

**BIDEN'S BORDER CRISIS
AND ITS EFFECT ON
AMERICAN COMMUNITIES**

JOINT HEARING
BEFORE THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY,
THE BORDER, AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE
COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY
AND THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CRIME AND FEDERAL
GOVERNMENT SURVEILLANCE
OF THE
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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Opening statements and the prepared statements for the witnesses are available in the U.S. House of Representatives Repository at: docs.house.gov.

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- * Article, *Breitbart*, “10K Migrants Apprehended in One Week in Arizona Border Sector”; submitted by Rep. Biggs.
- * Article, *AZPM News*, “Apprehensions and Rescues Increase in Border Patrol Tucson Sector”; submitted by Rep. Biggs.

The documents listed above are available at: docs.house.gov.

**BIDEN'S BORDER CRISIS
AND ITS EFFECT ON
AMERICAN COMMUNITIES**

Tuesday, August 8, 2023

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY, THE BORDER, AND FOREIGN
AFFAIRS
JOINTLY, WITH THE
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CRIME AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
SURVEILLANCE

Washington, D.C.

The Committee met, pursuant to notice, at 2 p.m., at Cochise College, Student Union Community Room, 901 N. Colombo Avenue, Sierra Vista, Arizona, Hon. Glenn Grothman presiding.

Present: Representatives Biggs, Timmons, and Edwards.

Also present: Representative Ciscomani.

Mr. GROTHMAN. The Joint Committee hearing on the crisis on our southern border will come to order. Welcome, everybody.

Without objection, I will declare a recess at any time. Mr. Timmons, Mr. Edwards, and Mr. Ciscomani are waived onto the hearing for the purpose of participating in today's hearing.

First of all, before we begin, I think what I will do is I will start with Mr. Ciscomani and go across, because you guys do not know who they are. Just identify yourself with your state.

Mr. CISCOMANI. Sure. Hi, everyone. Juan Ciscomani. I am your Congressman. Good to see you all again. Thank you.

[Applause.]

Mr. TIMMONS. Good afternoon. I am Congressman William Timmons from Greenville and Spartanburg of South Carolina, 4th Congressional District. Great to be here.

[Applause.]

Mr. GROTHMAN. Glenn Grothman. I am from Wisconsin, along Lake Michigan.

[Applause.]

Mr. BIGGS. Andy Biggs from Arizona's 5th Congressional District, and it is great to be down here in Cochise County.

[Applause.]

Mr. EDWARDS. Good afternoon. I am Chuck Edwards, North Carolina's 11th Congressional District. Thank you for all your interest. Thanks for being here this afternoon.

[Applause.]

Mr. GROTHMAN. OK. We will do this just like any other hearing. I will recognize myself for the purpose of making an opening statement. I am the Subcommittee Chairman of the National Security, the Border, and Foreign Affairs Committee.

Good afternoon and welcome to our Joint Subcommittee hearing on how the Biden Administration's immigration policies have impacted border communities and communities across the country. I want to thank my colleague, Andy Biggs, who has arranged frequent hearings, or at least frequent tours, of the southern border for Congressmen from around the country, and I would like to thank him for his leadership on this issue and his willingness to join in this hearing.

I want to thank my colleagues for making the time to fly out here to learn more about this issue with me. It could not be more appropriate that we are here in the Tucson Sector because the Border Patrol apprehended over 40,000 illegal immigrants in the month of July alone. That is the highest it has been in 15 years.

Even though not all of us are representing southwest border states, this illegal immigration impacts every community in the United States. The Biden Administration continues to lean into failed policies that caused a catastrophe on our southwest border. It is a problem that requires oversight. Under this Majority, the House Oversight Committee, this will be our fifth hearing, the fourth on this Subcommittee alone, on border issues. We have conducted seven transcribed interviews with chief patrol agents from sectors along the southwest border, and we have sent many demands for documents and information to the Department of Homeland Security and other relevant agencies to provide transparency.

We intend to understand why the crisis at our southern border is only getting worse, even as more and more taxpayer dollars are committed to the humanitarian and security response.

And something I am reluctant to point out, but will point out, none of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle decided to join us today, despite an open invitation to participate. And I will point out right now I am on another special Committee dealing with the drug side of this thing, the drug cartel side of this thing. At least we were invited to come down to Arizona later this month, same thing. We have not been able to get any Democrats to come down here. When I get around my district again and again I hear, "Why cannot you guys try to work together?" and we just have a complete lack of sense of urgency.

And I will tell you from being down here and talking to so many in the past, you cannot know what is going on the southern border unless you have been here and talked to the people who live it—both law enforcement, ranchers, what have you.

Despite President Biden claiming his Administration would bring transparency and truth back to the government to share the truth, even when it is hard to hear, the Biden Administration has tried to hide the truth from the American people when it comes to our border security and the crisis they have engineered. By the way,

I would like to thank—we have a few members of the press back there, and I am really glad to see that because we do need this being covered to alert the American public.

Disclosures made in litigation between the Biden Administration and Florida and Texas show at least two million illegal aliens have been released into the United States under the Biden Administration. I am sure that is low.

In Fiscal Year 2023 through June, Customs and Border Protection personnel have encountered 2.3 million inadmissible aliens at the ports of entry and between ports of entry, almost as many encountered in the entire Fiscal Year 2022. So, in other words, with 2 months to go, we have already cleared what we did last year.

Additionally, the CBP One smartphone app was created and launched in 2020, during the pandemic, to facilitate lawful trade and travel for those with legitimate business before the agency. The Biden Administration now uses CBP One app to let hundreds of thousands of inadmissible aliens into the country, overwhelming officers at the points of entry, and leaving vulnerabilities in our national security. In other words, what is going on? The Border Patrol that expected and was hired to guard the border has to deal with paperwork at the points of entry instead, which is why you have such big gaps.

The Biden Administration's propaganda machine calls these unlawful parole programs "lawful pathways." Make no mistake, these so-called "lawful pathways" are anything but lawful and are a complete abuse of limited parole authority provided under the Immigration and Nationality Act statute.

When the Biden Administration is not actively breaking our immigration laws, they pretend that everything is fine, repeating the tired rhetoric that they have created a safe, orderly, humane immigration system. That is not true. Look no further than how the Biden Administration has mismanaged an influx of unaccompanied alien children, many who have been subject to horrible abuses by unrelated sponsors who trafficked them into forced labor to pay off smuggling debts. And by unaccompanied children, children coming across without an adult. That is 8,000 to 10,000 every month across this border. Unbelievable.

Earlier this year, I chaired a National Security Subcommittee hearing where the Office of Refugee Resettlement Director testified about their work to assist unaccompanied alien children. It was clear that the Biden Administration prioritized speed over safety and failed to properly screen sponsors to assist in temporary care for unaccompanied minors. It was clear that the unaccompanied minors coming into the country faced enormous pressure to work illegal, full-time jobs to support either themselves, their families abroad, or to pay off debts to cartels or their sponsor.

I want to emphasize, who may or may not hear it today, that a lot of times these people come across, they are obligated by the drug cartels who let them in here, to have to pay \$8,000 to \$20,000 for that trip, which is just unbelievable.

It was clear that employees and contractors who raised alarm bells were retaliated against and silenced. Countless children—and I say "countless" because the Administration could not keep track of tens of thousands of these children—are now being exploited

across our country as a direct result of the chaos at the border. It is vital that the Biden Administration continues to take steps to deter illegal immigration and reduce the impact of human trafficking of vulnerable children.

Today, we will explore how the Biden Administration's immigration policies have affected our border communities and the Nation. Our witnesses today will discuss how the reversal of deterrent-focused illegal immigration policies have had an adverse effect on American security, business, and livelihoods. We will also hear from experts on the big picture issues created by the Biden Administration immigration policies and how these decisions have implications for the future of our immigration policy.

I would like to thank everyone who traveled from near and far to get here and to address this issue, which, in my opinion, is the No. 1 issue in the United States right now. I look forward to your testimonies today.

And now I would like to recognize the Chair of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime and Federal Government Surveillance, Mr. Biggs, for the purpose of making his opening statement.

Mr. BIGGS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is really an honor to be here. And I want to start by saying that this is an official Committee hearing. This is not some forum or something like this. This is an official hearing, and that makes it more curious that no one from the other side of the aisle chose to come to an official hearing. It is very sad to me because this issue should not be a partisan issue.

I also take this opportunity to thank Mayor Clea McCaa, thank you for hosting us, Sierra Vista's Mayor. Thank you to the president of Cochise College, J.D. Rottweiler. Thank you for hosting. Your staff has been excellent in putting this together. Because it is an official hearing this is on C-SPAN. That is how you know it is official. If C-SPAN is not here, we are not here. So, we appreciate the college's staff and their great work.

We appreciate Sheriff Dannels and his deputies who have been providing us with some good security but also good information and taking us to multiple places. And I thank both of our other witnesses, Mr. Ladd, who we have known for quite some time—he is a rancher here—and Art Arthur, and his incredible knowledge that you are going to hear from.

So, there are a lot of people to thank. I thank our U.S. Capitol Police escort who is here with us as well. And, of course, we thank each and every one of you for your interest in coming here today.

I am pleased to be here in this beautiful part of the world—and I crossed out so many things and added so many things I am trying to find where I am supposed to be.

Anyway, I will just also thank my co-chairman for this event, or this hearing, Mr. Grothman from Wisconsin. I lead regular delegations to the border, all over the border, from Rio Grande Valley to San Ysidro, which is San Diego, and he has been with me on at least, I think, half a dozen of those. So, he is a guy who knows and cares about this intensely. And my colleagues who are up here as well, I appreciate them being here.

See, I think it is really important to see what is really going on at the border. We can read about it, but the reality is until you see

it, it does not strike home. You can watch videos on TV, but you just do not believe it. In fact, almost every time we post a video there is always some yo-yo who said, "That is a fake video. It is all staged." It is remarkable to see.

So, when I visit the border, and when I am in my district in Arizona, I speak with Border Patrol agents, local law enforcement officials, concerned citizens, ranchers, businessmen and women. I want to know what is going on with them and what the impact is. I talk to sometimes education officials because you have recruitment going on by cartels of youth at schools, through social media apps, to come down and pick up people in Cochise County or on I-8 in Pinal County, or down in Yuma, to transport bodies for \$1,000 or \$2,000, and take them on up to Phoenix or Tucson.

So, here is my report that I want to give to you. I can say with certainty that the Biden border crisis and its effect on American communities is dangerous, is devastating, and it demands national attention. It needs it immediately, and I call upon our colleagues to help us get whatever legislation needs to be passed, passed. We have already passed H.R. 2. It is languishing in the Senate. It needs to be passed out of the Senate and signed by the President. It probably will not be.

What needs to happen is enforcement, though. We need the executive branch to enforce the laws that are already on the books. If they begin doing that, we will see a change very quickly.

DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas testified in front of the House Judiciary Committee just a couple of weeks ago. He does not believe there is a crisis. When we reminded him of what the Secure Fence Act of 2006, and how it defines operational control of the border, which basically says no person and no contraband can illegally cross into the United States of America, he said no one could do that, and thus, they had created their own definition. And according to his own definition, he is doing all right. I think that is impeachable. It is his reckless disregard for law and order and his implementation of open border policies that have caused the crisis that we see along the border and in the country.

When we have open borders, we are not a secure nation. Here is one concerning recent example. We have received reports that criminal cartels are taking advantage of Secretary Mayorkas' open border policies. Secretary Mayorkas implemented the CBP One app ostensibly to streamline asylum appointments for migrants, allowing them to preregister when they are near the U.S. border. Ostensibly, supposedly there was geofencing that was going to be there, so that only when you got close to the border, which actually provides an incentive to come close to the border, but only when you got close to the border then you could apply to CBP One to get that expedited appointment.

Well, that way he describes it as being a lawful entryway. It is not lawful. It is not legal. There is no authority for that.

But the even worse news is that cartels now are reportedly selling VPN services to migrants, which allow them to preregister for a U.S. asylum appointment and to ignore the geofencing system before they have even reached northern Mexico. These continue to be pull factors or incentives to come into this country illegally.

The CBP One app hurts Americans by welcoming any migrant with a smartphone into the U.S. and assists the cartels in soliciting more customers to make the dangerous trip to our border.

It is no wonder immigration numbers are again on the rise—illegal. Do not conflate illegal immigration with legal immigration. The illegal border crossings continue to rise even though we have had a very hot summer. No one crosses the border without the cartels' assistance and approval.

Drugs are coming across and are literally poisoning our communities. It is time for this Administration to stop enabling them and to enforce the law. The lives of victims of increased crime are at stake. You, in your community of Sierra Vista, there will be increased crime because there is increased drug use. In my community, in Gilbert, yes, the same thing.

The lives of state and local law enforcement dealing with the continual rise in crime, their lives are at risk. At risk, also, are the lives of those in communities who live in fear of the violent crime and fentanyl pouring across our border and into their neighborhoods. The lives of the victims of known terrorists who have entered our open border due to lax screening—which, by the way, the Department of Homeland Security is now changing the categorization nomenclature. It is no longer going to be on this terror watch list. It will be “national security risk” or something like that. Why? Why are you changing the language? Because it is easier to hide the reality of the gravity of the situation.

Also, even the lives of those who are trying to get up here and cross illegally into the country. Many are dying enroute. Many become, as Chairman Grothman pointed out, effectively indentured servants to the cartels.

But this Administration is doing everything it can to encourage these people to make the journey, by offering NGO assistance and simplifying and expanding so-called lawful pathways. Secretary Mayorkas told Congress that DHS is, quote, “taking it to the cartels,” close quote. I wonder if he meant the profits for illegal drug and migrant activity. The only winners here are the cartels.

We know these vast criminal networks are also facilitating human smuggling at the border and are intentionally targeting the areas between the ports of entry. As Deputy Chief Justin DeLaTorre stated, quote, “Those organizations are deliberately placing them”—the migrants—“in the most remote regions of our area in order to pull our resources off of our patrol functions,” close quote.

The cartels have cashed in on these Biden policies like the mass parole and asylum applications that will take years to process, years where aliens remain in the United States awaiting a court appointment that they will not even ever attend. The last timeframe, and I think Mr. Arthur is going to clarify this probably for me, if I remember right it is 84 months before people who are getting in today are getting court dates, 84 months out.

The Biden Administration is also falsely claiming border crossings are decreasing, but that is not really the truth. In 2023, encounters remained historically high. CBP personnel have already encountered 2.3 million inadmissible aliens at and in between the ports of entry. The figure does not even include the hundreds of

thousands of got-aways, who disappear completely into American communities and who are trying desperately to hide from the agents who would otherwise enforce the law.

In 2022, 98 expected terrorists were apprehended in between ports of entry. This year it is over 140.

The Tucson Sector is no exception to the number of criminal migrants flowing across the border as well as other criminal activity intercepted by the brave men and women under the leadership of Chief John Modlin.

Let me just give you some recent numbers for the Tucson Sector. That is where we are sitting in, the Tucson Sector. Yesterday, at the Port of Nogales, at the port of entry, 870,000 fentanyl pills, 1 day, port of entry, 870,000 pills. Not last week, the week before last, more than 9,000 encounters in the Tucson Sector. At Lukeville, just west of Lukeville, two nights ago, 535 men in a single group apprehended. Weekend before last, just in 3 days, over 3,500 apprehensions.

That is what is happening in our sector, and Sheriff Dannels and Mr. Ladd are going to give us more information about what they see on the ground here.

The Tucson Sector is leading in apprehensions. It has seen a 28 percent increase in apprehensions compared to last year. In the last week of July, as I said, more than 10,000 migrants during that week. In that same week, agents also carried out—and you will never hear this from the other side—430 migrant rescues, 21 human smuggling attempts, they conducted 13 narcotics seizures, recovered 1 stolen vehicle and 1 firearm, and that is from the front lines.

We invited our friends from the other side of the aisle to be here today. This is an official hearing. We miss them. We wish they were here. We wish that they would say things like, “This is a serious nonpartisan or bipartisan issue” instead of saying that this is all fantasy, and this is hyperbole. It is not. The country’s future is at stake.

Thank you for being here. I yield back.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Thank you. Just one other thing. I just wanted to welcome Gail Griffin from the Arizona House of Representatives here today.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Chairman, can I recognize one other person? We have Senator majority staff from the State Senate, Kate Sawyer, who is here on behalf of Senator David Gowan. Thank you for being here, Kate.

Mr. GROTHMAN. OK. It just bugs me because I am going to make one more point. I gave one in the opening statement. Do not ever let anybody tell you that America does not have an open door to immigrants who have to come here. Last year, over 1 million people were sworn into this country who came here legally. That is the highest it has been in over 15 years.

OK. Now, pursuant to Committee Rule 9(g), the witnesses will please stand and raise your right hands.

Do you solemnly swear or affirm that the testimony that you are about to give is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Mr. ARTHUR. I do.

Sheriff DANNELS. I do.

Mr. LADD. I do.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Let the record show the witnesses all answered in the affirmative. You may be seated.

We appreciate all of you being here today and look forward to your testimony. Let me remind the witnesses that we have read your written statements, and they will appear in full in the record. Please try to limit—do not go that far over 5 minutes.

I will recognize Mr. Arthur for 5 minutes for your opening statement.

**STATEMENT OF ANDREW ARTHUR
RESIDENT FELLOW IN LAW AND POLICY
CENTER FOR IMMIGRATION STUDIES**

Mr. ARTHUR. Thank you, Chairman Grothman, Chairman Biggs, and Members of the Subcommittees, thank you for inviting me today to discuss a topic crucial to our national security and communities across the Nation.

I was honored to serve in the Federal Government beginning in the George H. W. Bush Administration, and in my 32 years of direct involvement in immigration, the southwest border has never been in such a crisis. Border Patrol agents here have apprehended more than 5.6 million illegal entrants since February 2021, while CBP officers at the southwest border ports have encountered more than a half million more. Some 2.7 million of those aliens were expelled under Title 42, but that leaves 3.4 million others who were processed for removal under the Immigration Nationality Act.

The fewer than 17,000 Border Patrol agents stationed at the southwest border have struggled to keep up with the migrant flow, and at times there have been just a handful of them to protect hundreds of miles of border. Consequently, more than 1.5 million other entrants have crossed the border illegally and made their way into the country scot-free.

Tons of illegal drugs have flowed from Mexico into the United States where they are hollowing out communities and killing record numbers of our fellow citizens. Listen to the Administration spokesman and you will hear that those migrants are coming and overwhelming border agents because of endemic factors like poverty, crime, corruption, violence, and insecurity back home, as well as climate change and the lingering economic effects of the COVID pandemic.

Such push factors do play some role, but as noted, most are endemic problems, for many were much worse in the past. In truth, the main and driving reason that more than six million aliens have come to the southwest border in the past 30 months is, as a Federal judge found in March, the reasonable expectation that the Administration will release them into the country where they will remain indefinitely, if not forever.

You see, rather than detaining aliens who cross illegally, as Congress' laws require, the Administration is abrogating your authority to set limits on immigrant entries and creating new pathways by which other aliens may enter, including by turning the CBP One app from a tool to facilitate lawful entries into the country to

a means by which inadmissible aliens can schedule when and where they will enter the country illegally.

The Administration contends that those aliens are seeking to enter legally, which we heard in the opening statements. But that contention is legally and factually false. Regardless of whether inadmissible aliens cross between the ports or through them, the law requires that they be treated exactly the same and mandates their detention.

Instead of detaining those aliens, however, the Administration has released at least 2.2 million of them into the country, added some 1.5 million others who evaded apprehension, and more than 3.7 million aliens, with no right to enter, are now living and working in the United States. That is larger than the population of five congressional districts, or more people than live in Connecticut, the 29th largest state.

If all the unaccompanied alien children who have been waived into the country were in one school district it would be the 6th largest in the Nation, and that does not include all of the children who came with adults in so-called "family units." Schools will struggle to provide the children with even the most basic of education, and every student's education will suffer.

Nearly all those migrants, adults and children, come with little or nothing, and with few skills and little schooling, meaning they will disproportionately draw on state, local, and Federal resources for support. Few, if any, will have health insurance and will rely on already strained emergency rooms and clinics for even the most basic forms of primary care.

Even if the well-off here benefit from cheaper goods and services, those benefits are outweighed by the costs that are imposed on those Americans, both citizens and legal aliens, already struggling economically, who will fall farther behind.

This is not a Biden versus Trump issue. No other President in history, not Presidents Clinton, Bush, or Obama, has ever placed the interests of those with no right to come to this country ahead of the well-being and security of the American people. As Barbara Jordan, civil rights icon, Congresswoman, and Chairman of President Clinton's Commission on Immigration Reform predicted nearly 30 years ago, that is destroying our national interest in legal immigration, as increasing numbers of Americans want to see cuts in the number of immigrants admitted lawfully every year.

And none of that even touches on the harm to the migrants themselves. More than two-thirds are violently assaulted on the way here, and nearly a third of female migrants are sexually assaulted. The children, who are used by adults and smugglers alike as pawns to ensure quick releases, are all traumatized.

The Biden Administration has made a choice at the southwest border to ignore the laws Congress has written, and the only ones benefiting are the smugglers and the cartels, rapacious and greedy criminals. By any definition, that is a bad choice and a worst deal for the American people and the rule of law.

Thank you again for the invitation, and I look forward to your questions.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Thank you very much. Sheriff Dannels.

**STATEMENT OF MARK DANNELS
SHERIFF
COCHISE COUNTY**

Sheriff DANNELS. Good afternoon, Chairman Grothman, Chairman Biggs, and all the honorable Members of both Subcommittees. On behalf of the citizens of Cochise County and the state of Arizona, a special welcome to Cochise County.

I have served our border communities for 39 years and prior to that as a proud member of our military, serving at Fort Huachuca right here in Cochise County. I have always been a genuine believer in my oath of office to protect my country, and now my county, as a duly elected sheriff for the last 11 years. I am the past president of the Arizona Sheriff's Association, Chair of the National Sheriff's Association Border Security, on the executive board for Western states Sheriffs and Southwest Border. All of my associations share three objectives: public safety, national security, and humanitarian.

In my submitted brief, I have shared with you all the overview of Cochise County and the history of our border. I have personally experienced the good, the bad, and the ugly of being a border county. My office has always addressed border-related crimes, smuggling of both illicit drugs, human, weapons, and cash by our transnational organizations, i.e., the criminal cartels.

I am proud of our relationships with our local, state, and Federal law enforcement partners that serve our communities, but I would be remiss if I did not say thank you to our Customs and Border Patrol officers and agents who have worked tirelessly and honorably to protect this great nation.

To best understand my presentation is to understand where we were over 3 years ago. My county was one of the safest border counties based on the collective governmental efforts, messaging, and yes, enforcement efforts supported by the rule of law. The direct impact to my county and this office, my citizens, and law enforcement addressed mostly got-aways, fight-and-flight in my county versus those giving up.

One hundred percent camouflaged migrants being illegally smuggled by the cartels at a price tag that begins around \$7,000 and up. These smugglers include juveniles being recruited via social media by the criminal cartels. Border-related detention costs over the last 18 months is well over \$6 million, absorbed by my local and state taxpayers.

Border-related crime is an all-time high: death, murder investigations, aggravated acts against my citizens, failure to yields, search and rescue to include recovery, and yes, assaults against law enforcement officials. My deputies and law enforcement officials continue to be placed in life-threatening scenarios as the cartels show no regard for my citizens and those who wear a badge.

Agents, troopers, deputies, and others are addressing dangerous scenarios and criminals as a direct result of an open border, exploited by these criminal cartels for violence, fear, and greed.

In calendar year 2022, we had 1,578 suspects booked into my jail for border-related crimes. Out of the 1,578, 78 were foreign born, and we had over 600 victims of felony crimes. In calendar year 2023, in just a little over 5 months, we had 683 suspects booked

in my jail for border-related crimes; 53 were foreign born. This included 121 failure-to-yield pursuits and 180 smuggler drivers.

Fentanyl continues to poison and kill Americans at an alarming rate, leaving families and communities devastated. Arizona efforts by law enforcement are remarkable, but the war on drugs must be a priority topic and not deserted by political rhetoric. Arizona fentanyl pill seizures account for an estimated 51 percent of all fentanyl seized in the country here in Arizona. Last year, 2022, Arizona seized over 60 million fentanyl pills.

In closing, my fellow sheriffs 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 with reference to community impacts and concerns with little to no success. Thank you for being here for that.

By allowing our border security mission and immigration laws to be discretionary, these criminal cartels continue to be the true winners. Their exploitation of mankind is simply “modern-day 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 290 every day. It is completely unacceptable at any level. Experiencing migrant deaths without a reasonable process while Members of our U.S. Congress and this Administration intentionally avoids reality is gross negligence.

Our voice of reason has been buried during what I call an “intellectual avoidance” by this Administration, and yes, Members of U.S. Congress. Communities have been neglected and abandoned, relying on their own local and state resources to address a border that is in a crisis mode.

Our southern border, against all public comfort statements out of Washington, D.C., is in the worst shape I have ever seen it. When one looks at public safety, national security, and humanitarian, our southern border is the largest crime scene in the country.

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

With the recent cancellation of Title 42, this only serves to complex a border that needs immediate immigration reform by U.S. Congress, but most important, needs to be secured.

I am a true believer that Customs and Border Patrol are the experts of border security, while sheriffs and police chiefs are the experts of community. Together, this is a recipe of success for all our communities.

I will leave you with this final statement. We all serve the priorities of Americans based on our shared oath of offices to keep them safe, enhance their quality of life, and support the rule of law, absent political affiliation and the concern of reelection. I ask each one of you to reflect on this statement as you make your next decision to vote.

Once again, I thank you and this Committee for the invite and opportunity, and now stand ready to answer any questions by Members. Thank you.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Thank you, Sheriff. Mr. Ladd.

**STATEMENT OF JOHN W. LADD
RANCHER**

Mr. LADD. Thank you, gentlemen, for having me. I am a fourth-generation cattle rancher. My family has been on the same location for over 100 years.

I got involved in the border over trespassed cattle from Mexico, and it has evolved into being against illegal immigration. But the benefit of my involvement, as well as Dr. Gary Thrasher, who is a vet here, Sonora has got a better and cleaner bill of health on their cattle than we do in Arizona. So, that has been a plus for cattle.

And without any sarcasm or anything else, I have the Donald Trump wall. I have got Obama's wall. And when they open the flood gates every summer to allow the flood water to come through, it has defeated the purpose of trespassed cattle as well as people, and that is the irony of the whole border. Every time we have had something good coming from CBP, somebody in anybody's administration shuts it down. It looks to me like it is a deliberate process.

Border Patrol has caught a half a million people, at least, on our ranch in the last 30 years. I have got camera towers. I have got 18-foot wall, 30-foot wall, radar, and now we do not have the manpower. So, there is always some little hitch that will not let the border be controlled.

The only thing that has worked for me is Sheriff Dannels and Cochise County Sheriff Department with its SABRE team program. He started out with five deputies and a handful of cameras. He had the will to implement it. He had the intel, the apprehension, and the county attorney prosecuted it. We have not had drugs on our ranch for almost 6 years because of the sheriff. That sums it up. He had the will, he had the people that would do it, but he did it for a fraction of the cost.

So, I appreciate you being here, and I am not giving up, but I spend 50 percent of my time fixing fences, broken water lines, and getting cattle off the highway. ADOT does a fairly good job trying to fix fences on the highway, but none of the other agencies ever look at the damages caused to Cochise County by illegal immigration.

Border Patrol, at this point, we have about a third of the agents that we normally have patrolling. My hat is off to them, but they are getting worn out, and none of them are going to go past a 20-year career. They are done. And that is the sad part of America is the Border Patrol is our front line to defend our borders, and it is not happening, and it is a lie coming out of Washington.

I do not see anything happening until the next administration. During Trump's Administration, we probably had 10 illegals a week on our ranch. Before Biden even took office, with his promise to give amnesty to 11 million people, they started coming. They are not bashful about what they are doing. I do not have any control over it. I do not stop them or do not try and do anything, other than call the sheriff or Border Patrol. But they own the whole country on the border, and you can get anybody and anything across that border whenever you want to do it. And that has been going on for 20 years.

We live it. I have got grandkids living it. We are used to it. That is the sad part about it. We are not scared but we are used to it. And do not come around our house unless we know who you are. But what are we going to do?

I do not think the border will ever be the same. No matter how good it gets from this point forward, the border is never going to be the same. And that is my problem. They come through me every day, and they go live with you. You want to go through that, with having people that do not speak English next to you, your school systems are ruined, your hospital systems are ruined, and your welfare is ruined.

America is nowhere near what it was when I grew up. Thank you.

Mr. GROTHMAN. OK. Thank you very much.

I am going to start with Mr. Arthur. You testified that the Biden Administration's claim that the southwest border is safe, orderly, and humane, the way they describe it, is not accurate. Can you give us some examples of why you feel that way, why you would not describe it as safe, orderly, and humane?

Mr. ARTHUR. Mr. Chairman, with respect to safety, we have seen the number of migrant deaths spike. A couple of years ago, actually, I think in 2022, we had 835 bodies found along the southwest border. Anybody who goes—

Mr. GROTHMAN. Say that again because I want a lot of people to know that, including the press. How many people die just trying to come here?

Mr. ARTHUR. So, we know that we have found 835 bodies.

Mr. GROTHMAN. On our side of the border.

Mr. ARTHUR. On our side of the border. We will never know how many people have died on the Mexican side of the border. There are U.N. estimates about things like that. But anybody who has ever gone into the wilds of the Sonoran Desert or into south Texas knows that it is not uncommon for individuals to find corpses years after the fact in the brush. People just simply get lost, they fall into distress, and they die.

With respect to orderly, we have seen a diminishment for a couple of months after the Biden Administration implemented some of its new ideas, but that has spiked up. Preliminary reports indicate that 130,000 enter the United States illegally. Anybody who goes to the southwest border and looks at the crossers knows there is nothing orderly about it, and there is nothing legal about it.

It is sort of odd that this passes without notice. Many people will say, "Oh, people who come through the ports are doing it the right way." It is not. We changed the law. You, rather, changed the law back in 1996, to change the law so that individuals who come illegally through the ports and individuals who cross the border illegally are treated exactly the same in the law. There is nothing legal about this.

And respectfully, sir, as a former congressional staffer and as a lawyer, it is offensive to me to hear people talk about the law and misstate the law in that manner.

Mr. GROTHMAN. OK. Next question. Did you say before a third of the women who make the trek here wind up being molested?

Mr. ARTHUR. Doctors Without Borders did a report back in 2017, I think it was, in which they indicated, I think, the actual percentage was 31 percent. I said nearly a third of all of them. A significant number of men are sexually molested on the way to the United States, and a not insignificant percentage are actually shot on their way to the United States.

Mr. GROTHMAN. OK. Now sometimes this jargon, people here in the audience might not know what you mean. You have a graph in your testimony talking about the number of got-aways who came here. I want you to explain briefly the difference between what a got-away is and somebody who turns themselves in at the border, and then confirm if what this says is accurate. It looks like, until the Biden Administration took over, the number of got-aways, that is to say people who the Border Patrol did not touch and just came in here, it looks like it was around 120,000. And now in the most recent year in which you have full data it is over 600,000. So, we have gone up by a factor of 5-to-1 on the type of people we are not even touching.

Is that accurate? Am I reading that right?

Mr. ARTHUR. You are reading that correctly, and the definition of "got-away" actually appears in the National Defense Authorization Act of 2017. It is now codified in 6 USC 223, for individuals that CBP knows have entered the United States illegally but not been apprehended. More than a half million in the last 2 years, almost 600,000 in Fiscal Year 2022.

Mr. GROTHMAN. OK. Sheriff Dannels, you said something that kind of struck me. You have jails, obviously. Sheriffs always have to run the local jail. Does this flow of people coming across the southern border, does this affect the amount of money you have to spend on jail?

Sheriff DANNELS. Oh, it does. If you look at just in the first 5 months of this calendar year, 683 people were booked in my jail for border-related offenses. Of that 683, 621 were felony. Cochise County Attorney's Office has six felony attorneys, to include the County Attorney himself. That have got a record number of prosecutions going on. I commend our county attorney. But that enhances our jail time, it enhances prosecution time, and investigation time. So, it is a big burden on us.

Mr. GROTHMAN. And I want to ask you, that many felons. You know, one of the things we hear when I get around my district, sometimes people say, "Oh, these are all such wonderful people. They would never break the law," blah-blah-blah. Do you find that true that they would never break the law?

Sheriff DANNELS. Well, let me summarize by saying this, Mr. Chairman, is what we see in Cochise County as part of the Tucson Sector is fight-and-flight. For the most part, we lead the Nation in the Tucson Sector for got-aways. These are people that are aggravated deportees, whether based on criminal records of some sort or countries of interest that are being smuggled by the criminal cartels through our county, which places my law enforcement and my citizens at risk. That is why we prioritized our efforts to secure the border, along with our Border Patrol partners, and keep our community safe.

Mr. GROTHMAN. OK. Just one other question before I let you go. One of the things I always wonder about is, given the severity of the crimes you are describing now, have things changed over the last 5 years? Can you tell me how you view the world today, compared to if we had this hearing 5 years ago?

Sheriff DANNELS. Well, 4 years ago I was bragging during presentations around the country, to include my own state and my own community, that we had collectively made Cochise County one of the safest places on the southwest border. The cartels did not want to play in our backyard because we are ready for them, collectively. I cannot say that honestly to my citizens today or those when I present.

We have seen what I call the new normal of border, and that is the fact that crime is rampant as a result of border crime, all the way up to murder, and we have lost citizens in this county, and we have lost people in this county that have died at the hands of cartels who do not care. I do care.

Mr. GROTHMAN. OK. Now, see, understand how this normally works. Normally each Congressman up here gets 5 minutes of questioning, and I am going to call on Congressman Biggs in a second. But since I see we have no Democrats here, we are going to give everybody two chances to ask 5 minutes of questions.

OK, Congressman Biggs.

Mr. BIGGS. Thank you very much. Let us start with Mr. Arthur. Just real quickly, the number of nations represented in the cohort of people illegally entering the country this year.

Mr. ARTHUR. Pretty much every nation on the face of the Earth. You will hear numbers running from 150 to 186 different nationalities. We have gotten people from Nepal to Nigeria to Nicaragua, including Guadeloupe, which technically is the Department of France, as much of France as Paris is. So, yes, the door is wide open to anybody in the world to come here.

Mr. BIGGS. And Sheriff Dannels, let us talk real quickly. What is the actual dollar amount you have had to incur to incarcerate criminal illegal aliens?

Sheriff DANNELS. We have a captain for the Sheriff's Office that addresses all our grant and special programs to include this billing and oversight. He told me just this week that we just put a bill in, over the last 18 months, it was over \$6 million for border-related incarceration costs. And thanks to the state of Arizona, people like Representative Griffin and others that have supposed us down here. Otherwise, we would be in trouble.

Mr. BIGGS. You have a number of high-speed chases that you have encountered in Sierra Vista. I believe the range is two to ten on a daily basis, on average. Is that right?

Sheriff DANNELS. Yes. We had just the ones we got our hands on that we did not disengage for community risk or for other reasons, we had 121 people booked in our jail just for failure to yield/pursuits in 5 months.

Mr. BIGGS. In 5 months, 121 in 5 months. So, some of these have resulted in severe fatality crashes or severe injury crashes. So, not only do you have the incarceration costs, you have the enforcement costs. This community is enduring medical costs, and the mayor indicated to me earlier today that on occasion the hospital has actu-

ally been unable to take new admittances because of dealing with the illegal aliens and the health issues that they might have, or accidents caused by them.

Sheriff DANNELS. One of the biggest risks is the lack of respect or order by these criminal cartels. As stated earlier, the majority of people we see from all over the United States via social media come here to pick up, for smuggling purposes, due to the fact that it is very lucrative. It ranges from \$1,500 to \$2,500 per person to drive them from Cochise County to Phoenix, Arizona, or Maricopa County area. You pick up four or five and you can see the numbers adding up very quickly. But the cartels tell these drivers, who a lot of them have criminal backgrounds, to just speed, just go as fast as you can, get out of Cochise County. That places, again, my citizens in harm's way, which has become terrorizing when they see red and blue lights. The message here in Cochise County, if you see them, pull over right away, just for your own safety. It is not a good situation.

Mr. BIGGS. Let us go back to you, Mr. Arthur, for just a second. Yuma Hospital reported to me last year over about an 8-month period they had lost almost \$25 million in uncompensated care due to illegal aliens who had come in and used their emergency department, and also that they were averaging five illegal aliens in the maternity ward on a daily basis.

Can you expand on what that has done to communities across the country, particularly border communities? By the way, I will just add that when I was in Eagle Pass last week, I was told that they, just like here, they have times that their hospital is closed to new admittances from the local community because they are dealing with illegal aliens that are in the hospital. So, tell me what we see nationwide.

Mr. ARTHUR. So, it is important to keep in mind that right now we are seeing what Yale News, I think back in September 2022, called "a crisis in emergency departments." You know, we think of them as emergency rooms. Hospitals deem them emergency departments. And that many of them were reaching peak capacity. One of the things that they mentioned in the article was that when those EDs reach 85 percent capacity, the average wait time is more than 6 hours for people to get through.

Most of the people who come to the United States, as I mentioned in my opener, do not have health insurance, and we know from various sources, including the National Institutes of Health, that unauthorized immigrants in the United States disproportionately use emergency departments for primary care. They just do not really have another option. Under Federal law, EDs have to take everybody that comes in, whether they can pay or not, or whether they have insurance or not.

That is probably going to be the next thing, almost definitely going to be the next thing, that we are going to see in communities across the country. Those EDs are going to become more and more strained. It is going to be harder for people to take sick kids, sick relatives, themselves to EDs and get treated in a timely manner.

Mr. BIGGS. We are going to have to do something in Congress about modifying EMTALA.

Last question, real quick, Mr. Ladd. I just want to know how law enforcement—you touched on this—the local law enforcement has actually kind of stepped into the breach of a vacuum because of the overwhelming nature that CBP has not been able to respond to. What has been the distinction when you have enforcement on your property versus when you do not have enforcement?

Mr. LADD. Well, the Biden Administration has threatened our Sheriff Department that they cannot do anything on the Roosevelt Easement or any of the apprehensions, but state law, with carrying drugs, the sheriff can absolutely apprehend them.

But when the Border Patrol is depending on our Sheriff Department program for their intel, that says it all. And Tim Williams talked earlier this morning about the—I think I have got \$250 million of Homeland Security infrastructure on our ranch, including the wall, and the sheriff has done his program for \$1 or \$2 million, and five deputies. That sums up the whole hypocrisy of what Homeland Security is doing on the border.

Mr. BIGGS. Thank you. My time is well expired. I yield back.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Thank you. Mr. Timmons.

Mr. TIMMONS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First, I want to thank you for holding this hearing. I learned a great deal on my trip to Arizona, and I appreciate the witnesses for coming forward today to testify and help us really understand this challenge and try to find a path forward.

I think the best thing to do is to just kind of go over how we got here. 30 months ago, our border was as secure as it has ever been. Through diplomacy, Mexico agreed to create a National Guard and stationed 28,000 soldiers along their side of our shared border. Migrants that sought asylum waited in Mexico as their applications were processed. Our Federal Government was working hard to finish securing our southern border using both physical barriers as well as technology.

And I think this is the most important part. These policies that were being pursued by the Trump Administration were mostly a continuation of Obama Administration policies. It is not partisan, or at the very least, it should not be.

So, what happened? The Biden Administration, first week, they signed executive orders ending all of this. They stopped construction of the border wall, leaving hundreds of millions of dollars of wasted taxpayer dollars along our border and miles of wall that has not been finished. They immediately ended the Remain In Mexico policy, and they allowed the Mexican National Guard to vacate their post.

And what did that result in? What was the result of their actions? Since January 2021, there have been almost 7 million enforcement actions, and 3.4 million of those have been allowed to stay. So again, during the Biden Administration, 3.4 million people have been allowed to stay in this country. That is more than the population of 20 states in the United States. It is more than the population of 20 states in the United States.

If the influx of illegal immigrants is not enough, just this past year we have seen 160 million fentanyl pills, and 24 percent of those cross the border right here in Cochise County. That trans-

lates to tens of thousands of deaths, if not hundreds of thousands of overdose deaths.

On top of that you have Democrat mayors in some of our largest cities who are experiencing crisis after crisis because tens of thousands of these people that have been entering this country, of the 3.4 million that have been allowed to stay, they do not have the resources. They do not have the infrastructure to deal with all of this stuff.

So, Mr. Arthur, my question to you is why? Why has the Biden Administration done this? It is very clear what has caused this. It is very clear that we have a problem. Why have they done this?

Mr. ARTHUR. Congressman, that is probably the biggest question that I get, and I do not know because they do not say. They pit this as a "Trump did this thing," "Trump was bad," you know, "We are going to be good. We are going to do the opposite."

But, you know, as I mentioned, I served from Presidents beginning with George H. W. Bush. I was a direct advisor, personal advisor to Attorney General Janet Reno. None of them would have done this. The Biden Administration has removed all deterrents to individuals entering the United States illegally. No presidency in history has ever done that.

Mr. TIMMONS. And in many instances, it has actually signaled that they should come, that they need to come, and that is just wild to me.

Sheriff Dannels, when we were touring the border with you and your deputies earlier, they mentioned that the original height of the wall was increased to 30 feet under the Obama Administration. Is that correct?

Sheriff DANNELS. That is correct. Under President Obama, he had actually done a remodel on the existing border and raised it to over 30 feet. Correct.

Mr. TIMMONS. And so, the Trump Administration continued to Obama Administration policies to secure our southern border, and this President, our current President, I do not understand. I think, personally, that he is attempting to exacerbate the problem to facilitate another comprehensive immigration reform. They attempted to do a lot of things in the Obama Administration that I believe were illegal, but they originally said they did not have the legal authority, the constitutional authority to implement certain programs. And then at the end of it he said, "Well, if Congress is not going to do it, we will do it." I think this is a continuation of that effort to try to make this such a crisis that Congress will act.

And I will be honest with you. We need to act. We need to secure our border. We need to secure our population. Hundreds of thousands of people are dying from drug overdoses. Millions and millions of people are entering this country illegally. We have a massive problem. We are trying to grow our economy. Every person that comes to me from my district that has a business says that they have a work force challenge. These people are not going to work in our factories and in our businesses. They are in a shadow economy, and it is not good for them, and it is not good for anybody. And we need to put a stop to this.

I will use my other 5 minutes to add additional questions. Mr. Chairman, I yield back. Thank you.

Mr. GROTHMAN. OK. Mr. Edwards.

Mr. EDWARDS. Thank you, Mr. Chair. To all of our witnesses, thank you. Thank you for being here.

Sheriff, you were mentioning to us in your earlier testimony about got-aways. Can you tell us how do you know how many folks got away? What vehicle do you use to observe or measure got-aways?

Sheriff DANNELS. Congressman, yes. We use two methods here in Cochise County and the state of Arizona. Currently, we have a virtual camera system that runs the whole state of Arizona and parts of New Mexico that is monitored 24/7 through my office. We use our statistical data and compare that with our Border Patrol partners to ensure that we have accurate numbers on got-aways. Got-aways are defined as people that are seen on cameras that are never apprehended.

The other aspect on the CBP side, one of the tools they use is the aerostats, commonly known as a blimp. I was told this year that out of the 13 blimps, they were coming down at the end of this fiscal year, which is next month. There are only four left, from my understanding, one being here in Cochise County. The sophistication of camera equipment on those aerostats is one of the main ways of counting the got-aways.

Now I can surmise and say the fact, when those four come down, what are we going to be using on the Federal side to count got-aways? I predict those numbers will go down drastically. In D.C., I had asked what the replacement of those aerostats would be, and they said they have not developed the technology for that yet.

Mr. EDWARDS. And so, what is your understanding would be the reason in taking those aerostats down?

Sheriff DANNELS. Well, one thing I continue to say and continue to hear, and sadly I have to say it, is the fact that the numbers are an illusion. I call them non-political numbers if they are reported accurately. But No. 2, is it is a shell game. It is a shell game. It is a word game to make the American people feel safe, when we know here at the community level, especially here in Cochise County, that that is a false narrative.

I would also say this. In my travels, as part of national sheriffs, as Border Chair, I deal with all the way up to the Chief of Border Patrol and many others. I have yet to have one tell me that the border is secure, those that wear a badge from the Federal Government.

Mr. EDWARDS. Sheriff, have you met with President Biden and discussed your concerns?

Sheriff DANNELS. We have attempted, on behalf of national sheriffs, western sheriffs, major county sheriffs, and southwest border sheriffs. I was told during a recent summit here in Cochise County and beyond, as sheriffs came together to find reasonable and balanced methods to secure our borders, secure our communities, who we represent, I was told that President Biden is the first President in history that has never met with one of America's sheriffs.

Mr. EDWARDS. And so, to your knowledge, President Biden has not met with any sheriff in America to talk about border security.

Sheriff DANNELS. I just got back from another meeting in Florida with sheriffs, and to the best of my knowledge, he still has not met with any sheriff in America.

Mr. EDWARDS. Has anyone in the Administration given you any encouragement or told you that they were behind the sheriffs and America to partner in dealing with this crisis?

Sheriff DANNELS. To answer that question, Congressman, the answer is no. I will caveat that with this. On the onset, myself and about a dozen selected sheriffs that are very engaged, from urban areas to rural areas to the southwest border to the interior, met with Secretary Mayorkas. I actually personally hand-carried him a 16-point collective plan to secure our border that was put together by sheriffs around the country, to include my Border Committee at a national level. Approximately 3 months later, I had heard nothing. I asked him where that plan was. Had he had a chance to review it, to see if we can have some collective thinking or compromise. He asked me what plan did I give him. So that is the last I have heard on that.

Mr. EDWARDS. What can Congress do to help you and the other sheriffs address this border crisis?

Sheriff DANNELS. I would ask all congressmembers to, first of all, set aside the politics. This is not a political issue. This is a public safety, national security, and humanitarian issue. I have said this, and I will say it again. Once we set the politics aside and look at the community reality of what is going on, we need to prioritize and identify the issue of our border, all our borders. We need to share a message, local, state, and Federal, on what the border means and what we need to do with it, which is to enforce the rule of law based on actionable consequences. We need enhanced judicial oversight on our border, which, if you put that in comparison, if I took all the judges out of Cochise County, when we arrest them and have to see them the next day, the judges see our incarcerating folks, and there is no judge, they are automatically dismissed and released.

That is what is happening on our border, and together we can move forward. But until the politics is removed and people get their head out of the sand, we have got to get that done before we can move forward.

Mr. EDWARDS. Sheriff, do you think that this is a political stunt in what you see today? Do you see this Committee behaving in a political way?

Sheriff DANNELS. I have had the opportunity—obviously Congressmen Biggs and Ciscomani, I have worked with, being our own Congressmen from Arizona. But the other three, I have not met with you until today. I will say this. I applaud you all for coming here because you show the respect toward our community and you made it actionable by being here and listening to us, not just me but others and people in the community with the roundtable, with some folks this morning.

I do not think this is political. People like to use that word because it is cheap, but the reality is I applaud you all for being here and just listening to what we have to say. And the people in the room that are here supporting, I thank them too.

Mr. EDWARDS. All right. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I yield.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Ciscomani.

Mr. CISCOMANI. Thank you, Chairman Grothman, for being here and for the opportunity to waive into the Committee. Thank you also to Chairman Biggs for the joint session here today.

It is my privilege to be able to speak on this hearing, obviously because I work here, I work for you all, and we have been working on this issue now for the 7 months that we have been in office and even before. And I have to tell you that this is not trending in the right direction, and we have seen that through the numbers. That is not just an opinion. It is really what has been happening. So, I do want to thank Sheriff Dannels and Mr. Ladd, as well, and of course Mr. Arthur, for testifying here today and being here with us to give us your expertise and your thoughts on this.

You know, when I look at what is really happening here—and we got the report today, and I do want to give a good shout-out to the local leadership and the SABRE team that is working on this, that has been working on this, and all the people at this hearing that have been dealing with this issue for some time now. And we have seen the comparisons from 2 to 3 years ago, where we were and where we are today, and again, things are not trending in the right direction, and they have not been for a while. But the local leadership here—city, county, state, and we have named many of them here—have done all that they can and all that you can to help with this issue.

Bottom line, this is a Federal issue, and the Federal Government needs to step up to the plate on this, and that is exactly what we are here to do. And we also talked about the bipartisanship on this. When we talk about the city, county, and state priority on this, that crosses party lines. And Sheriff, you just mentioned it. Public safety, national security, and humanitarian. These are the three factors of what we are seeing here today, and this Tucson Sector and Sierra Vista and Cochise County specifically are ground zero for this. The questions that I want to pose here to some of you are specific in that area.

And I will take the opportunity to mention some of the things that we have been working on already. But this has been a priority for us, for you all, because you are living it day in and day out. You live this every single day. I really respect and I am grateful for our colleagues here from other parts of the country coming here and seeing firsthand what is happening, because you really have to see it in order to understand it, in order to believe it, many times, and see what is exactly happening. And that is what we did today. So, I am grateful for that.

Sheriff Dannels, I will start with you. Could you please speak to the tactics that you are seeing that the cartels use now to recruit young people?

Sheriff DANNELS. The biggest tactic, and it is no secret, is social media. Teenagers today spend a lot of time on social media. We know that. It is no secret. And that is why we see children from the ages of 13 to 17, and then we have had them all the way up to 72 years of age, coming from all over the country. And you look at the almost 2,300, as I stated earlier in my opening statement. Only 131 were foreign born or illegally in the country. The rest were all U.S. citizens, coming from Florida, Chicago, two former

law enforcement officers. I had the privilege of addressing one of them. He did not like the consequences, but I addressed it.

The bottom line is this. As long as social media fails to govern that and control that—when you can buy fentanyl off of social media for \$10 a pill and it is delivered at your house, that is a social media drug dealer. There is no other way to put it.

Mr. CISCOMANI. Absolutely. We have terrible bad actors, and cartels and organized crime pushing fentanyl, and they are recruiting with social media. Obviously, I am a co-lead on a bill here that I know that you know about, Combatting Cartels on Social Media Act. This addresses that issue specifically to make sure that these social media companies are communicating with law enforcement to be able to tackle this.

When you talk about the age ranges here, from 12 to 72, I have six kids myself, several in this age range. It is scary for any parent. This is the kind of thing that keeps you up at night, either your child falling to the addiction of these drugs being transferred or being recruited for this kind of activity.

I have got several questions, and I am running out of time here, but one more question here to you, Sheriff, and then they will move on to the next round. Another issue that seems to be plaguing our communities, particularly here in Sierra Vista, is the high-speed chases that you have talked about as well, through our communities. Can you speak to the authorities, you know, what has been happening there and how this endangers our communities, not only on highways but also in residential areas.

Sheriff DANNELS. Well, the vehicle, obviously, when they get hooked up by social media they come to our county, they pick along the highways, out of the brush, they jump in the car, and then 100 miles an hour through. We have spent many, many hours of enhanced interdiction, many hours of policy rewrite, working with legal, to make sure we are doing everything we can to protect our citizens and bring that high-speed pursuit to a close.

And I will say something on that if I could, Congressman, on this, is something that is not being told either. When we see young people, up to a 7-year-old, stuffed in the back of a vehicle, and a driver going 100 miles an hour in the opposite lane of traffic at 9 at night, who is protecting that migrant? I would say the Federal Government is not. We are. We are doing everything we can to safely bring these to a conclusion, so we see no more death in this county, because that is getting old.

Mr. CISCOMANI. Thank you, sir. The Federal Government has clearly been failing at this drastically for years now, and we have the right attention on it now.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Thank you. Mr. Arthur, I remember back in the last campaign, I think President Biden promised to give illegal immigrants all free medical care. Could you comment on that? I mean, I have talked to Border Patrol agents when I have come across here in the past. Are people coming here offered medical care? Is that an expense that the U.S. taxpayer has to deal with?

Mr. ARTHUR. Yes, the answer, Mr. Chairman, as I mentioned before one of the biggest issues that we have, that we will face in years to come from this surge we have seen in migrants, has been

an increase in the number of unauthorized foreign nationals who are accessing the U.S. medical care system. People criticize it all the time but can certainly understand it.

We have the best health care system in the world. I am born and raised in Baltimore, Maryland. Saudi sheiks come to Johns Hopkins to get treatment. And the fact is that people will come to this country, are attracted to this country by the opportunity to get free education and free health care.

Mr. GROTHMAN. I have heard there are people coming here solely for the medical care.

Mr. ARTHUR. It would not surprise me. And, in fact, when I was a young trial attorney, I had a case involving a woman from Ethiopia who would fly to San Francisco on a tourist visa. She would go to the local charity hospital. She would give birth. She was pregnant. She would go down to the State Department office on Mission Street, get a passport for her child, and fly back.

And Chairman Biggs had mentioned the situation in Yuma. Yuma is very unique because it is very easy to access the United States across the Morelos Dam in what we call the Yuma Gap. And so, consequently, women will show up in 38 to 40 weeks of pregnancy. They will come across directly, which is part of the reason why there is such a high number of recently apprehended migrants showing up at the Yuma Hospital.

Mr. GROTHMAN. OK. Sheriff Dannels, I know a lot of times this is perceived to be migrants coming here from Mexico or Central America. Could you tell me where you have found migrants coming from, say in the last year?

Sheriff DANNELS. On the southwest border, I believe there were over 157 countries encroached upon our border last year on the southwest border. That is a lot of countries. We have seen them all the way up to Iraq in our country. In fact, to give you a story, we had two Iraqis walking on the east side of our county, called in. We checked it out. They both said they were lost. Well, they were not the typical what we see people that are lost in the desert. No. They were not dressed for it, they did not look like it, and they did not look tired. But their statement to us was they were legally in the country, but they were lost here, and they were from Iraq.

Mr. GROTHMAN. OK. We sometimes hear, or I have heard, that the migrants are not necessarily poor. Do any one of the three of you want to comment on that?

Mr. ARTHUR. There was a situation that a Senator from Oklahoma had actually observed in Yuma involving a woman who was wearing a very fashionable outfit, and a staffer said, "She is wearing Versace." And he was like, "Who is Versace?" He had no idea. They had to put a weight limit on the amount of baggage that Border Patrol buses would carry from Yuma to the Border Patrol Processing Center because people were bringing entire wardrobes of clothing.

These are outliers, Mr. Chairman, but it is a real situation, and many of the people who are coming to this country are actually doing pretty well where they are. They just want to do better here.

Mr. GROTHMAN. That is what I have heard.

Sheriff Dannels talked about the number of migrants who are dying every year, and at least when I was in the San Diego Sector,

we were told that more people were dying on the Mexican side than the American side, trying to come here. But is there a trend on the number of people dying trying to get here in this country?

Sheriff DANNELS. Mr. Chairman, last year, due to the fact of death on our southwest border, to include the deaths that we are seeing here in Cochise County, the National Sheriffs' Association, we put out a sample photo album of all the migrants, and I believe there were over 1,300 died under this Administration that had died of horrific deaths of exposure on U.S. soil, that we sent to every sheriff in this country to bring awareness that sheriffs, get your head up and let us unite on this. But we are seeing historical numbers. I mean, I just saw a thing the other day where just with the amount of heat we are seeing on the southwest border and the amount of deaths we are seeing on that.

So again, it is inhumane, to say the least.

Mr. GROTHMAN. OK. Mr. Ladd, final question for you. You have obviously had your farm on the border for many, many years. Could you comment on the presence of the Border Patrol today compared to, again, say three or 4 years ago?

Mr. LADD. Oh, yes. It is about 25 percent of what we normally have. The Brian Terry Station is somewhere around 400 agents typically, and probably 200 of them are detailed out and the rest of them are processing people. So, they pull them off the border.

Mr. GROTHMAN. So, you have seen what we have heard, and that is the sea of people coming here means so many of the Border Patrol agents, who are Border Patrol agents because they like guarding the border, are stuck doing paperwork because of this sea of people. Is that what you saw?

Mr. LADD. That is absolutely right.

Mr. GROTHMAN. OK. Thank you very much.

Mr. ARTHUR. Mr. Chairman, before you move on if I could just talk about technical assistance point that you had made, that Sheriff Dannels had made, about the large number of deaths. Deaths are sky high. Another thing that is sky high is Border Patrol searches and rescues. Border Patrol agents are literally saving tens of thousands of people, exponentially higher numbers. I just feel that it is appropriate to bring that up.

They will put their lives in danger in the Sonoran Desert, in the Rio Grande. Floods come up all of a sudden, flash floods 100 miles downriver will send water down. They will jump into that water to save children. Migrants will throw children into the water knowing that agents will go after those children. Smugglers will do that, knowing that they will be able to get back across the river.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Right. The American citizens have done a tremendous job here putting gallons of water out in the middle of the desert, hoping people do not dehydrate.

Congressman BIGGS.

Mr. BIGGS. Thank you. Thanks, Mr. Chairman.

Sheriff Dannels, one of the things that seems consistent to me in your testimony is when we fail to enforce law, we fail to have the deterrence effect, and bad people do bad things. So, in that vacuum, I am wondering if you can talk about how the policies and the failure to enforce the law has created a situation where we see increasing amounts of human trafficking.

Sheriff DANNELS. Well, when you look at the stats under this current Administration compared to where we were in the past, we used to run between 5 and 10 percent when it comes to border crimes. Right now, we are seeing 40 to 44 percent increase in our optics and our operational tempo, so it has caused a huge increase for us.

I will just say this, and I have said this before, and it is going to sound bad, but it comes out the way it is. When these transnational organizations, the criminal cartels have better operational plans, criminal plans at that, and will, than our current Administration, obviously no matter what policy you put in place, this Administration has to prioritize and put will with sustained operational plans with secure policies, a sustained policy that is going to secure our border. Until we do that, in partnership with Congress, we have all got to work together, and I promise you your state governors, your sheriffs around the country, your police chiefs will rally behind you on reasonable consequences and laws.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Arthur, we have touched lightly on parole policy, but in reality, this Administration has changed the actual de facto implication of parole. Previously, the numbers I was given was the high was 24, because parole was meant to be particularized, on a case-by-case individual basis.

What has changing parole to be—quite frankly, this is being litigated, right—so what does it mean when Secretary Mayorkas is talking about parole by categories?

Mr. ARTHUR. Very briefly, parole is a very limited authority that Congress has given to DHS that enables them to allow an inadmissible alien into the United States. It could only be granted on a case-by-case basis for significant public benefit or urgent humanitarian reasons. For decades, those terms were defined. “Significant public benefit” was we had to have a criminal defendant come into trial. “Urgent humanitarian reasons” were emergency medical treatment.

The Biden Administration has used that authority to parole 1.437 million people into the United States. Basically, what they have done is they have taken 24 people a month. In fact, it was actually 7, shortly before Judge Wetherell in *Florida v. United States* put the hammer down on Border Patrol agents releasing people on parole. Border Patrol leadership could see the writing on the wall, and 7 people on the entire southwest border were paroled in the month of February. That is how it should be.

When you are talking about 1.437 million it applies a pseudo-legal gloss to what is an inherently illegal system. Congress actually amended the law in 1996, in order to tighten the restrictions from the ones that I just mentioned, and the Biden Administration is just blowing past those.

Mr. BIGGS. And the result has been a pull factor, an incentive to come. That is really how catch-and-release works now is through categorization of parole.

Mr. ARTHUR. That is correct, and that was one of the points that Judge Wetherell made in his Florida decision was the reason that people are coming is because they are getting in. Categorization of parole is a misnomer. You cannot have a case-by-case categorization. And, in fact, the Biden Administration is using parole almost

in a mirror image, because rather than case-by-case it is an entire group of people, not based on the limited factors, but we only keep out the people who, you know, do not meet our factors. This is nothing what Congress said it should be.

Mr. BIGGS. Let us shift and let us talk about New York, where Mayor Adams is just beside himself because of the 93,000 illegal aliens that have come into his community, vis-&-vis the number that we have seen come through, let us say, Yuma, 1,000 a month—excuse me, 1,000 a day, on many days, and Sierra Vista.

Talk about the impact. So, he has to deal with an impact of 93,000 illegal aliens there. Schools—let us just talk schools, for instance, in New York City.

Mr. ARTHUR. So, based upon reports that have been issued by the New York City Comptroller's Office, I determined that if 35,000 illegal migrants relocated to New York it would impose a cost of \$440 million on the New York City public school system, just that one school district. We know that 93,000 migrants have made their way to New York. Mayor Adams is asking for \$4 billion to basically provide food and shelter and medical services for those individuals. That does not even count the educational part of that.

But yes, I mean, it is probably about \$1.2 billion just in educational costs, but to break down the cost that Mayor Adams is talking about, he wants \$4 billion from the Federal Government to deal with his migrant issue. That works out to \$471.14 per 8.9 million people living in New York. That is 23 \$20 bills, 1 \$10 bill, a dime, and four pennies.

This is a huge amount of money, but these are the costs that are being imposed on places all across the United States. Portland, Maine, I was there a few weeks back, is reeling, trying to deal with the problem. You talk to anybody on the streets. Denver, Colorado. These are not border towns.

I did an interview this morning with News Nation, and the anchor who was interviewing me finished it up with, "Every town is a border town," and that is true.

Mr. BIGGS. So, Mr. Chairman, my time has long expired, but could I please be recognized for unanimous consent?

Mr. GROTHMAN. Sure.

Mr. BIGGS. So, my unanimous consent, I ask that an article dated 2 days ago, entitled, "10,000 Migrants Apprehended in One Week on Arizona Border Sector," be admitted into the record, as well as another piece from 3 days ago, called, "Apprehensions and Rescues Increase in Border Patrol Tucson Sector," as well as—I think I will just stay there for now, and I would ask that they be admitted into the record.

Mr. GROTHMAN. So ordered.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Congressman Timmons.

Mr. TIMMONS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have been working on what I was going to ask for the last 20 minutes, and the fact that he started asking my questions at the end is a good sign. That is a good sign. You know, we keep saying that this should not be a partisan issue, and I just want to expand on the fact that it really is not partisan at all.

And I really want to begin by saying who is the current situation even actually good for? Obviously, Congressman Biggs just talked

about New York. Just yesterday Mayor Adams announced, complained about, the fact that he was going to have to turn Randall Island, which is a kid's soccer field, into a migrant shelter for 2,000 adult migrants. Two weeks ago, D.C. Mayor Bowser announced they spent \$20 million this year on the migrant crisis. Even some of the most progressive members of the D.C. City Council that have been ardently supportive of sanctuary cities, have now said that D.C. is a border town.

I mean, all of these people that have been pushing these pro-illegal immigration policies, these lawless policies at the southern border, they are now coming around to say, "Oh, this does not really work." And it does not just adversely impact border counties and cities, it impacts the whole country. As you said, Mr. Arthur, every town is a border town.

On top of that, I mean, I know eight people that have died from fentanyl overdose that I have met throughout the course of my life, and hundreds of thousands of people are dying from fentanyl overdoses, and they have families, and it is just a huge tragedy of an epic proportion that is extremely preventable. It is extremely preventable.

So, if it is not good for the American people, if it is not good for even the most liberal cities who have been spouting this ultra-progressive nonsense for decades, if they are coming around, I think that it might be past time for the Biden Administration to come around. But before we get to that, who is it good for?

Sheriff Dannels, when we were meeting with your deputies, I think it is great for the cartels. You all threw out the number \$2.6 billion in revenue. What is the time that they had \$2.6 billion in revenue? Is that annual?

Sheriff DANNELS. That is an annual number.

Mr. TIMMONS. That is an annual number.

Sheriff DANNELS. That is what they took home, by the way. That was after all costs.

Mr. TIMMONS. That is net.

Sheriff DANNELS. Yes, that is net.

Mr. TIMMONS. I would love to see the accounting on all this.

So, we literally are allowing the lawlessness at our southern border, which I would argue is simply because the previous administration is just so hated by the current administration. Anything that they did, anything that the Trump Administration did, it had to be undone immediately. And Americans are dying, our cities are overrun, and we do not have the infrastructure to address this. Our economy is suffering because our tax base does not support the institutions, does not support the hospitals, does not support the schools, does not support the roads.

We just really, really, really need to do something about this, and I hope that the Biden Administration is going to start listening, as their mayors in their major cities are sounding the alarm. Obviously, Sheriff Dannels, you have been sounding the alarm for years. I spoke with my law enforcement, my solicitor, my sheriff this afternoon. This is a huge problem. We are fighting it the best that we can. But we need to secure the southern border. We need to finish the wall. We need to add technology. We need to reinstate Remain In Mexico. We need to get the Mexican government to re-

deploy the 28,000 Guardsmen to secure their side of the border, and we need to secure our side of the border, and we need to fix immigration policy going forward.

It does not work, and people all over the world want to come to the United States and pursue the American dream, and they are denied that opportunity because all of the resources are being sucked to the illegal part of the equation, and the legal side does not have the resources to address the need. And by the way, our entire economy is suffering because of it. We have millions of jobs that need people that want to come here and work hard and pursue the American dream, raise their families, and they are denied that opportunity because this Administration refuses to secure our southern border and refuses to enforce the rule of law.

And that is the message I send to the White House. That is the message I send to the President. It is past time that we make changes, and I will do whatever I can in Congress to help fix this problem.

And with that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Thank you. Mr. Edwards.

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Arthur, just very quickly, could you remind all of us, what is the original purpose of asylum?

Mr. ARTHUR. The original purpose of asylum is to ensure that individuals who have been persecuted on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or political opinion are not returned to that persecution.

Mr. EDWARDS. And so, is it your observation that that purpose is being used as it is intended today or is it in some way being abused?

Mr. ARTHUR. Absolutely not. It is not being used in the manner that it should be. And very briefly, when you read interviews in the newspapers, you hear them on the press, people are coming here because they are fleeing poverty. They are fleeing crime. They are looking for a better life. And I can understand that, and I can understand the instinct for doing that.

None of those things are a basis for asylum. Right now, the Biden Administration has admitted so many people into the United States that there are 1.4 million-plus individuals currently applying for asylum in this country. Representative Biggs, Mr. Chairman Biggs had talked about 84 months for people to be put into proceedings. It is actually much worse than that.

Some of those people are not even going to start the asylum process until 2032, at the New York office. They are not even going to get into proceedings to begin the 4-plus-year process to apply for asylum, and that is bad in a couple of ways, Mr. Edwards. One, people who come here and make bogus claims are taking advantage of the humanitarian instincts of the American people and making it less likely that future people who truly need asylum are going to get it.

Two, the more quickly that we can get asylum for an individual who truly deserves it, the more quickly that person is, one, going to be able to get their life in order here, but two, and more importantly, bring relatives back home who probably are either persecuted because of very similar claims or because of their relationship with the primary asylum applicant to this country.

We want to give people asylum as quickly as possible who deserve asylum, but right now there are so many people filing bogus, weak, or nonexistent claims, it is gumming up the system. It is denying justice all around.

Mr. EDWARDS. And so, I think I hear you saying that there is a distinct difference between folks that are coming here for a better way of life and those folks that really are fearful of persecution for the reasons that you mentioned.

Mr. ARTHUR. Absolutely, and it is ruining the asylum system, sir.

Mr. EDWARDS. All right. Thank you.

Sheriff, have you seen an increase in unaccompanied minors coming across the border?

Sheriff DANNELS. We do not see that here in Cochise County. What we see, probably 89 percent of what we see, Congressman, is single male adults, ages 20 to 30 years of age, very healthy, camouflaged from booties to headgear. We see very, very few children and females coming through Cochise County.

Mr. EDWARDS. But you do see children in America working to help cartels smuggle immigrants across the border. Can you tell us a little bit about that?

Sheriff DANNELS. I believe last year—and again, top of my head here, and I do not have this right in front of me—last year, just in Cochise County, we had over, I believe it was 89 to 100 juvenile drivers smuggling for the cartels, that we took into custody and got our hands on.

Mr. EDWARDS. And how much do they earn, to smuggle a body across the border?

Sheriff DANNELS. Unfortunately, that is another illusion. They advertise \$2,500, safe routes through Cochise County, easy money that is lucrative to these young kids, these vulnerable minds. And when they finally get to their destinations it is always different—let us put it that way—what they actually get paid. But for this young people, it is a lot of money.

Mr. EDWARDS. So, who is advertising to these young people that they can make \$2,500?

Sheriff DANNELS. The cartels, the criminal cartels.

Mr. EDWARDS. And what method are they using to advertise?

Sheriff DANNELS. Social media and all apps. Pretty much any social media app, the popular ones, they are all over there.

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Ladd, why is your property a primary crossing point for illegal activity?

Mr. LADD. Well, No. 1, there is a good infrastructure system in Mexico. We have a port of entry at the Naco, Arizona/Naco, Sonora, and it is pretty easy terrain. Originally, Border Patrol, I believe, deliberately put them into Cochise County thinking that they would not climb over the Huachuca Mountains or the Peloncillo Mountains to the east. The terrain is too rough. And then Highway 92 is 3 miles from the border, so you have got a 3-mile walk, you get loaded up, and you are gone.

Mr. EDWARDS. Thank you. Thank you for sharing your story. Thank you for being a part of this solution.

Mr. LADD. If I could add to who benefits from this, look at the NGOs that are getting subsidized for taking care of the illegals.

They are making millions of dollars on a service that I think is corrupted, in my opinion.

Mr. EDWARDS. Thank you. Mr. Chair, I yield back.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Thank you. Mr. Ciscomani.

Mr. CISCOMANI. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You know, I ended the last round by saying that the Federal Government is failing, and I really stand by that. That means that they are failing everyone. I mean, they are failing all of you here by not doing what needs to be done to protect. They are also failing our agents, though. They are failing our Border Patrol agents and those that are on the front line, fighting hard, and those in law enforcement as well. And I would even venture to say that they are failing those that are seeking an opportunity of a better life in this country. They are absolutely failing everyone. There is no win on this one for really anyone.

And talking about our agents here, one of the main efforts, I came here shortly after starting my first term just a few months ago, and one of the first things I did was meet with our Border Patrol agents and law enforcement. We had a combined meeting. And one of the things that I heard, was the need to do something about making it a Federal crime for evading law enforcement when they are fleeing. We talk about these high-speed chases. We need to tackle the root issue which is, again, the social media aspect, but also increasing penalties on those that are fleeing law enforcement, because right now it is not. And I think many of the people in the room were shocked, including myself, that it is not even a Federal crime to do so. So, that is one of the things that we have taken immediate action on.

Mr. Ladd, talking about penalties to those that are breaking the law here, we talked about those transporting people, but also on the spotter side. I visited your ranch. I have been there several times, and you have taken me around and shown me several aspects of it. I got to see the wall stacked up there, that was there for a long time without being used.

One of the other things you showed me was the activity that you can see on the other side and the activity by these spotters. Because I also have a bill here that will increase penalties for those people that are enabling and participating in the spotting system. Can you talk a little bit about the spotters, please?

Mr. LADD. Well, it is widespread on the whole border. They have got good optics, they are dedicated that they will be at their outpost for 2 weeks at a time, and they have got really good cell service, so they are in communication with the rest of the smuggling crew. And when they do not see law enforcement or Border Patrol, they go for it.

You know, they are on my ranch, they are in the mountains above us, they are out where we were this morning, and nobody can touch them. And even the Mexican Army will not touch them. But they know exactly what is going on. They know how many people are on the border. They know how many people they have got crossing at any given time. They stage it.

An example on our ranch is the first shift of Border Patrol in the morning, they are going to catch three groups. They are going to be tied up an hour and a half, and while they are processing that

group waiting for transport there is going to be five groups that go right past them.

Mr. CISCOMANI. Exactly. We have seen that, and that is exactly what they are reporting as well.

I am going to try to fit in two more points. Mr. Arthur, real quick here, you talked about the impact on the legal system here, on the legal part of becoming a resident and eventually a citizen. I know that system well. I was born in Mexico, and I actually became a United States citizen in 2006. And then I became a U.S. Congressman in 2022, 16 years later. This is the best country in the world. This country is a welcoming country. It is a country of laws as well, of being gracious, and being welcoming of so many people around the world.

I can tell you, firsthand, how many holes and things we need to fix on the legal side of becoming a United States citizen, given that my family and I got here years and years before. I got here as a young child, and it took us that long to be able to finally become U.S. citizens. Now I know that firsthand because I went through it. I started as a child and because a citizen when I was an adult.

So, on this impact that the illegal activity now is having on the legal side of people that have been on the waiting list and in line, basically, for so long, can you talk just briefly on that? And I want to get one more point in, if you may.

Mr. ARTHUR. Absolutely. One, the Gallup organization does polling on impressions of immigrants in the United States. That polling has taken a very dire turn, and a plurality of Americans now want to see less legal immigration in the United States, which is bad. We want to continue to bring in the vibrancy to this country.

But there are a couple of other aspects of that, very briefly, Mr. Ciscomani. One is, we have so many asylum claims that are pending before the immigration court, before USCIS. A large number of people who want to bring their family to the United States, who want to come to the United States legally, their applications are stuck in that backlog. They are truly suffering.

At the ports, we have legitimate travelers who want to cross the border into the United States. Right now, CBP One, we have heard talked about—1,450 interviews per day, and you could show up any time during a 23-hour period. You can imagine what effect that is going to have on the ports on the other side and on the ability to stop the fentanyl that Mr. Timmons had talked about before. If you are pulling those agents off to talk to somebody who does not have any right to be here, you are going to slow up that system.

Mr. CISCOMANI. Thank you. I am out of time, but the last point I want to make is several of you mentioned, and I think it is important food for thought here for my colleagues and also for everyone here, everyone here brought up the point of Mexico and their role in all this and how when they were cooperating just a few years ago things were a lot better. And the diplomacy needed here and also them being our No. 1 trading partner, living on the border like all of us do here is an asset, not a liability, and it should not be seen as a liability, but has become one in a lot of ways due to this lack of enforcement.

So, we need to continue to work, and Mexico needs to work with us as well, in order to live up to their end of the securing the border piece as well.

And with that, Mr. Chair, once again, thank you so much for bringing the attention to the border and for bringing both Subcommittees here to CD 6 in Arizona. Thank you so much. Thanks to the witnesses as well.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Thank you very much. Mr. Biggs.

Mr. BIGGS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is a closing statement. When I chair my Committee in Congress in a solo fashion, I do not allow closing statements, but Chairman Grothman is one nice fellow, and I was surprised that he was going to give me a closing statement, so I have a few things that I want to say.

Somebody said, "What can we do?" I want to address that. I want to talk about what Congress can do when you have a slight Majority in the House, the other side has a different Majority in the Senate, and the White House seems to disagree with us on what to do with this issue.

The first thing is the Constitution, the founders gave us the origination of the spending. That is what they gave to us as the first check. If people really believe this is the existential crisis that I think it is, and then you look at our spending, which is absolutely nutty, crazy, then it is time to very laser-like focus on where you want the money spent, get rid of the crappy programs, and focus on where you want that money spent, and if they do not spend it to enforce the law, they lose that funding. They should not be allowed to have that funding. And then, at the same time, you make sure that ICE and that the Border Patrol and others enforcing border law have the revenue they need, the sources they need. And that is step one.

The second thing is you have hearings and transparency like this. Why is that? It is because everybody in this room, I think, at least has some recognition of the urgency of reaching a solution on this problem, but there are many in this country that do not. We had a hearing in Judiciary 2 weeks ago. Everybody from the Northeast said, "Hey, there is no problem on the border," even Mr. Nadler, who is from New York, for mercy's sake, where even Eric Adams is now frantic. You have to continue to elevate that.

The third thing is we have something called the Holman rule that allows us to go in and reorganize various aspects of departments and agencies that are failing to do their duty. That needs to be done at the highest levels of the Department of Homeland Security. And that also goes hand-in-glove with another tool that the framers gave us, to hold accountable elected or appointed officials within the executive branch. When you have officials in the executive branch that are public officials, who have violated the public trust, and we cannot wait until the next election to remove them from office and have them replaced, then we need to act. That is called impeachment. That is what needs to happen here, in my opinion, of Secretary Mayorkas.

Additionally, specifically, let me give you an example on the funding. We must stop funding the non-government organizations that are actually facilitating—studies and reports have demonstrated that there are nine particular NGOs that are helping to

fuel this border crisis. They are getting people to come across. They are facilitating human trafficking.

I think you have to use every tool available. If you want to solve the problem, that is what you are going to have to do. You have to provide support for local law enforcement. Look what has happened here—and I will give you another example. So, Sheriff Dannels and the Cochise County has done a great job of trying to help out.

I will give you another example. In Texas, if you go down to the Texas border, Eagle Pass. What has happened there? It is not CBP because the leaders of CBP are not helping enforce Eagle Pass. It is Texas Department of Public Safety that is trying to secure that.

And so, the Supreme Court has held that when the Federal Government vacates the field, local jurisdictions can step in. Article IV, Section 4 makes it clear, in my opinion, that we have failed because it is our responsibility to make sure that no invasion takes place in any state. That is what Article IV, Section 4 requires of the Federal Government. We have failed. Just the sheer numbers. There has never been that kind of incursion in any nation in the history of the world. In the world. It just has never happened.

So, Mr. Grothman, the Chairman, is probably tired of hearing from me. It is his fault. He gave me a closing statement. But I decided to just take advantage of it and just rant for a little bit. He did not even tell me how much time I had.

So those are things I think we can do. We have to do them. We have to take action. These folks here that showed up for the hearing today, I am grateful for them. But I call on my other colleagues. Help us out. I yield.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Thank you. I will agree with Mr. Biggs that this is the most important crisis facing America. Today, we heard testimony on a variety of facets of that crisis, the sheer volume of unvetted people coming from all around the world, the drugs coming across the border, over 100,000 people dying every year, the medical costs to America and the school costs to America, the humanitarian costs of people dying in the Rio Grande or dying in the desert or dying in the Pacific Ocean, and the corrupting of our minors as they get dragged into transporting these people.

But in any event, I do feel this hearing has highlighted the need for continued oversight of the Biden Administration's policy. The Department of Homeland Security and their law enforcement partners have a huge issue to secure our borders. Our hardworking officers and agents and their partners in local communities cannot adequately defend the border and protect American communities if there is no desire and leadership in Washington.

And let us face it. They do not like to say it. They do not care. They absolutely do not care how many people cross the border and how overworked the Border Patrol is. They do not care.

Female Voice. What do they care about?

Mr. GROTHMAN. Well, they care about changing America.

But it is my hope that being here in the Tucson Sector and hearing from witnesses will shed light on President Biden's failed policies. I would like to thank Chairman Biggs for doing all this to set this up as well as for his opening, and even closing statement. And

other Members who joined us today, I would like to thank you for coming from all over the country.

With that, and without objection, all Members will have 5 legislative days within which to submit materials and to submit additional written questions for the witnesses, which will be forwarded to the witnesses for their response.

If there is no further business, without objection—oh, and by the way, I would like to thank the staff for coming halfway across the country and keeping us in line. If there is no further business, without objection the joint Committee hearing stands adjourned. Thank you.

[Whereupon, at 3:47 p.m., the Committee was adjourned.]

