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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

H.R. 2, the Secure the Border Act of 2023:

Sponsored by Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart and Rep. Tom McClintock

The Biden administration's open-border policies have led to an unprecedented national security and humanitarian crisis at our southern border. For more than two years, President Biden and Democrats in Congress have ignored this crisis.

House Republicans made tackling this border crisis a central component of our Commitment to America. That's why H.R. 2, the Secure the Border Act of 2023, fulfills our promise to the American people to deliver solutions to a crisis that affects not just cities and states along the border – but every city and state across the country. H.R. 2 has two fundamental goals:

1 Secure the border

2 Combat illegal immigration

The tireless work of the House Republican Conference has resulted in the introduction of the “Secure the Border Act of 2023.” This legislation, introduced by Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart (FL-25) and Congressman Tom McClintock (CA-05), reflects the diligent work of members across the House Republican conference and regular order through multiple committees. The legislation will:

- Force the Biden Administration to restart construction of the border wall
- Deploy technology to the southern and northern border
- Increase the number of Border Patrol agents and provide bonus pay
- Require transparency regarding illegal crossings from the Department of Homeland Security
- Strengthen current law to protect unaccompanied children from human trafficking
- End catch and release
- End abuse of executive immigration authority
- Strengthen and streamline the asylum process

[Text of the bill HERE.](#)

How we got here

The Biden administration has been defined by the multiple crises it has created. Nowhere is that more obvious than the crisis at the southern border. Upon taking office in January 2021, President Biden immediately halted wall construction on the southern border, paying contractors to not build wall, leaving

over 150 miles of planned border wall left unbuilt, and materials left to rust in the desert; undercut Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) efforts by prohibiting agents from carrying out deportations; and took immediate steps to end the Migrant Protection Protocols.

Since these disastrous policies were imposed, the Biden administration has turned its back on the border crisis. The results speak for themselves.

- There have been over 5 million illegal crossings along the southern border since President Biden took office
- Contrary to the empty assurances of the Secretary of Homeland Security, Alejandro Mayorkas, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has lost operational control of the southern border as record number of illegal immigrants, criminals, and gang members are being apprehended
- Unprecedented amounts of narcotics are flowing across the border into American communities, making fentanyl poisoning the leading cause of death for Americans aged 18-49
- Chief of the U.S. Border Patrol Raul Ortiz has conceded that the United States government does not have operational control of the southern border, with five of the nine border sectors under “considerable strain” and unsecure

The Biden administration has established a reckless processing scheme that has resulted in the mass trafficking of unaccompanied alien children. According to the New York Times, this administration has [lost over 85,000 children](#) that they, under law, have the responsibility of caring for. The administration continuously [ignored warnings from whistleblowers](#) that their process was fatally flawed and endangering children. They proceeded, nonetheless.

In addition, they conceded that there would be a surge to the border once Title 42 was lifted on May 11. In reality, the surge is already here. Over the past week, communities [up](#) and [down](#) the southern border were subject to a new rapid influx of illegal entries, while the effects of the surge were seen in [cities far](#) from the border.

During the 117th Congress alone, over 140 members of the House Republican Conference visited the border to see the crisis first-hand and thank the men and women of the U.S. Border Patrol. In stark contrast, President Biden has visited the southern border just once in his entire half-century career in Washington.

The administration has not taken any meaningful action to secure the border since taking office in January 2021. To the contrary, time and again, they have taken purposeful actions to make it worse. House Republicans will take action to secure the border and restore the rule of law. This is our commitment to America.