



### **Setting the Record Straight: Understanding the Biden/Harris Border Crisis**

**Myth #1:** Vice President Harris is effectively managing the border crisis.

**Fact:** Neither President Biden nor Vice President Harris has visited the Southern Border to meet with law enforcement officers to see this human smuggling and trafficking crisis firsthand. Having visited the border, I know from experience that you cannot understand the magnitude of the problem until you meet with police officers on the ground and see it for yourself.

- ✓ Since Vice President Harris was appointed “Border Czar” on March 24 by President Biden, she has held multiple events across the country to tout the Administration’s infrastructure and vaccination plans but has yet to visit the border.
  - 3/26 - Event in New Haven, CT to tout vaccines
  - 4/1 - Easter Vacation in Los Angeles
  - 4/5 - Infrastructure Event in Oakland, CA with Governor Gavin Newsom
  - 4/6 - Visit to Chicago vaccine clinics
  - 4/19 - North Carolina infrastructure event
  - 4/23 - New Hampshire infrastructure event
  - 4/29 - Visit to Baltimore vaccination clinic

**Myth #2:** President Biden has operational control of the U.S.-Mexico border.

**Fact:** Illegal crossings on the U.S.-Mexico border have skyrocketed, breaking previous records.

- ✓ CBP is on track to encounter more than 2,000,000 migrants crossing the U.S.-Mexico border by the end of the fiscal year, more than four times the amount in 2020. That is a population greater than Manhattan and more than twice the population of San Francisco.
- ✓ The number of migrant children detained at the border tripled in April, with over 8,100 unaccompanied children in Health and Human Services (HHS) custody and 42% of children in CBP custody being detained longer than the legal limit of 72 hours.
- ✓ Drugs and other illicit goods have also increased. The weight of fentanyl seized at the southwest border in the first quarter of 2021 has increased by 233% over the same time last year. That is enough fentanyl to kill nearly half the U.S. population.
- ✓ One of the greatest tragedies of this crisis is the number of unaccompanied youths being smuggled or trafficked across the border, which reached an all-time high of almost 19,000 in March. These children are the most vulnerable among us.

**Myth #3:** Republicans have offered no solutions to the current immigration crisis.

**Fact:** Republicans have been deeply involved in this issue, offering commonsense solutions that would immediately help secure our border and address the surge of illegal crossings.

- ✓ I have called on the Biden Administration to implement three immediate solutions to this crisis. First, we must immediately restart work on completing the border barrier system,

which the Biden Administration inexplicably halted. A border wall is a tremendous tool that allows law enforcement to better manage the situation more safely.

- ✓ Second, we need to invest in and deploy better border technology. There are proven technologies that help border agents identify illegal activity and address it while reducing risks to themselves. Congress needs to fund and fully deploy these technologies.
- ✓ Third, Congress needs to work with the Administration to provide law enforcement at the border with greater budget flexibility so they're able to surge financial resources in times of crisis like we are seeing now.
- ✓ Unfortunately, Speaker Pelosi and the Biden Administration refuse to take these actions or work with Republicans to solve this issue.

**Myth #4:** President Trump's border wall was a frivolous expense that did nothing to protect us.

**Fact:** The wall – which law enforcement officers refer to as a border barrier – has been an effective tool to help slow illegal crossings and give law enforcement more time to respond.

- ✓ When I visited the border in March 2021, the law enforcement officials I spoke with unanimously supported completing the border wall.
- ✓ They noted that while a wall won't stop all illegal crossings, a comprehensive border barrier system slows down illegal crossings. This gives law enforcement officers more time to respond and target illegal activity. It also acts as a strong deterrent to others.
- ✓ One of President Biden's first actions as President was to halt construction of the border wall, which undercuts our law enforcement officers and takes an important tool away.

**Myth #5:** President Trump dismantled the asylum system.

**Fact:** President Biden reversed many of Trump's asylum policies, which were working and were responsible for decreasing illegal crossings and fraudulent asylum claims.

- ✓ On Saturday February 6, 2021, the Biden Administration announced it was immediately suspending the "safe third country" agreements the Trump Administration made with Central American nations. These agreements required asylum seekers from the region to first seek refuge in those countries before applying in the United States. This measure allowed asylum seekers to escape danger while giving the federal government time to vet applications, ensuring asylum was not misused and reserved solely for those in true need.
- ✓ On Friday February 12, 2021, the Biden Administration also announced it was ending the "Remain in Mexico" program, which allowed over 70,000 asylum seekers with active asylum cases to stay in Mexico while their case was being heard in U.S. immigration court. This program allowed asylum seekers to avoid their country of persecution while also discouraging individuals from making a dangerous illegal border crossing.