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August 8, 2024

The National Crisis of an Unsecure Southern Border

The Southern border of the United States is at the epicenter of an ongoing crisis, marked by a surge in illegal crossings, humanitarian challenges, and complex policy debates. Each day, thousands of immigrants from various countries attempt to enter the U.S. illegally. According to Customs and Border Protection, the majority enter at the [Southwest border](#), making California a hot spot for illegal immigration. This influx has overwhelmed border enforcement agencies, strained local resources, and sparked contentious political discussions. California feels the impact in more ways than one, but especially when it comes to taxes. Illegal aliens in California cost taxpayers almost [\\$31 billion a year](#), according to a 2023 cost analysis by the Federation for American Immigration Reform. Addressing this crisis requires a nuanced approach that balances security, immigration reform, and humanitarian considerations, aiming to create sustainable solutions for the future, but ultimately an approach that puts America first.

As the border crisis is a hot topic of conversation, it is important to note that it is not an issue with immigration itself, the problem is illegal immigration. There should be a tall wall for a secure border, but also a big door for people to come to this wonderful country legally. It also should be said that there needs to be legal immigration reform to make the process better for those that choose to enter and become a citizen the right way. This country is the land of the American Dream, whether it's being attained from immigrants becoming citizens, or American born citizens. Everyone wants the American Dream, but with an unsecure border, that dream becomes more and more difficult. The border crisis has created a long list of problems, but specifically it has allowed an influx of drugs coming into this country, a wide-open lane for human trafficking, and even an open door for terrorism.

The border crisis has allowed for an opioid crisis to emerge. Fentanyl specifically is an extremely potent opioid that is coming across the border through the cartels and smugglers at an alarming rate. In 2014, [Customs & Border Protection](#) intercepted 22 pounds of fentanyl. Since then, from October 2022 to September 2023, CBP seized over 27,000 pounds of deadly fentanyl,

which equates to over 6 billion lethal doses. The most recent study from the [National Institute of Drug Abuse](#), says that in 2021 out of the 106,000 total drug overdose deaths that year, 80,000 were made up by opioid overdose deaths. In a 10-year span, from 2011 to 2021, the opioid overdose deaths have jumped by over 58,000. An increased number of drugs is coming across the border, and it is killing Americans every single day. Securing the border is a step to save lives.

An unsecure border is also an open door for human trafficking. [Nearly 80%](#) of international human trafficking journeys cross through official border control points, (such as airports and land border control points) which underscores the crucial role that border agencies and service providers at border points can play to identify potential victims and refer them for protection and assistance. This is why allowing them to do their jobs is so important. A secure border, means being able to have more control over the ports of entry, being able to monitor exactly who is coming into this country, and hopefully being able to catch these human trafficking cases before they go on any longer.

Lastly, an unsecure border has allowed terrorism to simply walk into the country. The number of individuals apprehended illegally crossing the Southwest border and found to be on the terrorist watch list has increased [2,500%](#) from Fiscal Years 2017-2020 to Fiscal Year 2023. And those are only the ones who have been caught. There are thousands of [gotaways](#) in this country, meaning officials have no idea what their backgrounds are or what they plan on doing in America. An unsecure border is a serious national security threat that is overlooked by the current political leaders.

The border crisis being a huge point of debate because it is so important. A secure border is essential to safeguarding the American Dream for all, preventing the influx of dangerous substances, curbing human trafficking, and thwarting potential terrorist threats. Ultimately, it is imperative that America adopt policies that protect the nation's interests and ensure the safety and well-being of all its residents. America needs to stop bending over backwards for illegal immigrants who have to regard for rules of law. There needs to be strong border security, while also allowing a safe place for legal immigration to occur. Ultimately, we need to put America first and secure our borders now.