Cory Gautereaux President and Founder of the G.OA.T. Initiative Written Statement of Proposed Testimony

Chairman Jordan, Ranking Members, and distinguished members of this important Judiciary hearing, thank you for giving this critical issue the attention it deserves.

Over the past four years, the situation on the Southwest Border has escalated into a crisis that every U.S. citizen must recognize. While the impact on the United States has been severe, the human toll on the Mexican side of the border is equally devastating. Migrants, unable to pay the additional fees demanded by cartels, face violence and, in many tragic cases, are left in shallow graves. These fees often arise from unexpected delays, bribes, and other forms of extortion.

The exploitation of migrants by these criminal organizations is deeply disturbing. It is essential that the true magnitude of this crisis is fully understood and that is my purpose here today.

I have firsthand knowledge of the devastating impact of this crisis, having spent the past year working as a concerned citizen and now as the leader of a non-profit organization in the Jacumba, CA area. My team and I are committed to safeguarding vulnerable communities by providing real-time intelligence to law enforcement, dismantling trafficking networks, and advocating for critical policy reforms.

San Diego County has become the epicenter of the border crisis, with unchecked incursions of undocumented migrants being smuggled into the United States by cartels and other bad actors. There is a common misconception that the over 10 million individuals who have crossed the border in the past four years are simply seeking a better life. While that is true in many cases, the current U.S. border policies are enabling a multi-billion-dollar smuggling operation run by cartels. These criminal organizations are not merely transporting people for a fee, they are brutally exploiting migrants, sexually assaulting women and children, and taking lives with no fear of the consequences.

I grew up in this county. My family is here, my business is here, my friends are here, and I am terrified every single day by what is happening with no regard for our safety and security.

Sadly, I lost a friend during this mission, Giorgio "Gio" Kirylo. Gio was a retired U.S. Marine Corps veteran who made it his mission to help me expose the invasion at our

southern border. Tragically, Gio—a special operations veteran who gave everything for our country—took his own life, leaving a void in the hearts of many. I will never forget the words Gio used to encourage me when I felt disheartened by the dereliction of duty by our government: "Keep going." Those two words are powerful, and they continue to motivate me. I would not have made it this far without Gio's support, and his name will live on in the congressional testimony I give here today.

Identification

Over the past year, my team and I have collected hundreds of discarded passports, phones, driver's licenses, and voter IDs—some valid, many forged—just miles from my home. These documents, belonging to individuals all over the world, are often found crudely destroyed—burned, torn apart, or buried. Thousands of these travel documents litter the border, sometimes piling up in alarming quantities.

This has been happening for years, and while the risk to my family is significant, the risk to our nation is even greater. San Diego is home to one of the largest military concentrations in the United States, and our active-duty families are our neighbors. The military bases and the defense industry are integral to our way of life. There isn't a neighborhood here that doesn't display a flag representing a branch of our military. The American flag flies proudly in front of my home. I wore the uniform to defend our nation against foreign threats, and I am disheartened to see that my service now feels in vain. This must stop.

Why is this significant? It exposes the unsettling reality that many individuals are intentionally erasing their identities and entering our country under false identities, posing a serious national security threat to law enforcement and our country's safety.

An additional consideration in this identity-washing process is the range of motives behind it. Some individuals seek to erase their personal histories or conceal their country of origin. However, there are deeper concerns, particularly when the erased identities involve children, raising critical questions about their safety and exploitation.

Hundreds of thousands of these children have arrived in the U.S. unaccompanied. The cartels have exploited this vulnerability, recognizing that they can profit from the flawed federal Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) program, which places children with unvetted sponsors—many of whom are connected to transnational criminal organizations. I've personally seen countless discarded IDs at the border, bearing the faces of these vulnerable children.

Two researchers from Florida recently joined me for a tour of the border. We located the passport of a five-year old Colombian national discarded approximately twenty yards into the U.S. side of the border. We have since learned that she did not have the required parental consent of her father to leave Colombia. She was not processed by Border Patrol. I have a child the same age. I can't imagine. This child is likely in grave danger within the U.S. borders because of the power of the cartels. Where is this child? This little girl is just one example of a recovered ID which demonstrations a child who has gone missing at the border.

CCP Cell Phone

Early in our investigation, one of my colleagues, Dan Conchas located a cell phone. Cartel members or coyotes typically discard and destroy their phones upon reaching their destination, much like they do with the IDs. These phones often contain crucial personal information, travel routes, and other sensitive details from their journey. However, this phone was not properly destroyed; it remained operational with all stored data intact. The phone revealed a significant amount of sensitive information, including multiple Telegram chats with thousands of members in each of the chats. There are ongoing communications on a variety of subjects, including, but not limited to direct travel routes into the US from various points of origin across the world, photographs, videos and communication consistent with criminal behavior. In one instance, the cell phone showed a migrant's journey from Wuhan, China to San Gabriel, California. San Gabriel has a large Chinese population. Further, with information from these chats, my team has been made aware of numerous cases of rape and molestation of women and men along their trip to the United States.

The chats clearly depict "normal" migrants trying to exploit our current immigration policies, as well as operatives trying to intimidate people who are speaking badly of their homeland. There are also CCP operatives in the chats who post graphic images and videos as a show of force in order to scare those who wish to speak out against the Chinese government.

I am currently in approximately 40 different chat groups within an encrypted app, most of which provide instructions on how to be smuggled into the U.S. While many of these groups were in Chinese that contain information regarding a sophisticated network of CCP operatives working within the U.S., my team has also infiltrated chats in Russian, Ukrainian, Azerbaijani, and other Middle Eastern languages. Group chats appear to be contingent on where people live or come from. These chat rooms are active 24/7 and contain a cache of intelligence that law enforcement could use to initiate investigations to protect our homeland. Within the chats, Chinese nationals are speaking about firearms & ammunitions acquisition, human trafficking, sex trafficking, child trafficking, unaccompanied minors and the likelihood of children crossing the border without adults or parents. There are also attorneys and their law firms communicating in these chat rooms giving clear direction on how to utilize the CBP-1 app to apply for asylum and specific direction on how to avoid detection by U.S. officials. There is other sensitive data such as US phone numbers, addresses, bank information, directions on opening bank accounts and acquiring loans and specific banks. One of the chats also included a document of the 2022 United States Nuclear Posture.

Additionally, the chats discuss narcotic trafficking with photos of vehicles and clearly displayed license plates of narcotic traffickers in, specifically in Los Angeles County. Individuals also share PDF documents containing information about thousands of NGO's which are offered as migrant resources. These NGO documents explain to migrants specific locations of where to cross the border and what to do once they have entered the US. The sophisticated network of NGO's is alarming considering they are facilitating the mass invasion of our southern border at the expense of taxpayers. Some of these NGO's are worth nearly \$1 billion with executive salaries that far exceed the federal maximum salary cap. If that weren't enough, my team and I have witnessed NGO's moving children around the County.

Chats:

Below are examples of chat communication in which are only a representative sample of thousands of texts:

- "Recruit three spies and train as undercover agents"

- "Ding Pangzi Square (located in Monterey Park, CA) has now become a gathering place for illegal Chinese smugglers. The square brings together many Chinese fugitives, gang members, and terrorist extremist organizations. These people come to the United States and don't work. They have sex in high-end hotels arranged by the government every day, give birth to American babies, and eat welfare." (This text is under a picture of a group of Chinese males standing in Ding Pangzi Square).

- "The problem is that no one stopped this idiot from bombing the Chinese embassy or killing senior Chinese officials visiting the United States."

- "The Mexican Army escorts you across the border."

- "This idiot deliberately posted this video. You must delete the chat history when you enter the United States. It is a felony if this video is seen."

- "I want revenge on society, I want to drive my car into someone."

- "Where is the better place to crash?"
- "I want to hit the students."

- "The illegal immigrants coming to the United States want to kill people."

- "I plan to hit the elementary school students near the school."

- "Long live Xi Jinping, long live the Communist Party."

- "The accident killed five or six elementary school students, leaving their parents devastated. This is what I planned."

- "Buy a black gun."

- "I'm serious, I want to drive on the road and hit someone."

- "I support you in China."

- "Don't be deceived by freedom and democracy."

- "China is about to be revived." (Under this message someone wrote "CCP")

- "If this spreads to the United States, it will shock the whole country."

- "Biden's coming to power has caused the value of the US identity to plummet."

- "In Los Angeles, you can drive a Mercedes and kill most illegal immigrants in seconds."

- "Please recommend a dark web to me, thank you."

- "Information location that cannot be accessed on mainstream websites. For example, you want to. Buy weapons, women, and internal organs, you can find it on the dark web. The portal browser to enter the dark web is onion browser. This is the beauty of the dark web."

- "After the election, do you guys want to form a team and go along the line? Vote for China Democratic Party."

- "After 64, Biden realized that more and more Chinese people were defrauding the US government to apply for asylum. Now all the Chinese asylums will be strictly reviewed, and terrorist organizations and spies in the United States will be severely cracked down."

- "Arrange an undercover agent. Come out to be a protective umbrella."

- "I don't want to argue with you. You asked me to learn from the instructor's operation."

- "I'm a spy at best."

- "How much does the Communist Party give you?"

- "The CCP before Xi Jinping is definitely much better than the United States after Biden."

- "If they give birth to a child, they will become Americans, which will help them get their citizenship."

- "The New York government would rather give money to refugees than clean up the streets of Flushing."

- "Your counterattack method in the United States has been told to you. Hurry up and find a girl who has come to you illegally to have more children. The US government will support you, and you can go back to China to study at Tsinghua University and Peking University at the age of 18."

- "Those who do not contribute anything in socialism and cannot live well, how much can they live well and contribute in capitalism? Can you make an extra contribution to capitalism by cursing your father, mother, and Xi Jinping every day. How many more American futures can the CCP provide for the United States every day. I dream every day to be Xi Jinping!"

Border Patrol Complacency:

Our Border Patrol has been severely restricted by their leadership. They have been issued directives, often perceived as a "gag order," which prevent them from speaking openly and honestly about the situation they have been put in. These orders, in some respects, may even be considered unconstitutional. As a result, the agents are unable to fully perform their duties, particularly due to directives supporting a large-scale, government-sanctioned asylum operation. This has led to a decline in public perception, low morale, and a growing staffing crisis within the agency. Having spent nearly my entire life in San Diego County, I firmly believe in the necessity of border agents. However, it is increasingly frustrating to witness these same agents, many of whom are my friends, being tasked with transporting illegal immigrants into the interior of our country. To those agents, I pose this question: While we universally acknowledge the evil of figures like Hitler, it is crucial to reflect on the moral responsibility of those who operated the trains transporting Jews to their tragic fate.

De-arrest Primer:

While searching for more intel along the border with another team member, retired police officer Nick Wilson, he located a pamphlet ("De-arrest Primer"). Screenshots below.

intro A de-arrest, aka an unarrest, is the act of freeing someone who has been seized by Law Enforcement Officers' (LEOs). Often its police that repress protests and make arrests, but federal agents, like BORTAC who were deployed in 2020, have done riot control and also have arresting powers. A de-arrest can look like physically removing an arrestee from LEOs' grips, opening the door of a car, or pressuring LEOs to release an arrestee. Being arrested can have drastic negative life altering affects, especially for targeted populations like people who aren't white, Muslims, LGBTQ people, and certain radicals. It follows then that reversing an arrest can be well worth the risks involved. Pr 20

There are many situations where a de-arrest is worth the risk, but please don't skip the considerations section at the end.



tactic 1 Using a secure grip like the Gable grip that's illustrated above, hug the arrestee and pull them out of danger.

considerations All de-arrest tactics, are best done with the backing of a at least a handful of people. Not only does having more people make it easier to overpower the officers' holds if you're physically intervening, but also so that those performing the de-arrest can be de-arrested themselves as trying to pull an arrestee away from LEOs can result in officers grabbing and trying to arrest the people who are performing the dearrest. This also applies to tactic 4 as mentioned previously where a critical mass can be a deterrent and better at blocking a vehicle that contains an arrestee. If you feel you need more people during a de-arrest yelling to fellow protesters for help can break people out of the passive observer role.

Being arrested, jailed, and catching charges are all awful experiences, but many, if not all, protest arrests are catch and release so

it's important to think about the consequences of particular kinds of de-arrests. Criminal charges for physically intervening during an arrest range from misdemeanor interference charges to felony escape and assault on an officer charges. In some states "anti-lynching laws," have been used to repress anti-racist activists who attempted dearrests. It is also the case that LEO use of force varies. At the scene of a protest lethal force is often tempered, but on the streets on a "normal day" an officer could easily resort to lethal force with relative impunity if they feel remotely threatened. That being said, a hostile crowd at protest that's shown its willingness to act often makes officers think twice as opposed to a pacified crowd that can be stear-rolled.

Something else to consider is how identifiable you or the person you plan to de-arrest are. Are your faces visible? Are you wearing identifiable clothing? Did the police already take identifying information from the arrestee? Will you be easily tracked down later?

Another thing to take into account is that arrestees can be placed into metal handcuffs or plastic zip-tic handcuffs taka quick-cuffs like Flex Cuffs and Cobra Cuffs. It can be pretty awkward for the arrestee to maneuver and make it home with those in place so consider carrying a handcuff key for conventional metal handcuffs or something less compicuous like proper wire cutters or a bobby pin for the roller locks for the plastic hand cuffs.

All in all de-arresting can be an important part of ones direct action tool kit. Neglected here is how to de-arrest yourself, a future draft may include such a tactic, but at this point it would get too into the weed with grappling and this guide for our purposes. On the ground it could be suggested to try and get your hips free and work to your knees then learning into the officer try and work to a standing position with your hands attempting to control their hands or breaking their grip if they've bear hugged you. As you can see without illustrations it can get pretty complicated pretty fast. Consider taking a couple months of grappling classes or setting up more targeted grappling the chops for it there's instances of one person backed by a couple friends pull comrade after comrade away from the police lines with minimal wrestling experience.

Also worth noting that if you do get arrested for attempting or successfully performing a ready fully escalated, which very well may be the case if you're at a protest and officers begin making arrests. But risk is also always contextual and an arrest or even a general pacified attitude can lead to greater ham than not taking the risk and acting decisively when you see repression take place.

Technically speaking for pushing off form you should have a low center of gravity and a wide base and push with explosive power with your head up at all times if possible. You could also try pulling the officer off using a similar hugging technique to tactic 1 this time you can also utilize the leverage of a hip twist. For breaking a grip try striking the grip. All that being said you can see why this can get construed as assault in court. Note that similar effects can be had via taetic 1, but also that tactic 1 easily slips into this tactic of direct contact with officers.

tactic 3 Opening a door to let the arrestee(s) go free.

LEOs will leave their patrol cars or prisoner transport vans unlocked from time to time, even when there's arrestee's sitting in said vehicles. In this case one can simply speakily or guickly

sneakily or quickly open the door of one of these vehicles and let the arrestees out. Of course this is could be considered a crime, but in terms of risk level it would fall lower in most cases than something like directly putting hands on an officer or someone they're physically arresting.



police to release the arrestee(s). Last, but not least, this tactic can often be done with the lowest level of risk out of all the tactics mentioned

tactic 4 Pressuring

here. One basic and pretty effective implementation of this taction is totally surrounding the officers who have the arrestee or otherwise blocking them and/or their vehicle and chanting "Let them gol" and the like until the LEOs cave to the mounting pressure. As we're writing this a couple instances of such a use of this tactic have come out of the Palestine solidarity campus occupations. This tactic has also been used with some success via surrounding police stations and uses online pressure campaigns, though this is less wide spread and requires more specific circumstances than having someone release before they're processed at a station or jail.

The benefit of this tactic is that its the police themselves consenting to the unarrest so while they are in some sense being forced to release the arrestee(s) so the dearresters and the ex-arrestee won't have to face escape or assault charges if they are tracked down later. If you don't have a crowd asserting pressure there may be some interference charges that come with blocking a police vehicle that may be more easily handed down for only one or two people blocking a police vehicle, but in many cases these are misdemeanor offenses and catch and release.

Kai/Gun Range Property

During several trips to properties adjacent to the border, my team and I have encountered numerous sites that unmistakably indicate the sexual assault of women and children. The cartels have become so emboldened that they now establish 'trophy' sites along their smuggling routes. These sites serve to both flaunt the sexual exploitation they perpetrate and to intimidate others regarding unpaid debts. A 'trophy' site might be marked by items such as undergarments hung on trees, bushes, shrubs, or even abandoned vehicles or buildings. I have seen these disturbing sites firsthand.

Much of what I have shared today, including critical national security information discovered on the border, has been attempted to be communicated to law enforcement at local, state, and federal levels. However, I have been informed that, due to the current political climate, federal agents face the risk of retaliation for actively investigating the discarded materials found at the California border under this administration.

Jose Confesor/Sanctuary Laws: My team received information about an individual named Jose Confesor; who illegally entered the United States using a counterfeit visa from Guatemala and arrived in San Diego. According to the San Diego Police Department, "Alejandro Jose Confesor was arrested for lewd and lascivious acts with a child under 14 with force, sex crimes under specific circumstances, assault with intent to commit rape or other sexual acts during a residential burglary, burglary, and trespassing." After learning about these charges, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) assigned a detainer to Confesor and attempted to take him into custody. However, due to California's sanctuary state and city laws, the detainer was denied. ICE's initial attempts to interview Confesor were also denied, although they were eventually granted an interview after a third attempt. During this process, the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force was involved to search through his phone. What they discovered should have led to prosecution and immediate deportation.

It is crucial to highlight that Confesor molested the child of a local U.S. Navy SEAL. This appalling incident has been concealed from the public by local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies, including the SEAL command. I am urging an immediate congressional review of California's sanctuary laws, as they ultimately harm our Republic as a whole.

<u>Closing</u>

This is a bipartisan issue that transcends political affiliations. The missing children do not consider political divides; they are victims regardless of our political views. We must come together to protect lives and the border, citizens within our country and the urgent issue of children who are at risk of being exploited for sex or forced to work in deplorable conditions. Our collective action is crucial to addressing these urgent concerns.

Thank you for your time and I welcome your questions.