

Written Testimony  
of  
Dr. Kelly Brown  
Before the U.S. House of Representatives  
Subcommittee on Counterterrorism, Law Enforcement, and Intelligence  
and  
Subcommittee on Border Security and Enforcement

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Chairmen Higgins and Pfluger, Ranking Members Correa and Magaziner, and distinguished Members of the Subcommittees, thank you for the opportunity to testify today about homeland security consequences of illegal immigration. I am Dr. Kelly Brown, a 26-year U.S. Army combat veteran, Blackhawk helicopter pilot, strategist, and former military advisor to both the Secretary of the Homeland Security and the Commissioner of Customs and Border Protection (CBP).

In January 2015, I was assigned to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) as the Senior National Guard Advisor. I provided expert military advice on homeland security issues; served as a member of the DHS/Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) core Department of Defense (DoD) liaison element; and engaged with FEMA and other Federal departments and agencies at the National Response Command Center during crises and incidents.

When President Trump directed that “the Secretary of Defense shall support the DHS in securing the southern border and taking necessary actions to stop the flow of deadly drugs and other contraband, gang members, other criminals, and illegal aliens into” the United States, my role within DHS drastically changed from that of a routine military advisor to that of a border crisis specialist. It was immediately apparent that CBP needed assistance translating law enforcement support requirements into military capability requests.

From April 2018 to January 2021, I was dual hatted as a Military Advisor to the Secretary of Homeland Security and the first Military Advisor to the Commissioner of CBP. I served as the national expert for translating law enforcement requirements into military capabilities and processed 25 DHS Requests for Assistance to DoD totaling more than \$1.5 billion in assistance. Additionally, I personally trained over 2,000 Soldiers for specialized Southwest border support operations while advising the Border Patrol, Office of Field Operations, and Air and Marine Operations on the legal use of military personnel.

### **Border Security System**

The border security system implemented from April 2018 to January 2021 consisted of agents, detection technologies, physical barriers such as the wall, state government cooperation, military support, and federal policies working in synchronized harmony to support federal law, discourage illegal immigration, and expeditiously remove illegal aliens. Border Agents were focused on securing the border and preventing illegal entry.

In January 2021, that border security system was intentionally dismantled leaving a disjointed response system. Construction of physical barriers such as the wall were halted, military support was significantly reduced, federal policies of the previous Administration were revoked, and pull factors were increased. Border Agent focus was intentionally shifted from securing the border and preventing illegal entry to processing illegal aliens as quickly as possible. Taking agents off the line resulted in the number of apprehended illegal aliens entering the United States between ports to surge from 400,000 in 2020 to 1.6 million in 2021 and over 2 million in both 2022 and 2023. Since 2021, 9.5 million known (apprehended and Gotaway) illegal aliens - more to the entire population of Israel (9.3 million) and just under that of Hungary (9.6 million) – have illegally entered the United States.

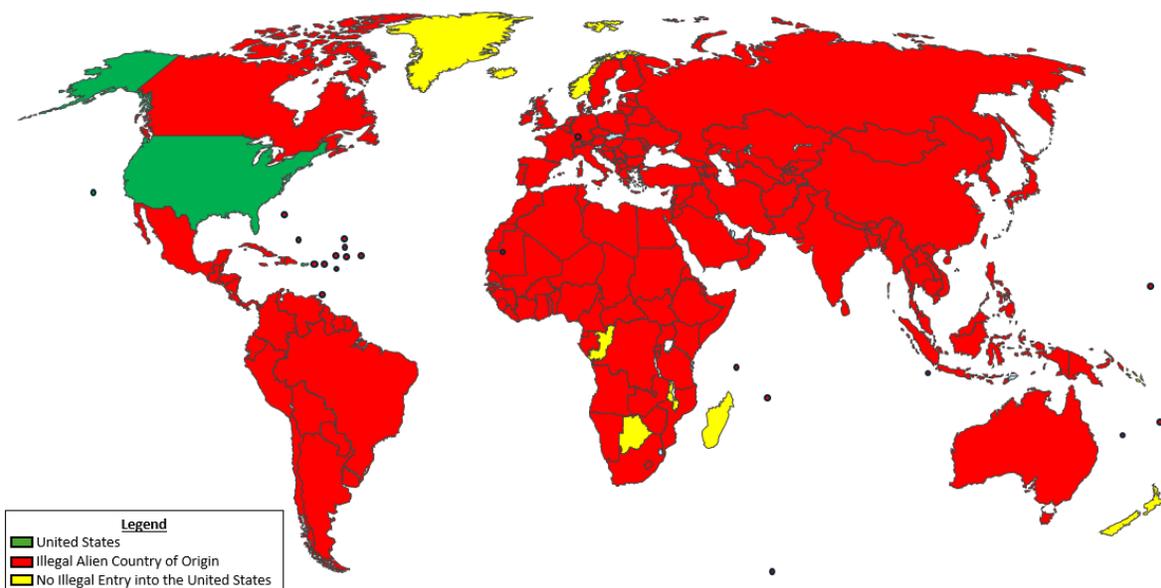
### **Breadth of the Problem**

The extent of illegal immigration is not limited to a handful of nations, the Southwest border, or a particular race or religion.

Not including the United States, there are 194 countries in the world.

In FY20, illegal aliens from 141 different countries and their territories – representing 76% of the world’s nations – illegally entered the United States.

### **Illegal Alien Countries of Origin FY2024**



Since the beginning of FY24, illegal aliens from the following 172 different nations and their territories – representing 88% of the world’s nations – have illegally entered the United States:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Anguilla (territory of the United Kingdom), Antigua-Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Aruba (territory of the Netherlands), Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bonaire (special municipality of the Netherlands), Bosnia-Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma (Myanmar), Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Cocos Islands (territory of Australia), Columbia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, French Guiana (territory of France), French Southern and Antarctic (territory of France), Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Gibraltar (territory of the United Kingdom), Greece, Grenada, Guadeloupe (territory of France), Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kosovo (disputed territory), Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Lithuania, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, North Korea, North Macedonia, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Rwanda, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Korea, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, St. Kitts-Nevis, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Taiwan (China), Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Turks and Caicos Islands (territory of the United Kingdom), Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Vietnam, Western Sahara (non-self-governing territory), Yemen, Zambia, and Zimbabwe

So far, this fiscal year, the top five nations from which illegal aliens have entered the United States are Guatemala (193,000), Venezuela (134,000), Ecuador (115,000), Honduras (109,000), and Columbia (110,000) totaling 661,000 people or that of the entire population of the City of Los Vegas.

As the Committee knows well, the State Department has designated Cuba, Iran, North Korea, and Syria as state sponsors of terrorism. With two weeks remaining in this fiscal year, over 14,500 known illegal aliens, equivalent to the entire population of Anguilla, have entered the United States from these countries alone.

While we most often discuss the vast number of illegal aliens entering the United States via the Southwest border, it is important to not lose focus on the Northern border. In FY20, illegal alien apprehensions on the Northern border totaled 2,200. So far, this fiscal year, illegal alien apprehensions on the Northern border total nearly 23,000 – that’s an 800% increase. These aren’t just Canadians heading south to escape the cold weather. These illegal aliens come from countries such as India, Romania, Russia, and China, to name a

few. The influx of illegal aliens is so significant, Agents are unprecedentedly being surged to Northern border.

### **Bad Actor Opportunities**

Although Border Patrol Agents conduct initial vetting of illegal aliens during initial processing, that vetting pales in comparison to the in-depth vetting conducted during the legal immigration process. Additionally, Border Patrol Agent vetting is limited to the criminal and watchlist data bases available to U.S. federal law enforcement. While those data bases are extensive, they are not all inclusive, which allows some bad actors to slip into the country before the full extent of their criminal histories is uncovered.

Because the U.S. does not have access to criminal and terrorist watchlist databases from nations such as China, Senegal, and Pakistan for example, Border Patrol Agents are not able to conclusively determine the potential threat the 37,000 illegal aliens from China, 13,800 illegal aliens from Senegal, and 1,000 illegal aliens from Pakistan who have illegally entered the United States this fiscal year present to the American people.

Of more concern is the upwards of 2 million “Gotaways” and unknown number of Undetected Aliens that have entered the United States since 2021. With the skyrocketing number of known terrorists apprehended at the border, it is reasonable to assume the number of bad actors entering the United States undetected has also skyrocketed.

### **Conclusion**

The open flow of illegal aliens across all our nation’s borders has significant and potentially devastating second and third order effects - some of which we see on the news as there is increased reporting of illegal alien criminals who victimize innocent American citizens.

We have the laws in place to secure our borders - they must be enforced

We have dedicated men and women working across all levels of law enforcement agencies committed to securing our borders - they must be fully resources and given the tools they need and deserve to do their jobs

The pieces that are missing are leadership at the highest levels of government and policies which enable law enforcement to do its job, enforce our nation’s laws, and secure our borders.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I am ready to answer your questions.