCHEL. No, they're not.

Mr. VAN DREW. You know what? When you go in with your maternity and your maternity patients, guess what? It's the job, and they're doing a good job, of health professionals and nurses. They have to take care of the people that are sickest first. That's just the Hippocratic Oath. They've got to take care of those people.

Guess who's waiting with their children? Guess who's waiting with their families? Guess who's paying for all of it? You know the answer.

Am I correct, Doctor?

Dr. TRENSCHEL. Yes, you are.

Mr. VAN DREW. Am I correct that your nurses had to go out and buy safety seats for these people because we used so many in the last big tranche of folks that came over? They went out, and the hospital had to pay for them, and they had to go everywhere in the area to buy safety seats because they didn't have any. Is that true?

Dr. TRENSCHEL. Yes, that's true.

Mr. VAN DREW. Is it true that when we spoke today to a food bank, that she told us that some of the people, believe it or not, that were illegals and had come over expressed dissatisfaction with the food? Is that true?

Mr. LINES. Yes, that's—

Mr. VAN DREW. I'm not making this stuff up, right?

Mr. LINES. Yes, Mr. Van Drew, that's—

Mr. VAN DREW. I'm so tired and worn out of it, and so are you. We're tired of it.

Twenty-six million you're in the hole, right?

Dr. TRENSCHEL. That's correct.

Mr. VAN DREW. Who's going to pay for that?

Dr. TRENSCHEL. We are.

Mr. VAN DREW. I'm looking at you. Americans.

So, it is time to change. It is time we had a real Secretary that did a real job. It's time we had, I'm sorry, a real President.

It's time we have Congressmen—guess what? These guys will go into any meeting no matter how much of a disadvantage you think you are to really talk the issues.

When you believe in something, when it's in your heart, when you know it's right, you're going to stand up and you're going to fight for it.

They can't. Because you know what they know? At the end of the day, they're hurting our American people, and they're hurting America, and it has to come to an end.

I thank you guys so much for what you did.

Sheriff, thank you for what you do. I know you guys put your lives on the line all the time. People are dying. People are getting hurt. This isn't just some imaginary things like we're told when we go back to Washington, and we will do everything that we can.

Dammit, I hope we have those impeachment hearings.

Thank you, Chair.

[Applause.]

Chair JORDAN. Thank you.

The gentleman from Alabama is recognized for five minutes.

Mr. MOORE. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

In Alabama recently, I was told that in Birmingham we seized enough fentanyl to kill every man, woman, and child in my entire State.

So, I tell everybody this. This may be affecting border communities, but it's a crisis for our entire Nation, and so we're going to try to address it.

Sheriff, this is my third trip down, and so I want to talk a little bit. Some things that just kind of stuck out when I was asking the agents along the border that kind of concerned me and really kind of, as I talk about it, is something that kind of—it strikes a chord with a lot of people.

You were saying earlier that the price that you're seeing now to come across the southern border, it's ranging from 6,000–15,000. Is that correct?

Sheriff WILMOT. In Yuma County, yes, sir.

Mr. MOORE. Now, who's getting that money, Sheriff?

Sheriff WILMOT. The cartels.

Mr. MOORE. The cartels.

Of course, when we talk about inflation, the money we print, everything has gone up. A few years ago, I heard it was \$4,000 just south of the southern border and then the Triangle Nations further south.

We had a price for Syria of up to \$20,000. Are you seeing some high prices from other countries around the globe as well?

Sheriff WILMOT. That's my understanding, yes, sir, when you're looking at Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, and Russia. Russia has been an increase where I think Border Patrol roughly 70 a day was the number that they were encountering just from Russia.

Mr. MOORE. What's the price on a Russian now coming across the border?

Sheriff WILMOT. I wouldn't think that it would be that much, yes, sir.

Mr. MOORE. I would imagine. I don't know. I haven't heard the Russian price.

We actually seized some Chinese nationals, the sheriff's department in Texas, and it was \$80,000 each.

Folks, they're not coming here to do us any favors, just so you know.

Sheriff, my question now. You said that—so we got a price. What about if somebody—have you guys heard—and maybe other law enforcement officers would know, too—what if they don't have the money to pay the cartel? What are the options then?

Sheriff WILMOT. So, the option is that they're—it's indentured servitude, slavery. They're going to be sent to a certain location.

I've found pieces of paper down on the border that list the location that they're ordered to go to, and that's where they will work off their debt, depending on what you're capable of doing.

Mr. MOORE. Wait, wait, wait, now, Sheriff. So, you're telling me that Biden's policies on the southern border are actually creating American—are slaves from around the globe. Is that correct?

Sheriff WILMOT. Correct.

Mr. MOORE. Wow.

So, the Democrats who accuse us of all the awful things that we do, they're actually enforcing policies now that are creating slaves in this country?

Sheriff WILMOT. It's lending to that right now.

Mr. MOORE. So, not only are they creating slaves, but I also heard when I was on the border, and I found this rather intriguing, if somebody was coming across the border and they actually didn't have the money and they didn't want to be an indentured servant, is it true that they can backpack now heroin, fentanyl, and cocaine and pay that passage? Is that an option as well?

Sheriff WILMOT. That is an option.

Mr. MOORE. So, the Democrats' policies—two things now. So, they're creating slaves and drug mules. Is that where we're going with this? No wonder they don't want to come talk about it, right?

So, now that we've got this issue of slaves and drug mules, I want to change over to a little something I saw. This is troubling to me.

I went to Fort Bliss, the emergency intake center—you guys heard of this? Fort Bliss, to handle all the unaccompanied minors coming to this country.

As I was there, the admiral is running it, and I'm like, "Sir, why don't we send these kids"—these are unaccompanied minors now—"back to their home country, back to their town?" the admiral said, "Well, they don't know where they came from."

So, these kids are from—I saw one, I know he's probably no more than five, and I saw some probably—the average was 16–17-year-olds. So, they're saying these kids, these unaccompanied minors, do not know where they came from.

I said, "Well, where are we going to send them to?"

"Oh, we're going to send them to a Google address in the United States of America." Then we don't background check the people we're sending them to.

So, one of my friends here, I remember earlier, hit on this. We are actually, with taxpayer dollars, are now trafficking children, and we're paying to get them there on American taxpayer dollars and putting them in God knows what and God knows where.

So, the thing that really—I think Andy Biggs has mentioned this—is we've lost 20,000 children. Mayorkas said himself in a hearing he does not know where 20,000 of these children are. That's just staggering to me.

So, Sheriff, is it mostly heroin and cocaine now and fentanyl, or is it just mostly fentanyl?

Sheriff WILMOT. Unfortunately, for Arizona and California right now we're the worst and the top as far as fentanyl, and below that is methamphetamine.

To address your other comment, what you're looking at is a ploy by the cartels marketing in a way to work with Mayorkas on the reunification policy that he put into place. So, if you send your child across as a child that's by themselves, then you can be reunified when you come at a later date and time.

So, the cartels are exploiting every policy that this administration has put into play.

Mr. MOORE. It's almost like they're better at the game than we are, right? I mean, they know before we know what's happening.

I know that they're talking about the new rules that the Biden Administration wants to enforce, and basically that just adds another step.

My understanding—last night I was talking to one of the border agents—is once the illegals, when they cross into the country, they want that MTA, that motion to appear in court. Is that correct?

Now, Mr. Lines, could you tell me for sure, when they get this MTA, does that automatically qualify them for benefits?

Mr. LINES. Yes, it does.

Mr. MOORE. So, you're telling me they come into the country, they turn themselves in, and then they get the MTA, and they are qualified for benefits from the American taxpayer?

Mr. LINES. Yes, sir.

Mr. MOORE. Do we have any idea how much those benefits run or any idea? Have you heard that, Mr. Lines?

Mr. LINES. Up to \$800 a month.

Mr. MOORE. Eight hundred a month.

So, I understand, too, we give them a cell phone.

Mr. LINES. Yes, they do.

Mr. MOORE. Have you heard that we actually give them a cell phone? My kids would probably rather come across the border, honestly, sometimes.

[Laughter.]

Mr. LINES. Yes, sir.

Mr. MOORE. So, we give them a cell phone that they can jail break and use it however they want. My understanding—go ahead, Lines. I'm waiting. I want to hear what you've got to say.

Mr. LINES. No, no. Well, it's just they give them the phone so that they know where they're at, but we have a 95 percent failure rate to appear for those motions.

Mr. MOORE. So, you mean they take our phones, but they don't take our phone calls? Is that what you're telling me is going on?

Mr. LINES. Yes, sir. It's the worst date.

Mr. MOORE. Man, that does sound like my kids.

Mr. LINES. Yes.

Mr. MOORE. Now, Doc, one last thing and then we'll get off and I'll give Mr. Jordan—I didn't have a timer over here, Jim. Am I over time?

Chair JORDAN. You're definitely over time.

Mr. LINES. The benefits continue, Mr. Moore.

Mr. MOORE. I'm definitely over time.

Mr. LINES. The benefits continue.

Mr. MOORE. The Chair has said I'm definitely over time.

Chair JORDAN. You can ask your last question.

Mr. MOORE. Last question, Doc.

So, 100 percent of the immigrants, when you deliver the children, you have to give them car seats, I understand. So, because the Federal Government requires you. Isn't there some rule that says that you can't send a child away from a hospital without a car seat?

Dr. TRENSCHEL. Correct. CMS rule. We cannot do that.

Mr. MOORE. So, we're buying all the car seats as we send them on their way and paying for all the healthcare, and you're \$26 million in debt, basically.

Dr. TRENSCHEL. Correct.

Mr. MOORE. Very good.

Thank you for your time. I appreciate it.

I yield back, Mr. Chair.

[Applause.]

Chair JORDAN. I thank the gentleman.

The gentleman from Texas is recognized for five minutes, Mr. Nehls.

Mr. NEHLS. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

I would like to thank Dr. Trenchel and Mr. Lines for your leadership in this community. You're doing a great job going to visit that hospital.

My oldest daughter just graduated from Texas Tech. She's now a NICU nurse in Houston, Texas. You guys are doing a great job over there.

Of course, Sheriff Wilmot, it's good to see you. I see Sheriff Lamb there and all the other sheriffs. Thank you for your service.

Some of you know that I served in law enforcement for 30 years. I was a sheriff in Fort Bend County, Texas, for eight years before I decided to run for the swamp. I will never forget; I will never forget where I came from. I am with you. I support the Thin Blue Line.

[Applause.]

Sheriff Wilmot, in our first hearing, we had a hearing a couple weeks ago some of my colleagues mentioned on the Biden border crisis, we had a Democrat witness there. He was the El Paso County judge. He testified, and I quote,

There is no invasion of migrants in our community. Nor are there hordes of undocumented immigrants committing crimes against citizens or causing havoc in our community.

I was able to quickly, quickly discredit his testimony by producing numerous, numerous articles of crime in his community as a result of this invasion.

Then I also did a quick search, Sheriff, of crime here in Yuma. I point out one here, a former gang member arrested by border agents in Yuma. This guy was a gang member, convicted felon, been arrested by border agents in Yuma, an illegal immigrant, was arrested for entering the U.S. from Mexico. He's 25 years old. Was convicted of assault with a deadly weapon in Santa Barbara, California.

Served three years now, served three years in prison, which was enhanced for being a criminal street gang. After completing his sentence, he was removed from the U.S., and he will be prosecuted for reentry. So, this guy's coming back. No problem. He can just come back.

I highlight this guy here. He's the alleged migrant killer arrested after a four-month run. Sheriff, you mentioned this guy in some of your testimony. He killed, I guess, somebody on his way up here.

Folks, you don't want this guy to be your neighbor. You don't want this guy in your neighborhood at all.

Just another guy. This was here on January 17, 2023. You arrested him four months later. At the Yuma County Detention Facility for second degree murder after having been arrested by border agents for trying to come back, to try to come back into the U.S.

This child molester here, he was caught hiding in the brush. Again, February 17, 2022. He was a child abuser, convicted child abuser from Honduras. You arrested him, took him to Yuma here for processing, looked at his record. Montgomery County, Maryland, circuit convicted Vargas in December 2009, first- and second-degree child abuse for fracturing the skull of a newborn while babysitting for his girlfriend.

He got seven years, served seven of the 25 years in Maryland, before being placed on supervisory probation. Removed to Honduras in 2018, and now here he is coming back.

This just goes on and on, 1,400 border crossers charged with coming back, reentry. It just goes on.

Sheriff, I want to ask you the same question I asked our former witness. Are the aliens crossing illegally committing crimes across this country?

Sheriff WILMOT. Absolutely.

Mr. NEHLS. Joe Biden, are you listening?

Mayorkas, are you listening to the sheriffs?

Sheriff WILMOT. No, they are not.

Mr. NEHLS. Sheriff, you have—in some of your written testimony—

[Applause.]

Sheriff WILMOT. Sorry.

Mr. NEHLS. In some of your written testimony, Sheriff, you talk a little bit about the rising crime due to Biden's border crisis. How has it impacted your agency with response times and resources?

I mean, my guys are chasing criminals all over my county in the whole southwest Houston area.

How has it affected your ability to keep these people in your community safe?

Sheriff WILMOT. Thank you for the question, sir.

In regard to our response times, when we have to respond out and do a rescue out in the desert, which is about 40–50 miles away from civilization, that ties up our resources from doing their normal service delivery to the community that we serve.

When we're processing the crime scenes out in the desert, when we're investigating the calls of the thefts, burglaries, rapers, and the delayed rapes and robberies that happen to some of the immigrants coming to the border that we have to handle, it taxes your resources and otherwise takes away our ability to do proactive enforcement versus reactive.

Mr. NEHLS. What we all know in this room, what we all have witnessed under Former President Donald J. Trump, the greatest President in my lifetime, that border crossings were down—

[Applause.]

Yes, yes. Border crossing were down, and our country was proud to uphold the rule of law.

When you look at our United States Constitution, and you see that it's the Federal Government's responsibility to secure our southern borders—we could talk about it. I sent a letter to Biden calling him to invoke that Guarantee Clause.

If you don't understand, if you look at Article IV, Section 4, there's an "invasion clause," folks, and I'll just read it.

The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republic Form of Government and shall protect each of them against invasion.

We are being invaded, yes?

[Applause.]

Article I, Section 10 states, self-defense clause, reserves to the States the sovereign power to repel an invasion and defend their citizenry from the overwhelming and imminent danger.

Your attorney general is doing a hell of a job. Our attorney general is doing well as well in Texas trying to invoke it.

Let's just say this. The American people are the victims here. We are the victims. We must take the fight to the cartels, to the enemy, and we must use extreme prejudice to eliminate them off the face of the Earth.

I yield back.

[Applause.]

Chair JORDAN. The gentleman from South Carolina is recognized, Mr. Fry.

Mr. FRY. Thank you, Mr. Chair. It's good to be here. I appreciate you, Chair, holding this hearing right here at the center of our border crisis.

To the good people of Yuma, thank you for having us. Thank you for showing us. I'm a freshman. So, this has been incredibly eye opening for me.

Mr. Chair, I remember our first, my first committee hearing this year, the first one ever, when the ranking member said that we were imagining a border crisis.

My first question to the good people of Yuma: Are you imagining a border crisis?

Is the border secure here in Yuma?

Has the border gotten worse under President Biden?

Final question: Do you think this administration has faithfully executed their obligation to secure that border?

We got a "hell no."

Thank you to the panel.

From the short time we've been here in Yuma, one thing is very crystal clear to me, and it's that President Biden's open door, open border policy is an abject failure to the people of this country. We have seen firsthand the prioritization by this administration of illegal immigrants over the people of America.

Illegal immigration, obviously, you know this here in Yuma more than anyone else, it deprives your community of safety in your homes and in your community of healthcare. It costs the taxpayers billions of dollars. It destroys property, farmers, where you are at. It destroys families through fentanyl poisoning.

Congressional Democrats should be here, Mr. Chair. It's actually a shame that we were "imagining" a border crisis. Everything that

we've seen, thus far, proves exactly that we are not, that you see it.

Of course, in my home State of South Carolina, as has been talked about, we are a border State. Myrtle Beach is not just famous for its beaches and Chinese spy balloons. It also has record fentanyl overdoses that happen year after year.

The first question to the sheriff.

What Federal policies were in place under the prior administration that really helped, in your opinion, secure that border?

Sheriff WILMOT. I thank you for that question, because I also told Secretary Mayorkas the same thing.

The Operation Streamline was the most successful program that we ever had, and that was 100 percent prosecution for anybody that entered this country between the port of entry and denied them the access.

Mr. FRY. Would you say that the Biden Administration has been able to control the cartels in two years?

Sheriff WILMOT. No, sir.

Mr. FRY. What policies do you think promote or enable the cartels to act more freely across the border or even in our country?

Sheriff WILMOT. Well, when they removed the migrant protection protocols that were put into place, plus Operation Streamline, and they got away from any kind of prosecution at all, that just enabled the cartels to do what they're doing today, and they continue to escalate in their capabilities.

Mr. FRY. Mr. Lines, you tweeted back in January that the border was 100 percent not secure, that it was wide open. Do you believe that still to be the case?

Mr. LINES. Yes, sir.

Mr. FRY. OK.

In both you and the sheriff's experience, what are you seeing from real world impacts that you're hearing from people out here in the community that are happening from a crime perspective or a cartel perspective in their homes or neighborhoods?

Mr. LINES. We've had some home invasions. Those were few and far between just because border patrol has been able to interdict.

Yesterday morning one of the farmers you heard from this morning testified that his daughter was returning home from feeding her 4H project and was almost hit by a van full of people being smuggled across the border.

So, we continue to see those types of instances. He's had two of those experiences in the last six months.

One of the things that—and I apologize, but I should have addressed when Mr. Cline asked, but it's been a negative impact in our community, is the ability of 911 services to respond adequately, and that's been a severe challenge.

I met with the first responders from every group in Yuma, and they shared with me their concern or the ability to be able to respond when they continue to receive a high volume of 911 calls from the border.

Now, not all those people were actually looking for medical assistance. They were simply tired of waiting to be processed because they had somewhere to go and someplace to be.

So, that has affected the people of this community, and I was absolutely blown away to hear them tell me that. They do not care about the value of life, and that is something directly related to the cartels.

Mr. FRY. Sheriff, what instances have you heard from the residents here in Yuma of crime or cartel activity? Talk about that. Have you heard these similar instances?

Sheriff WILMOT. Absolutely, sir, and you can refer to my document that I submitted as well.

My jail already this last year had over 55 individuals booked into custody that had entered this country illegally and committed sexual exploitation of minors. They're trespassing. The smuggling of narcotics not only for use but for sale and trade. That's the majority of what I have in my jail right now for those kinds of offenses.

Mr. LINES. Mr. Fry, over at Amberly's Place, our youngest victim coming in for a sexual assault was 10 years old. The challenge is that we don't know in which country it occurred and by whom. So, we're able to collect the data, but because of jurisdictional challenges, there's no one to prosecute. So, a 10 year old was violated by someone under cartel control or by the cartel itself.

Just here, at Morelos Dam, Congressman Biggs and I have had the opportunity to walk around and pick up Plan B, and that was an area commonly referred to as the rape tree. So many people coming across were victims of the cartel where they exacted that last price and denied them their dignity.

Mr. FRY. Thank you to the panel for being here.

Mr. Chair, I yield back.

Chair JORDAN. I thank the gentleman.

The gentlelady from Wyoming is recognized for five minutes, Ms. Hageman.

Ms. HAGEMAN. Thank you.

Others have asked you questions. There have been some excellent questions today. You've provided some incredibly helpful testimony.

I'd like to take a little bit different approach. I want you to know that I think that maybe you believe here in Yuma and along the border that you've been forgotten and that we don't care. But you haven't, we do care, and it's why we're here.

We read the statistics. We see the film on the 5 o'clock news. We hear about the fentanyl deaths. We have some awareness of the human trafficking across our borders and spreading across our country.

Reading about it is fundamentally different than being here and seeing it for ourselves and in talking to you about what you've been experiencing.

I want you to know that everyone on this Committee has heard you, they are listening, and they want to represent you. They want to represent your voices. They want to hear what you have to say.

I want to thank this entire community for your candor. I want to thank you for your willingness to talk to us and engage with us and to show us what you're dealing with.

I want to thank your growers and producers for providing us with fresh and healthy food and for creating the beautiful Eden and oasis carved out of the surrounding desert.

Thank you to our law enforcement, our sheriffs, our Border Patrol, and our police officers. Thank you to our local business owners and community leaders for what you do.

Again, I want to be your voice, and to do that, I'm going to read to you some of the notes that I have taken just in the last day or so in visiting with the folks that we've had the opportunity to talk to.

Now, you've heard some of this information, but I want to make it very, very clear: These are not Republican talking points. These are not an effort to just attack the Biden Administration for the sake of attacking the Biden Administration. These are my notes of my conversation with your fellow citizens.

As we've already talked about, there's \$26 million in uncompensated care for illegal immigrants in just one year. There is no payer source for those fees. The folks that come here are sick, not all of them, but a lot of them. They have hypertension, they need dialysis, they need heart surgery, and they need intensive care.

Twenty-five percent of illegal babies that are born here end up in NICU because they don't have any prenatal care.

We have to assure that we give a safe discharge, is what our medical professionals told us, which means that they have to provide wheelchairs and walkers and transportation. They may have to make contact with a family member.

None of the NGO's that are working with the Biden Administration to further this agenda have offered to pay these costs, and the Feds have refused.

You cannot discharge a baby without a car seat, and so basically the hospital has been out purchasing car seats throughout the entire surrounding area. Many of these babies have brothers and sisters that also need car seats. So, they may end up buying two and three car seats for the same family.

The hospital has essentially had to set up a hotel upstairs because they can't discharge the patients. They had one baby in NICU for almost two months. So, the mother had to live there as well.

There are lots of signs of abuse with the female migrants that are coming across. It is a Federal law that the facility treats everyone who comes to the hospital. In other words, the Federal Government requires you to provide care but refuses to pay you for it, the ultimate in an unfunded mandate.

You've had illegal immigrants in ICU for over 30 days, some as long as 90 days. You've had to transfer residents to other places, as there have been times when there aren't enough ICU beds because the illegals are taking them. It takes two to three times the amount of resources to take care of an illegal as it does a resident.

One woman at the hospital very compassionately noted that a loss of one person to fentanyl is one too many. In other words, they're very compassionate about what you're dealing with. The illegals, the increase in illegal immigration has coincided with an increase in fentanyl overdoses.

When Trump was President, there were 810 people seeking asylum in 2020. In 2021, it had gone up to 110,000, and in 2022, it was 310,000. That's just in the Yuma Sector alone.

These people are processed here and then they're sent to communities throughout the entire country as the cartels are telling them where they must go to pay back what they have to pay to be brought across to the United States. The CBP has essentially become a concierge service for illegal immigrants.

You have aliens from over 100 different countries entering this area. The cartels are controlling all aspects of the border. They earned \$3.2 billion last year in human trafficking.

The Biden Administration is jeopardizing our food supply and our food security, and they're prioritizing illegal aliens over and above American citizens and legal immigrants.

These are real life facts told to us and as expressed by real life citizens from this very community. Again, I will say it: You're not forgotten.

We will never make life better in foreign countries by destroying the United States of America.

[Applause.]

We will never make foreign leaders do a better job of taking care of their poor or prosecuting their criminals by sending them across the border illegally.

We must protect our borders, we must recognize that citizenship matters, and we must enforce the law.

Mr. Chair, I yield back.

[Applause.]

Chair JORDAN. Thank you. The gentlelady yields back.

The gentleman from California, Mr. Kiley, is recognized for five minutes.

Mr. KILEY. Good afternoon.

Sheriff, could you please summarize the ways that the cartels are involved in illegal border crossings?

Sheriff WILMOT. So, you have the Jalisco New Generation in Baja California, then you have the Sinaloa Cartel in Sonora, Mexico, on our very southern border.

So, the Jalisco New Generation, theirs is the movement of bodies that are coming across the river corridor, so they are the ones that are coordinating. They actually have contacts in different countries that have been identified as being the travel agents, for lack of a better term, to get the people here and to be able to control that coming across.

So, right now, between midnight and 4 a.m., 40 at a time come across down by the river corridor.

So, the Sinaloa Cartel, they are the ones that are doing the narcotics side of it. So, they coordinate between those that can afford and cannot afford to be able to pay the price, and they utilize those people to smuggle the narcotics in, whether it's on a vehicle through the port of entry or whether it's through the remote deserts of our county.

Mr. KILEY. Thank you.

So, would it be fair to say that the relaxation of border policies has redounded to the benefit of the cartels?

Sheriff WILMOT. Oh, absolutely.

Mr. KILEY. I mean, just to be blunt, it's been a bonanza for them, right? It's expanded their business opportunities for their criminal enterprises, has it not?

Sheriff WILMOT. Absolutely. They have scouts that are in our mountains. So, they can watch Border Patrol's actions out in a remote part of our desert. So, they can coordinate the loads getting through, whether they're human or narcotics.

Mr. KILEY. So, we know who is benefiting. So, then we have to ask: Who is paying the price?

Well, first, of course, is the victims of fentanyl. In 2020, Border Patrol seized 4,800 pounds; 2021, it was 11,200; 2022 fiscal year, it was 14,700; and in just the first four months for the 2023 fiscal year, 12,500.

I have a chart here showing basically a quadrupling in overdoses here in Yuma just over the course of a few years. Of course, this is not a localized matter. Throughout the country, fentanyl poisoning is now the leading cause of death for young people, more than car accidents, more than suicides, more than anything.

Sheriff, is it your opinion that fewer Americans would be dying of fentanyl poisoning if the border was as secure as it was at the start of this administration?

Sheriff WILMOT. Absolutely.

Mr. KILEY. In addition to the victims of fentanyl, we then have the victims of human trafficking as well.

Supervisor, I believe we discussed earlier some evidence that you've seen of the increases and the impact of human trafficking here in Yuma?

Mr. LINES. Yes. So, in the first three months, we've seen a 350 percent uptake in human trafficking, people who have come forward seeking assistance on their own who have declared that they have been trafficked. If nine were willing to do it, I'm sure that there are many more out there looking to free themselves of that bondage.

Mr. KILEY. Sheriff, is it your opinion that fewer people would be suffering through the horror of human trafficking if the border was as secure as it was at the start of this administration?

Sheriff WILMOT. Absolutely.

Mr. KILEY. Then we have the migrants themselves. In 2022, 856 died attempting to cross the border. That was 300 more than it was in 2021 and three times as many as it was just in 2020.

Sheriff, is it your opinion that fewer migrants would be dying crossing the border if the border was as secure as it was at the start of this administration?

Sheriff WILMOT. Yes, sir.

Mr. KILEY. So, there you have it. We have a set of policies that has been a bonanza for the cartels, for foreign criminal organizations, and this windfall is being underwritten by pain and suffering and death.

That's why this is not a partisan issue. Usually we have to weigh costs and benefits, we have to adjudicate competing values. Here it's just bad all the way around. It's negative on both sides of the ledger.

So, how does this make any sense? Well, it really only makes sense when you look at it from a political perspective.

We had a set of border policies that were working. Everyone here will tell you that. This administration came into office, and to make a political statement, not only reversed those policies, but swung

the pendulum radically in the other direction, exploding whatever bipartisan consensus there was on this issue and ushering in a crisis unlike we have seen in American history.

So, I'm not interested in criticizing our colleagues on the other side of the dais for not being here. I want to encourage them to come here, talk to the supervisor, the sheriff, and the hospital, see what we have seen.

I want to work with anyone who is interested in getting this crisis under control. That includes the President, who I implore to accept responsibility, to admit his policies have failed, to find a new Secretary of Homeland Security. Let's all work together to replace pro-cartel policies with pro-America policies.

[Applause.]

Chair JORDAN. I thank the gentleman. The gentleman yields back.

Mr. Lines, who benefits? That seems to me to be the fundamental question, right? Who benefits?

We talked earlier. On January 20, 2021, the first day, President Biden says no more wall, no more Remain in Mexico, no more detain and deport. Two years ago this was the safest border county in the country. Today we have what's been described here in the last two hours.

Sheriff WILMOT. Yes, sir.

Chair JORDAN. So, it sort of raises the fundamental, who benefits from this border that's no longer a border, from this open border chaos on our southern border? Who benefits from that?

Does our healthcare system benefit, Mr. Lines?

Mr. LINES. No, sir. No. Directly benefiting the cartels.

Chair JORDAN. Does our law enforcement benefit, Sheriff Wilmot?

Sheriff WILMOT. No, sir.

Chair JORDAN. How about first responders, Supervisor? Does first responders, does that benefit—

Mr. LINES. No, sir.

Chair JORDAN. How about the taxpayers? Do the taxpayers?

How about the growers and ranchers and farmers that we heard from earlier? Do they benefit from this chaotic policy that was put in place on day one?

How about the legal residents? How about the citizens? Do they benefit?

Mr. LINES. No.

Chair JORDAN. That's the takeaway here. How about now, who does benefit, though?

Do the cartels benefit, Supervisor Lines?

Mr. LINES. Yes, sir, 100 percent.

Chair JORDAN. Do the drug dealers benefit?

Mr. LINES. One hundred percent.

Chair JORDAN. Yes, and the scary thing is, the sad thing is, too, the people—many times the people who are being trafficked across, they don't really benefit either. Things that happen to women, things that happen to kids, we've talked about that.

So, this is the crazy thing. This brings us back to what my colleague and friend from Florida said earlier in today's hearing. I don't think they're going to change. I don't think Joe Biden is going

to change. Because any administration that puts in policies that harm the citizens, law enforcement, taxpayers, farmers, ranchers, and everyone, it seems, and only benefit the bad guys, the cartels and drug dealers, I don't know that they're going to change without a fight.

Mr. LINES. Mr. Chair, I think that it's good to remember the source of all fentanyl, and that's being shipped directly from China to the cartels to come and poison the people of the United States.

Chair JORDAN. Yep. Yep.

I would just add this to it as well, and this is in your testimony, Supervisor. In your testimony, you were asked, I believe by Mr. Gaetz, I think you said Secretary Mayorkas lied to your face. That was your testimony here today under oath, here today you took the oath when we swore you in, you said the Secretary.

So, if you have an administration that you pay for, your tax dollars pay for the Federal Government, they come here, they promise to work with local government, work with the local community to better the situation and then don't deliver on their promise, the only way we're going to fix this is a fight.

The way our system works, the way our system works is when you have split government, you have to do it on the appropriations bills. We are going to have to attach on the appropriations bills: Hey, look, if you don't start enforcing the law, as Mr. McClintock pointed out, if you don't start enforcing the law, we're not going to fund certain things. Not our law enforcement, not Border Patrol, we need that, but other things. We're going to have to do that if we're going to remedy this situation.

Mr. LINES. Yes, sir.

Chair JORDAN. That's how bad it is. That's how serious it is.

We came here today to just underscore and hear from people who have been living it now for two long years, to hear from you all so we can go back and tell our colleagues: Look, we're going to have to fight. We're going to have to fight for the good people of Yuma County, the good law enforcement folks in Arizona, people providing healthcare, the mayor of this great town, and, as our other members have pointed out, folks all over the country, because every county is now impacted by five million illegal migrants coming into our country in the past two years. That's what we pledge to do.

So, I want to thank you all for being here today.

We're going to close with the gentleman who represents this fine community for five minutes, who has been a good friend of mine in Congress for a number of years, who does an outstanding job at serving the folks of his great district here in Arizona.

Mr. Gosar is recognized for five minutes.

[Applause.]

Mr. GOSAR. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you.

So, I'm going to hit two things. I'm going to try to hit this a little differently.

It's been alluded to by some of my colleagues. Ben Franklin was asked: "What kind of government did you give us? A republic, if you can keep it."

What is key to a republic? The rule of law, accountability, and defined, defensible borders.

Now, let's take an example of one of those republics that fell: Rome. They actually invited the conquered to conquer. Now, think about that. Think about that.

The reason I bring that up is that we've been bamboozled by the other side in the press that there's only 10 or 11 million illegals in this country. That's not true. The Ivy League study in 2014, 2015 that showed there was between 33 and 36 million. You add another six million that has come across during this tenure, you're over 40 million illegals.

Now, why do I bring that up? Well, in a population of 360 million, maybe 10 million doesn't really make much of a difference, but when it's 40 or 50 million, they're changing culture. That's where this is going, changing culture.

Now, the other thing is, is I keep hearing over and over again: What could you do about it?

As has been alluded, we're one of the three stools. Well, there's the power of the purse. The Chair actually just brought this up. That fight's coming. That was part of the fight that the 20 held out for, to get that rule change.

[Applause.]

Mr. GOSAR. It's even better than that. We have an opportunity that if they were never authorized by Congress, that we can defund them. This is going to be so much fun. Can you say ATF? Can you say OPT?

So, now, we take the fight to them. Why is this important? Because we have to have that power of the purse.

That also means that we have to get rid of the national emergency on COVID. It seems kind of strange that I'm bringing this up, but when you're under a national emergency, the Executive Branch has 120 additional powers, and one of them is to move money around. So, let me share with you an example.

Congress in its wisdom a five-years ago authorized \$2.some billion to go to COVID testing. It disappeared. It was rerouted by the administration for illegal immigration housing.

Now, let's step back. This last fall, there was an omnibus bill of \$1.7 trillion passed, and it was passed intentionally under the COVID national emergency. That means that simply not one of those dollars that Congress has obliged to send has to be spent that way, not that it will.

I hope I'm sharing with you that they can get a lot more latitude. So, that power of the purse has to return. OK.

We also have to do our job. In the national emergency, would you be surprised to find out that once upon—once a declaration of a national emergency occurs, that Congress, must/shall, no later than six months later, convene to decide whether to continue that national emergency or kill it.

I dropped that bill twice. Ms. Pelosi killed it twice.

So, the magic about this is that once you start the process, it has to go through. It's a privileged motion. So, we've actually enabled our Senate minority to actually take this up, because we've already passed it out of the House. So, play smarter, not harder.

The appropriations process is going to be the big fight. You have a debt ceiling and you have these appropriations. Finding these programs, rules, agencies that are not authorized by Congress is a

good step in the right direction. Because we have to get back the levity of equal justice under the law.

We've been asleep at the wheel for a long period of time, folks. We saw this in the Obama Administration, the Fast and Furious, Benghazi, the IRS, countless. Who's paid the penalty for it? Nobody's paid the penalty for it.

That they can do this to a President. They throw everything at him, and not one thing has been found on the guy. That's one of the founding principles that's failing now in our Republic.

So, trust is a series of promises kept. I hope that you'll look at us, and when appropriations season comes, they told us they were going to march up there. They were going to get the power of the purse, because maybe we could earn your trust again.

I'm going to end, because I'm a person of accountability. I do animes, I take full responsibility for those things. So, I believe that there has to be a personal touch to this. So, let me go through the roster of who's not here:

Mr. Nadler from New York, Ms. Lofgren from California, Ms. Jackson Lee from Texas, Mr. Cohen from Tennessee, Mr. Johnson from Georgia, Mr. Schiff from California, Mr. Cicilline from Rhode Island, Mr. Swalwell from California, Mr. Lieu from California, Ms. Jayapal from Washington, Mr. Correa from California, Ms. McBath from Georgia, Ms. Dean from Pennsylvania, Ms. Escobar from Texas, Ms. Ross from North Carolina, Ms. Bush from Missouri, and Mr. Ivey from Maryland.

Until we start putting names and holding people accountable, we are not going to get anywhere close to our goal. We, the people.

Thank you, gentlemen. I thank you, Chair, for the privilege of sitting in and charging in your parade.

Chair JORDAN. Thank you. The gentleman yields back. Thank you, Paul.

[Applause.]

I would just close, I'll remind everyone it's a great country. My favorite scripture Verse 2, Timothy 4:7. Paul is the old guy giving advice to the young guy Timothy, and he says what? Fight the good fight, finish the course, keep the faith.

I tell people I love that verse because of the action in it. It's not a sissy, wimpy verse, it's an American verse. Words of actions. Americans aren't timid people. We are people who get the job done. We fight, we finish, we keep faith with the principles that made our country special.

That verse characterizes this community, and we have so appreciated your hospitality over the last 24 hours. The mayor, the supervisor, hospital administrator, sheriff, and everyone else we've had a chance to visit with, the Border Patrol agents, law enforcement, first responders, all the folks we've got a chance to visit with.

You are living that verse here, and we appreciate it, and we owe you that same kind of commitment in the U.S. Congress. You pay our salary. We're supposed to fight for you. Your two guys from Arizona are definitely doing that. The rest of us need to do the same, and we pledge to you that we will. We understand how serious this situation is.

I'll finish with this final story. I share this all the time because it had an impact on my wife and me. This is probably 10–12 years

ago. We live north of Dayton, Ohio, near the town of Urbana, and about 12 years ago we had some good friends of ours in Dayton said, are you guys free for dinner. It was the summertime of the year. They said, "yes, well, come down, we're going to meet us down here at our place in the Dayton area, we're going to go out to dinner." They said, "before we go to dinner, we're going to tour the Wright brothers' home," and we said, "great. We like history, we like, seeing that. We live in the house we raised our family, it was built in 1837, and we liked old things and history," and said, "sure."

So, we go down there. We pay the lady at the door with the historical society, like, \$5, and they take you on the tour of this home, and you learn all kinds of neat things about these two amazing Americans.

You learn about the bicycle shop, you learn about the things they tinkered and built and the stuff they did and all the things they were into, and it's a fascinating tour.

The tour ends in Wilbur Wright's bedroom, and they tell you a few more things about this particular Wright brother. Then they finish the tour by showing you two pictures.

First picture they hold up was that very first flight, 1903, and this thing they called a plane in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. When you see that picture, your first thought was, wow, how did that thing get off the ground? How did that contraption fly? The truth is, it barely did. It flew like a hundred feet, got like 10–12 feet off the ground. They show you that picture, and you're like, OK, that's kind of neat, because you sort of remember that from when they taught you that in school, 7th or 8th grade, whenever you learned that. You're like, OK, that's kind of neat.

They put that picture down, and then they hold up a second picture—1947, Chuck Yeager breaking the sound barrier in a jet. I was like, wow, that I didn't know. I must not have been paying attention that day in school or something. I didn't know that.

I'm thinking, that's amazing, in 44 years, we go from two guys flying a hundred feet in this jalopy contraption of a thing they called a plane to another great American breaking the sound barrier in a jet. It's amazing. They put that picture down. That was the end of the tour.

Polly and I start walking out, and as we're walking out, I thought, wait a minute, wait a minute, why did they stop there? I represent Wapakoneta, Ohio, hometown of Neil Armstrong, who 22 years later stepped on the moon.

Think about it. Sixty-six years, we go from two guys flying a hundred feet, to another American stepping on the moon. One lifetime. One lifetime, this country did that. I would argue, no other country is capable of doing that, only this Nation, the greatest country ever.

You can't fault people for wanting to come here. They just got to do it legally, and that's what we're going to fight for and make sure the law is enforced.

Thank you all very much. Our Committee is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 6:10 p.m., the Committee was adjourned.]