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The Biden-Harris Border Crisis: California Perspectives

I, Nicole Cardinale, am 4<sup>th</sup> generation on our ranch in Dulzura, California. Dulzura is a small rural town on Highway 94, founded in the 1800's. Our road is named after my founding family, Hatfield Road.

On Wednesday, August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024, a group of 20 migrants traveling through Dulzura attempted to board the Jamul-Dulzura Union School District's bus transporting young children. One of these young children was my 8-year-old son, Apollo. The children were horrified!

Upon the school's investigation of the incident on Wednesday, it was discovered that migrants disrupted another one of the school's bus routes the day prior. The school's immediate safety plan included the bus being escorted by police. A police escort is far from the way a child should begin or end their school day. A child should feel safe in their school environment and be able to enjoy learning.

Apollo, as well as other children did not ride the bus for several days after migrants attempted to board the bus out of fear that the terrifying interaction would happen again. My child's life has been changed and he is only in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.

Living in Dulzura for the 24 years, we are not strangers to migrants attempting to cross through our ranch.

Migrants have woken us up at odd hours of the morning to ask for resources, offer us up to \$10,000 to traffic them to nearby cities, or work on our property in exchange for various things. One horrific morning, our beloved horse was released from his corral by migrants crossing through our property. He was tragically struck by a vehicle and killed.

We have survived four generations on this ranch, which included losing everything in the fire of 2007. We rebuilt, and do not intend to lose our love, life and safety to migrants hijacking four generations in Dulzura.

It is reported that a dozen men, women and children from Nepal, a cluster of families from Peru, Ecuador and Colombia, along with half a dozen Chinese, men from India, and couples from Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan carrying infants, migrants kept arriving at the top of a steep dirt road in our area to surrender to the U.S. border agents to claim asylum.

San Diego County has become the most popular spot for migrants illegally entering the United States. There has been a lot of pressure on key migration routes to Texas, and that may be forcing people to try other routes further west, like Dulzura.

The Border Crisis is not only an economic burden to the United States, but it has become a massive safety concern. It is safety concern to American citizens and our generations to follow.