



## BORDER SECURITY TALKING POINTS & DATA

### TOPLINE: President Biden has created disorder at the border

- We will not back down from the fact that we are a nation of laws. Unwinding effective policies from the last four years to invite a surge at our southern border is irresponsible.
- The impending crisis at the border is overwhelming already strained resources and dedicated law enforcement trying to safeguard our borders. Protecting the sovereignty and integrity of our territorial borders should not be controversial, especially during a pandemic. We are here to:
  - Advocate for common-sense solutions championed by the men and women on the frontlines in the effort to secure our borders and ensure this critical homeland security mission is not weakened or ignored.
  - Push the Biden Administration to continue the steady progress on our border wall system, including projects that have already been funded by bipartisan Congressional appropriations.
- The **Biden Border Crisis** is a direct result of the Administration’s reckless **open border policies**. In a matter of weeks, the Administration:
  - Halted construction of border wall system
  - Reimplemented “catch and release” for thousands of migrants
  - Reversed the Remain in Mexico policy
  - Released thousands of migrants into the United States without testing them for COVID-19
  - Cancelled asylum cooperative agreements with Central American partners
  - Implemented policies to selectively enforce immigration laws
- Migrants heading to the border have said in recent media interviews **they were encouraged by President Biden’s rhetoric** and the relaxing of Trump-era policies.
- We have confirmed from the Department what was relayed at the border that there were indeed foreign nationals who attempted to cross the border illegally who are in the **Terrorist Screening Database (TSDB)**. While the exact details are marked **law enforcement sensitive** by the Department, we recommend you reach out to them.
- Why won’t the Biden Administration own up to this crisis they have created?

### TOP STATS

- Prior to President Biden’s Inauguration, CBP was encountering **less than 1,000 family units per week** attempting to cross illegally, now they are seeing **more than 6,000 per week**.
- According to CBP, the number of migrants encountered at the border this February **climbed to 100,441** – a **more than 170% increase from the 36,687 encounters** in February 2020.

- **Hundreds of border patrol agents** are being diverted from drug checkpoints and the northern and coastal borders to South Texas to respond to this surge while the Administration asks for volunteers amidst a crisis of its own making.
- The Administration has so far continued to stonewall basic requests for information from Congress, in what we can only assume to be an **effort to shield the American people from troubling data**. This is not the transparency voters were promised.

### BIPARTISAN CONSENSUS

- Both **Democrats and Republicans** are voicing serious concern about the Biden Administration's policy rollbacks. They're also calling for accountability regarding the release of COVID-19 positive migrants into American communities. This should not be a political issue.
- We're asking the Administration to **recognize this crisis for what it is** and work with us to advance **strong border security policies** that protect the health, safety, and security of the United States.

### MIGRANT ADMISSIONS

- As **international travel, schools, and businesses remain closed**, the Biden Administration is opening the door to let over 25,000 migrants into the U.S. who previously attempted to enter illegally who were remaining in Mexico subject to the Migrant Protection Protocols program. Separately, thousands of other migrants crossing illegally that aren't eligible to be expelled are being released into border communities on Notices to Appear.
- Those being processed and released will be added to the **1,200,000+ immigration court backlog**. **Adjudication will take years.**
- As more migrants catch wind of the reimplementation of "catch-and-release," the surge on our border will be unimaginable. **President Biden has kept his campaign promises to the thousands of migrants looking to illegally cross our borders but not the American public that he would stop the spread of the virus.**
- As CBP encounters at the border top 3,000 a day on average, we have swiftly moved into the dangerous territory of the 2019 border crisis.
- The situation at the border, combined with the raging pandemic, has created a **perfect storm of security, humanitarian, and public health concerns.**
- I have regularly called on President Biden to reconsider these harmful rollbacks of immigration and border security policy.
  - If he truly is interested in finding common ground, we stand ready to work with him to uphold strong border security and immigration policies that protect the health, safety, and security of the United States.

### BORDER SURGE STARTLING STATS

- The high volume of UAC encounters continues. Reports that CBP is projecting a **peak of 13,000 unaccompanied children** crossing the border **per month by May.**

- This exceeds the height of the 2019 crisis.
- As HHS facilities reach capacity, the average time in CBP custody for UACs continues to rise. UACs must remain in CBP custody until HHS is able to accept them for placement.
- CBP encountered a 61% increase in UACs in February 2021 compared to the prior month.
- HHS is “seeing the **highest February numbers...in the history of the UAC program.**”
- ICE & CBP are operating at **LESS THAN 30% of their capacity** as a result of social distancing requirements.
  - CBP and HHS have reopened overflow facilities for unaccompanied minors used during the 2019 border crisis.
  - HHS is looking at DOD and NASA locations to house unaccompanied minors if the volume keeps increasing.
- Single adult apprehensions are also increasing, topping out at over **71,000** in February 2021.

### COMMONSENSE SOLUTIONS

- Re-start already appropriated wall funding – there is nothing more bipartisan than keeping our country safe, and strong border security is part of that
- Re-impose remain in Mexico policy
- End catch and release
- Protect Title 42
- Listen to our front-line workers and continue to invest in more barriers, technology, access roads, and resources for personnel
- Work with our foreign partners to prevent more migrants from reaching our border in the first place, as well as the need to test and vaccinate the frontline CBP/ICE workforce