

Testimony to the House Committee on Judiciary on Issues of Importance
October 22, 2021
Submitted by Congressman Ted Budd

Good morning Chairman Nadler, Ranking Member Jordan, thank you for the opportunity to highlight issues of great concern to my constituents in North Carolina.

As you know, this committee has jurisdiction over several areas that are crucial to the safety and wellbeing of all Americans. From immigration to gun rights to the wellbeing of our troops, it is important that we get these policies right.

I believe the most pressing issue facing this committee is the crisis at the Southern Border. Since President Biden took office, a record shattering [1.7 million illegal immigrants](#) have been captured at the border. In August, border agents encountered 208,000 migrants, up from just 50,000 in August 2020. I have cosponsored several bills to restart construction on the border wall, codify the Remain in Mexico policy, require E-Verify before hiring workers, and extend Title 42 expulsions. These policies are crucial to regaining operational control of the border and removing incentives for illegal immigration.

In addition, Senator Thom Tillis and I introduced the Justice for Victims of Sanctuary Cities Act. This bill makes sanctuary states and cities pay for their dangerous refusal to enforce the rule of law. While this bill provides compensation to victims of crimes committed by illegal immigrants, it cannot undo the harm. Only Congress can act to stop these preventable crimes. Unfortunately, President Biden and far too many Congressional Democrats are not willing to consider any of these solutions. Preventing these human tragedies should be a bipartisan priority, so I hope that all of my colleagues will reconsider their support for open borders.

This committee also plays an important role in pushing back on executive overreach, especially President Biden's unconstitutional executive orders on gun rights. I have already cosponsored one bill on this subject, the PISTOL Act, and plan on introducing my own bill once the ATF's proposed regulations are finalized. Beyond executive overreach, I also support several bills that expand gun rights in cases where Congress has gone too far. I support repealing outdated regulations that have made it harder for gun makers to innovate their designs for home defense and competitive shooting applications.

In addition, I support my friend and district neighbor Richard Hudson's Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act. I believe that any one of my constituents who have gone through North Carolina's extensive concealed carry licensing process should be able to exercise their rights across our nation.

Finally, I want to highlight a bill that will help correct a persistent problem for service members that were stationed in North Carolina. From the 1950s through the 1980s, thousands of Marines and their families at Camp Lejeune used government-provided tap water that was contaminated with harmful chemicals. Due to a unique provision in North Carolina law, these families cannot use the Federal Tort Claims Act to be made financially whole in court. The Camp Lejeune Justice Act creates a limited federal cause of action to compensate these affected service members and their families. I am proud to stand with Congressmen Cartwright, Murphy, and Price on this bipartisan legislation. I am hopeful this committee will consider this important bill in the near future.

Thank you again for the opportunity to share my concerns today. I yield back.