

of the States, and this is because of the prosecutorial discretion.

This President, his administration has released over 30,000 criminals, criminal aliens onto the streets of America. And of those that they released, there have been at least 124 of them who have been charged with homicide for 135 murders. That is 135 dead Americans who would be alive today if the President didn't have the policy of releasing criminal aliens onto the streets. Those are the ones we know of, those are the ones that are the recidivism within a 5-year window of time whose names we know, whose incidents we know, but that doesn't include anywhere near all of them, Mr. Speaker.

This is the locale. This is the face of one of these perpetrators, Mauricio Hernandez.

What did he do?

Mauricio Hernandez, a sexual predator who impregnated the 13-year-old daughter of his live-in girlfriend and repeatedly had sexual relations with her in ways that I won't repeat here on the floor, took her off to soccer games where he also gave her an abortion-inducing drug, and she went into a portapotty and had a baby who was alive. He went in and saw that baby, and this girl was then hauled home. The baby was left to die. That baby died.

Mauricio Hernandez was the perpetrator. He is another illegal alien, another one who had been encountered by law, another one who had been granted this de facto amnesty because of the President's policy.

Mr. Speaker, I can stand here every night. I could come here and give you these stories, and I can give you the data on the thousands of Americans who are dead at the hands of the criminal aliens who have been incarcerated for a temporary period of time and released by multiple jurisdictions across this country, and every American who dies at their hands is a life that could be saved if we just followed our laws. That is what is at stake here.

But we are going to have to personalize it because people over on this side of the aisle have their fingers in their ears on data, but when they see the faces, when they hear the anguish in the voices, especially of the mothers—I will conclude with this, Mr. Speaker—or the voice of the father, Scott Root, who said when they arrested this perpetrator who killed his daughter, he was out before they could bury his daughter, he was out on \$5,000 bail, which was less than it cost him to bury his daughter, and that individual absconded back out of the United States now, not to be reached again by the arm of the law, which is not long enough because they put him out on bail.

I don't want to see any more bail to criminal aliens. I want to see law enforcement. I want an expectation that when the law is broken in the United States, that there is going to be an enforcement, that it be applied equally

without regard to any of these categories that the President encourages us to be members of, that being one of God's children is good enough to be protected by the law, but everybody treated equally.

Secure our borders. Restore the respect for the rule of law. Save these lives. Send these people into prison, and when they are done, send them back to the country that they can live in legally for the rest of their lives if they don't stay in our prisons for the rest of their lives.

Mr. Speaker, this is an infuriating topic that America needs to know a lot more about. I would ask, Mr. Speaker, that this country keep the families of these victims in their prayers every day until such time as we restore the respect for the rule of law again in America.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

WHAT MEXICO REPRESENTS TO ALL OF US

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. O'ROURKE) for 30 minutes.

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, to listen to some in this country, and certainly some of my colleagues, Mexico represents nothing more than a threat to the well-being, the safety of this country, and to every son and daughter in every community within the United States.

It is also a threat, some will tell you, to our economy, to our financial well-being in our homes, in our cities, in our States. This vision of Mexico and our relationship with that country and where the two join at the U.S.-Mexico border is dominated by this kind of anxiety, this scare-mongering, and an attitude of fear that neglects the truth, the facts, and the opportunities that our relationship with our closest partner on the world stage truly presents.

It is my hope tonight to share with my colleagues the facts, the positive truth about what Mexico represents to all of us, certainly in the communities along the U.S.-Mexico border, El Paso, Texas, the city that I have the honor of representing and serving in Congress, the State of Texas, where I will be joined by colleagues who represent districts deeper into the interior of Texas, but really to everyone everywhere in the United States.

When I listen to some of my colleagues, who can be forgiven much like those in ancient history who, not having traveled to distant lands or across the oceans, could only envision monsters or frightening things that were going to come and get them should they venture past what they knew and what was safe and what was home to them, those who do not know Mexico, who do not live on the U.S.-Mexico border may understandably have their thoughts and their concerns dominated by this anxiety and fear.

It is my hope, as someone who lives in and represents part of the U.S. side of the U.S.-Mexico border, to shed some light using facts and using real people, real U.S. citizens, real Mexican citizens, and real people from El Paso and Ciudad Juarez, which together form the largest binational community in the Western Hemisphere and one of the largest binational communities anywhere in the world.

When you hear people who are concerned about Mexico and what it represents to the United States, that fear is often dominated by two different areas. One is economic and the other is fear about our security in this country. Let me lay some of those fears to rest. Let me address some of those concerns at face value using the facts and figures from the United States-Mexico relationship and, again, from the district that I represent in El Paso, Texas.

Let me start with some of the economic concerns and address them with the economic facts and the economic argument. Some of my colleagues may not know this, but Mexico is our third largest trading partner. And for some States—like the State of Texas, like the State of New Mexico, like the State of Arizona, like the State of California—Mexico represents our number one trading partner. For many other States deeper into the interior, Mexico represents our second largest trading partner.

But the volume of trade between our two countries is unlike any other, even among our top trading partner, China, for with Mexico, for every dollar of import value that we bring into this country from Mexico, 40 cents of that dollar was value that originated here in the United States, components, manufactured goods that were built here in America by Americans, by U.S. citizens that were exported to Mexico for final assembly and manufacture before reimportation into the United States.

It is why when we export to Mexico, we win; when we import from Mexico, we win. That volume of trade between our two countries is responsible for one out of every four jobs in the community that I represent, El Paso, Texas. It is responsible for more than 400,000 jobs in the State of Texas, more than 6 million jobs throughout the United States.

I want to make clear that our relationship with Mexico does not just benefit border communities like mine or border States like Texas. You look at New York, 381,000 people depend on our relationship with Mexico for the jobs they go to each and every morning. In Ohio, the number is 224,000. In the State of Washington, 128,000. In fact, every single one of our 50 States has a significant trading and jobs-based dependent relationship with Mexico.

Were we to jeopardize that with harmful rhetoric or wrong-headed policies, we would not just jeopardize this historic relationship with our partner to the south, we would jeopardize the

very well-being and lifeblood for 6 million American families spread throughout this country.

In fact, if we don't do a better job of facilitating the trade we have with Mexico right now, we run the risk of losing the jobs we already have. The Department of Commerce estimates that for every minute of delay on our international ports of entry that connect the United States and Mexico, because we are not getting more trade into the United States from Mexico and out of the United States into Mexico, we lose about \$166 million. For every minute of delay, \$166 million lost to the United States economy.

Now, let me talk about the security argument. I just heard from my colleague from Iowa that Mexico and Mexican immigrants, whether they are undocumented, whether they are pursuing a better life in this country, whether they are—as almost all of them are—net contributors to our economy, to our communities, to the safety of our cities, that somehow they represent this terrible threat, the primary threat for our country, and the sky and everything with it is falling should we not be able to deport these 11 million undocumented immigrants from communities like Washington, D.C., from El Paso, Texas, from Fort Worth, from throughout the United States.

□ 1830

I would like to share something with my colleagues and with you, Mr. Speaker, about the effect that immigrants have on the safety of our communities. As I mentioned, I represent El Paso, Texas, which, with Ciudad Juarez, forms one-half of the largest binational community anywhere in the world. Twenty-four percent of the people that I represent were born in another country, most of them, the country of Mexico. And I will tell you, it is not in spite of that fact that we have so many migrants in our community but, in large part, because of it that El Paso is this country's safest city of over 500,000.

So of all large cities in this country, from Los Angeles on the West Coast to New York on the East Coast, El Paso is this country's safest city. And it has been not just in the past year, but for years before this last one; and for the last 10 or 15 years, it has been rated one of the top five safest cities in the United States. And that is because the relationship that we have with Mexico.

The migrants who come from that country are coming to this one to build a better life for themselves, certainly; but more importantly and connected to our relative safety, they are building a better life for their kids. They are keeping them focused on their studies, on contributing to their communities, on staying out of trouble and getting ahead and doing better. That is what I want you to know when we talk about security connected to immigration and when we talk about security relative to Mexico.

I also want my colleagues, who themselves are taxpayers, and the taxpayers they represent to know that today we spend \$18 billion a year to secure the U.S.-Mexico border. In the last 10 years, we have doubled the size of the Border Patrol force, from 10,000 agents to 20,000 agents, and we are reaching, if not already past, a point of diminishing returns where we can do no more good by spending more dollars and by adding more agents to already swollen ranks of the Border Patrol. Let me give you some facts that bear that out.

In the year 2000, we had 1.6 million apprehensions at our border with Mexico. This last year, in 2015, we had 330,000 apprehensions.

Another way to look at this is that, in 2005, the average Border Patrol agents on the southern border, our border with Mexico, made 106 apprehensions a year. Ten years later, 2015, last year, the average agent made 17 apprehensions the entire year; and in El Paso, again, one of the most critical sectors for our connection with Mexico, the average agent made 6 apprehensions all year—not in a week, not in a month, but 6 apprehensions for the entire year.

So El Paso is the safest city. Other border cities on our side of the U.S.-Mexico border are much safer than the interior of the United States. We are spending record sums, and we are seeing record-low levels of apprehensions. We are literally seeing less than zero migration from Mexico now, and we have been for a number of years.

When I hear my colleagues about securing the border before we proceed with immigration reform or any other sensible, realistic, logical policy with regard to Mexico, it begs the question when they ask if we secure the border: How much more secure can we get? How many more billions of dollars do you want to spend? How many more miles of walls do you want to construct? How many more thousands of agents do you want to hire? How many fewer apprehensions can we have? How far below zero can our immigration from Mexico reach?

The last point on the security issue that I want to stress for my colleagues is this one. Despite the rhetoric, despite the anxiety, despite the fear that is often provoked on cable TV or even in this Chamber, there has never been nor is there now any credible terrorist organization, terrorist threat, or terrorist who is using the southern border—our border with Mexico—to infiltrate the United States. And I have that on public record from the Director of the FBI, the Director for the National Counterterrorism Center, and the Secretary of Homeland Security.

The danger of continuing to surge more resources where we don't have a problem is that we take our eye and our money and our men and women off those places where we know we have had threats in the past, like our international airports. In fact, even at our

northern border with Canada, attempts have been made in the past, and certainly with homegrown, home-radicalized terrorists or potential terrorists in our communities.

That is where we know we have a threat. That is where we need to pursue that threat. It doesn't mean that we do not remain vigilant against the potential for a terrorist threat coming along our border with Mexico; but I would argue that, with 20,000 agents, \$18 billion spent a year, drones flying overhead, 600 miles of wall, we are very vigilant against the potential for any terrorist incursion from Mexico.

Before I yield to my good friend from Dallas-Fort Worth, I want to talk a little bit about the people who actually live in this binational community that I have been talking about, El Paso and Ciudad Juarez, where, between the two communities last year, there were 32 million crossings. Thirty-two million times someone crossed from El Paso into Ciudad Juarez or Juarez into El Paso. I thought I would share with you, through these pictures to my right, some of the remarkable people that I live with in the El Paso-Juarez community and some of the amazing people that I represent.

The first person that we are looking at is Armando. I started with Armando at the end his day as he closed up the plant that he manages in Ciudad Juarez. Even though he and his children live in the United States, are U.S. citizens, and attend U.S. public schools in El Paso, Texas, he crosses over the border into Mexico every morning. He works a hard day managing a plant there; and then he comes back over into the United States, where he pays his U.S. property taxes, his U.S. income taxes, where he contributes by going and helping to coach his son's soccer game, which is where we took this picture with Armando and his wife. He is one of these 32 million people that is crossing the border. He is somebody that has come from Mexico that is contributing to this country, whose children are growing up here. He is someone that I am very proud to have in my community.

This next slide shows a picture of Israel. Israel lives in Ciudad Juarez but attends school at the University of Texas in El Paso.

In its infinite wisdom, the State of Texas granted instate coverage for citizens of Mexico to attend schools in our communities in the State of Texas because we know that Texas will be the net beneficiary of their talent and their human capital.

So Israel gets up very early every morning, sometimes before 5 o'clock, so that he can make it over the international bridge in time to get to the University of Texas at El Paso, where he is an all-star student and also works at the Keck Lab, which is one of the premier additive manufacturing facilities at any academic community in the United States. These are 3-D printing jobs that are the future of manufacturing technology. And if we do right

by Israel, Israel is going to want to spend his life and his career and add value and add tax base and add tax income and create jobs in our country, in the community that I represent. That is why I crossed the bridge with Israel to learn a little bit about him and his experience.

This slide shows a picture of Vicky, whom I joined in downtown Ciudad Juarez. She is walking up Avenida Juarez. Another block or two and we will pass the Kentucky Club, which I want everyone to know we did not go into. It was before 5 o'clock. But Vicky, who is a Mexican national, is carrying her shopping bags because at least once a month she comes over to the United States, to my community, to spend her hard-earned money in our local retail establishments and other stores to do the shopping for her and her family.

In fact, Mexican nationals like Vicky spend about \$1.4 billion in the El Paso community annually. That supports tens of thousands of retail jobs and small-business owners that I represent here in the House.

This is the face of the border, the face of Mexico, the face of our connection. This was Vicky, with whom I crossed the border a couple of weeks ago.

This next slide shows Manuel, who is driving a load of Werner ladders.

Werner is the largest ladder manufacturer in the world. They manufacture about 70 percent of those ladders in Ciudad Juarez. The inputs for those ladders come from all over the United States. They are connected to jobs in this country that go over to Mexico. They are connected to jobs there and then reimported here for export for benefit of the United States and Mexico.

Here he is crossing his load—his part of the \$90 billion in U.S.-Mexico trade that crosses our ports of entry that are connected to those 6 million jobs spread throughout the United States.

If we could get those bridges moving a little faster, get more CBP officers to facilitate that trade, we can get more loads of ladders moving across, more jobs connected in the United States to trade and manufacture in Mexico. It is good for my community, good for each of the communities represented by the Members here in the Chamber tonight.

And the last slide I will show you is Lisa, and you can see that I jumped into the backseat of her car as she left the plant that she works in in Ciudad Juarez.

She moved down to El Paso from Michigan about 20 years ago. She has been working in Ciudad Juarez every day with other U.S. and Mexican citizens, creating value in both countries, economic growth in both countries.

And so here we are in her car, about to cross back into El Paso, Texas, where, again, she pays her taxes, where she contributes to her community, and where she is the face of the U.S.-Mexico relationship and why it is so impor-

tant not just to preserve it, not just to respect it, but to grow it and to capitalize on it and create more jobs, more opportunities, more growth in both of our countries.

I thought these five El Pasoans and Juarenses, whom I have the pleasure of living with in El Paso, the honor of representing here in the House, might tell you a little bit of a different story than the one that has prevailed and dominated from people who do not live on and, frankly, do not understand the border or our relationship with Mexico.

But someone who does and who is here with me tonight, represents a congressional district in Fort Worth and Dallas, who understands the importance of our relationship with Mexico better than almost any other person that I have worked with, is MARC VEASEY. I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VEASEY).

Mr. VEASEY. Thank you very much, Representative O'ROURKE. I really appreciate your work on this issue. You have been doing a great job of really kind of setting the facts straight about this issue.

There has been a lot of rhetoric out there about what immigration means. And the fact that you have worked so hard to bring recognition about the economic benefits that the border has, particularly to our State of Texas, and you have been very tremendous in your efforts, I really, really do appreciate that.

I wanted to just talk about the fact how important the relationship is—the economic impact that you talk about all the time—how important it is to Texas and the United States.

According to the United States Trade Representative, U.S. goods and services traded with Mexico totaled an estimated \$500-plus billion in 2015. Mexico was the United States' second largest goods export market in 2015. In 2013, Texas, our home State of Texas exported over \$109 billion in goods with Mexico, and that was a 63 percent increase since 2008.

It is really hard to argue with those numbers. It just shows how healthy the relationship is with Mexico and about how incredibly foolish it would be to try to create barriers between our two countries that would cause economic harm to both Mexico and the United States and our border State of Texas.

The United States' relationship with Mexico, again, when you look at the economic picture, agriculture is something that people oftentimes take for granted—how they get their milk, how they get their fruit, how they get their vegetables.

Agriculture is how we eat in this country. I have met with different organizations that represent agriculture. I just had some cattle raisers from the Fort Worth area here. They talked about the fact that we don't have a comprehensive immigration reform bill and how we need to improve our guest worker program and how it is really hurting their industry.

□ 1845

And these are conservative Republicans that are telling me this, Representative O'ROURKE. These aren't liberal Democrats or advocacy groups. These are people that are concerned about economic growth and prosperity in the United States and in border States that are saying that, hey, we have a huge problem here in agriculture.

One of our conservative institutes in the State of Texas, Texas A&M University down in College Station, did a study back in 2012 that looked at dairy farms and found that the dairy farms are very heavily dependent upon migrant labor. Three-fifths of the milk in this country is dependent upon migrant labor.

I think that that speaks in and of itself.

Without these employees, the study predicts economic output would decline by \$22 billion, and 133,000 workers would lose their jobs. And what are we going to do if that happens? Like, what are we really going to do? What are Republicans going to do if that happens, if they were able to create borders and barriers between our southwest border?

They are certainly not going to make it up with any sort of social services to help people because they are always hollering about how they don't want to expand government. So what are they going to do if we lose all of that money? They are going to do absolutely nothing, and it would be very detrimental.

Then there is also immigrant entrepreneurship. In addition to providing a reliable workforce, immigrants are also a boost to local economies when they open up businesses in their communities. More than 40 percent of the Fortune 500 companies here were founded by immigrants or by their children according to the Partnership for a New American Economy.

I want to highlight one of my friends that has a business in my district, Gloria Fuentes. She was actually my guest, Representative O'ROURKE, at the State of the Union earlier this year. She was someone, back in the 1970s, that was fleeing her home country of El Salvador. She immigrated to the United States, and her visa expired. Later, she became a permanent resident in 1986. And because of her hard work, working extra jobs, going to nightclubs at night to sell tamales and tacos, now she has a restaurant chain of 15, all across the State of Texas. That was done by someone that came here as an immigrant.

Why wouldn't we want to make it easier for people like Gloria to migrate to this country? Why wouldn't we want to make it easier for us to be able to exchange and trade ideas with people from countries that are south of our border?

We are really moving too slowly on the immigration issue. And again, the rhetoric about the southwest border is

really hurting our country, particularly when you look at the net migration and how many people have decided that—you know what?—they don't want to live in the United States anymore just because of all of the rhetoric, the hateful rhetoric that is out there, mainly coming from the Republican side. I think that it is time that it stop because I think that our country—I know that our country—is better than that.

I just want to thank you for getting this conversation started. I want to thank you for your expertise and depth on this issue. Particularly with you coming from El Paso, it is certainly great to have you talking about this so much and reminding people about the facts, because there are a lot of things out there that are floating around the Congress—again, coming from the Republican side—that are completely untrue and deliberately false and meant to spread fear across our country. But the fact that you are here and you are educating the country on this very important issue means a lot to our State and to the United States. So thank you very much, Representative O'ROURKE, and thank you for letting me share this time with you.

Mr. O'ROURKE. I thank my friend from Texas, amidst all this heat and the rhetoric around Mexico, our relationship with that country, the cost or benefit of immigration, that he is able to shed some light using the facts, sharing the truth, so that we understand our shared interdependence, shared benefit, and the value of the relationship between the United States and Mexico.

Mr. Speaker, may I ask how much time remains?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has about 3 minutes remaining.

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues who have used the excuse—because they believe it—that we must first secure the border before we can do anything else, before we can improve our relationship with Mexico, before we can capitalize on the shared production platform that is the United States and Mexico today, where 40 percent of the value of everything that we import from Mexico originated in this country, is connected to jobs in this country; I invite my friends who use securing the border as an excuse not to move forward on immigration reform, despite the fact that we have 11 million people here who are living in the shadows, who, despite that, do their best to contribute to this country each and every day in service to this country and creating jobs in this country, in serving those in this country; I invite you to see the truth, to look at the facts, and to understand that our relationship with Mexico has never been more important, our border with Mexico has never been more secure, by any metric we want to look at.

Whether it is apprehension, whether it is the total spent on the security of that border, whether it is the number

of men and women, 20,000, who are patrolling that border with our closest partner—certainly the closest trading partner in the State of Texas, I would argue the most important country for the United States—whether you look at it economically, demographically, historically, or culturally, I hope these facts, this truth, this light that we are working to shed on the issue, will help my colleagues to make better decisions, better policies, and move forward in the self-interest of this country, every district, and every person we represent, to do the right thing when it comes to Mexico, to do the right thing when it comes to immigration reform, and to do the right thing in the interest of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

CHICAGO STATE UNIVERSITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH) for 30 minutes.

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I come here to the House floor today to express my deep concern and disappointment regarding the grave financial challenges facing the Chicago State University, which is located in my district on the south side of Chicago.

Mr. Speaker, due to the enormous budget crisis currently taking place in my home State of Illinois, the university has not received the State funding that is essential to maintaining its multifaceted operations. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, after 7 months of utilizing its financial reserves, Chicago State University is now in a dire position. Chicago State University must confront the real possibility of closing its doors in the immediate future.

Mr. Speaker, the impact of this pending reality is far reaching in its scope, and it would adversely affect thousands of students and hundreds of faculty and staff, many of whom reside in my district, the First District of Illinois. The entire Chicagoland region would be severely adversely affected by the closing of the Chicago State University. Mr. Speaker, my district is home to 4,300 students who are enrolled at Chicago State. Fifty-eight percent of these students are my constituents.

The great need for this institution is demonstrated by the fact that almost 88 percent of enrolled students receive financial aid. Of those students on financial aid, 44 percent are first-generation college students, and 54 percent of these students are low-income individuals. In fact, Mr. Speaker, Chicago State University is renowned for recruiting and graduating nontraditional minority students who, due to a variety of reasons, have been denied many of the economic, social, and educational benefits enjoyed by the greater American society.

As U.S. News and World Report notes, Chicago State University ranks

first in Illinois in awarding bachelor's degrees to African Americans in the physical sciences, health professions, and other related sciences. Additionally, the school also ranks fourth in Illinois in awarding baccalaureate degrees to Latino students in the education sector.

Mr. Speaker, closing Chicago State University, even on a temporary basis, would have a profound impact on the lives of all these students who have worked so hard to beat the odds and who desperately seek to provide a better life for themselves and for their families.

Additionally, as one of my district's largest employers, if the university were to close, it would have a devastating rippling effect on the economics of Chicago's greater south side and also in the lives of the 850 faculty and staff who are employed by Chicago State University. Undoubtedly, the school's closing would also stifle any opportunity for economic recovery in communities on Chicago's south side and in the nearby suburban area of the city of Chicago.

To help address this pending dire situation, in the coming days I will be introducing a bill in the House to provide Federal assistance to the university until this budget impasse in the State of Illinois can be resolved.

Mr. Speaker, Chicago State University is far too important to the families, to the communities that I represent, to simply leave its fate to chance or to the political gamesmanship and indifference of its governmental leaders.

Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner should not allow this historically crucial, minority-serving institution of higher education that so faithfully serves the needs of African Americans and Latino American students to shut down on his watch. Legislative leaders in the State of Illinois must not allow this legendary institution to close its doors on current and future generations of upward-bound students.

□ 1900

Mr. Speaker, April 29 will be forever be known as the Day of Educational Infamy in my State of Illinois. It will be regarded as the day that Illinois lawmakers let the students of Chicago State University down. It will be regarded as the day that Illinois lawmakers let the citizens of the State of Illinois down.

It will be regarded as the day that Illinois lawmakers stood in the schoolhouse door to deny access to the universally acknowledged benefits of higher education to predominantly minority students who study and matriculate at the Chicago State University.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot afford to not afford to fund the Chicago State University. We must do everything in our power to address this ominous situation and provide help to this critical institution that has proven to be so vital to the needs of my constituents,