

From  
Brooklyn, Iowa

# MISSING

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## Mollie Tibbetts Joins the List of Americans Who Paid for Failed Immigration Policies with Their Lives

**M**ollie Tibbetts joined the long list of people whose promising lives were snuffed out by criminal illegal aliens and government policies that protect illegal aliens. The 20-year-old University of Iowa student was found dead in August and Cristhian Rivera, an illegal alien, is charged with first-degree murder.

Ms. Tibbetts went out for a run on July 18 near her home in Brooklyn, Iowa. Her body was found on August 21 in a nearby cornfield. According to the medi-

cal examiner, the cause of death was “multiple sharp force injuries.” Police believe that Rivera abducted Ms. Tibbetts, a former high school track and field athlete, during her July 18 run. Rivera admits that he followed her in his car and on foot but then later “blacked out,” and regained his memory while removing her body from the trunk of his car and dumping it in the cornfield.

Many details are yet to emerge about Rivera and how he came to murder his

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## Abolish ICE = Abolish Immigration Enforcement

**I**n much the same way that Dave Brat’s upset of then-House Majority Leader Eric Cantor in a 2014 Virginia primary over immigration shook up the Republican Party, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez’s defeat of Joe Crowley, the fourth-ranking House Democrat, in this year’s New York primary has sent shock waves through that party’s establishment.

Ocasio-Cortez’s victory in a district that includes parts of Queens and The Bronx, where the majority of residents are foreign born, came amid the Trump administration’s implementation of its Zero

Image: Flickr | Master Steve Rappoport



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victim. What is known is that he had been living in rural Iowa for between four and seven years and was working illegally at a local dairy farm. Initial reports said that Rivera had been cleared to work in the United States by the E-Verify system. That was later proven to be false. Rivera's original attorney also claimed that his client was not an illegal alien. That, too, was false.

What is true is that like Kate Steinle, Sarah Root, Sheriff's Deputies Danny Oliver and Michael Davis Jr., and countless others, Mollie Tibbetts accused killer had managed to enter the United States and remain here illegally for a long time. Once immigration officials became aware of his illegal presence, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) issued a detainer request – one that likely would have been ignored by nearly 600 jurisdictions across the country that have declared themselves sanctuaries for illegal aliens.

Despite another needless death of an innocent victim of our nation's



Image: YouTube

unsecured borders and sanctuary policies, the advocates for illegal immigration were unmoved by Ms. Tibbetts' murder. Most notably, Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), a likely 2020 presidential contender and Abolish ICE advocate, used Ms. Tibbetts' death as an opportunity to excoriate the Trump administration for its efforts to secure our borders.

While Appearing on CNN the day after Ms. Tibbetts' body was discovered, Sen. Warren was asked whether the murder should lead to greater efforts to enforce immigration laws. After offering her perfunctory condolences to the Tibbetts family, Sen. Warren turned her attention to what she considers to be the "real problems" with our immigration system. And the "real problems" apparently have nothing to do with innocent Americans getting killed while jogging in Iowa or walking along the San Francisco waterfront.

"Last month, I went down to the border and I saw where children had been taken away from their mothers, I met with their mothers who had

been lied to, who didn't know where their children were, who haven't had a chance to talk to their children, and there was no plan for how they would be reunified with their children," Sen. Warren said, seemingly oblivious to the fact that unlike the people apprehended at the border, Mollie Tibbetts wasn't breaking any laws and that she and her parents are now permanently separated.

Writing in USA Today, Agnes Gibboney who lost her son to an illegal alien criminal 16 years ago, demanded that Mollie Tibbetts' death finally be the impetus for Congress to act on border security and sanctuary policies. Speaking on behalf of others like her, Gibboney wrote that "we utterly reject the 'thoughts and prayers' of the political class that continues to turn a blind eye to mass illegal immigration. We demand action." Let's hope other members of Congress are listening.

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Tolerance policy for illegal border crossing. Though New York’s 14th Congressional District is hardly representative of the country as a whole, or even Democratic controlled districts, the 28-year-old self-described Democratic Socialist’s rallying cry, “Abolish ICE!,” suddenly went from being a slogan of the radical fringe to becoming an increasingly mainstream one within the Democratic Party.

Likely 2020 presidential contenders Senators Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) and Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.) have already endorsed the Abolish ICE position. Other leading Democratic hopefuls have stopped short of calling for the abolition of the nation’s immigration law enforce-

ment agency, but have called for dramatically constraining its ability to enforce immigration laws.

While only 25 percent of voters support abolishing ICE, compared with 54 percent who believe the agency should continue, only 9 percent of House Democrats (18 members) voted in favor of a non-binding resolution in July expressing support for the agency, its personnel, and its mission. Thirty-six House Democrats voted against the resolution, while 133 members abstained.

Though the Abolish ICE campaign is ostensibly aimed at eliminating the agency that enforces our nation’s immigration laws, its real aim is abolishing the laws themselves. Until fairly recently, all but the most

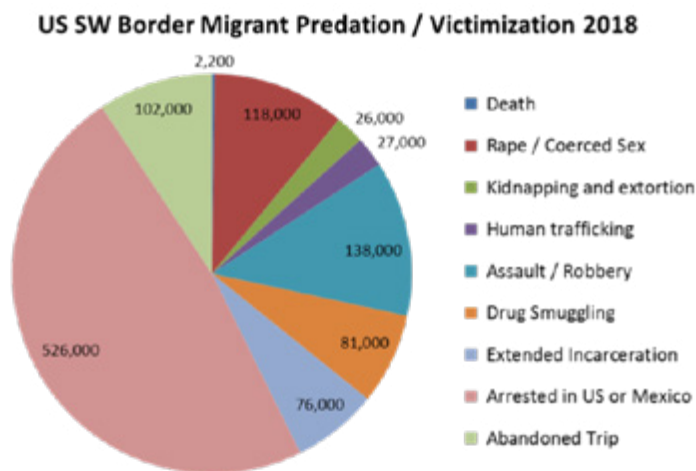
radical fringe groups paid lip service to the idea that the United States, like all sovereign nations, has a right to control who enters the country and under what circumstances.

In 2018, the debate is no longer about how we should enforce our immigration laws, but whether we should have immigration laws at all. While the vast majority of Americans understand and support the need to set reasonable limits on immigration and effectively enforce our laws, the positions of the most radical fringe appear to be gaining traction.

## New Report: Zero-Tolerance for Illegal Border Crossing Protects Migrants

The Trump administration’s zero-tolerance policy for illegal border crossings announced this spring was soundly condemned by illegal alien advocates, open borders politicians, and many in the media as “cruel” and “inhuman” – and those were some of the nicer adjectives the critics applied. However, according to the findings of a new report by Steven Kopits of the Princeton Policy Advisors think tank, zero-tolerance not only serves the best interests of the American people, but is also the effective means of protecting the migrants themselves.

According to the findings of the report, the 711,000 migrants attempting to cross the southern border illegally this year will be victims of 1.1 million “adverse events” in their attempt to reach the United States. That works out to an average of 1.4 such events for each migrant attempting to cross the border illegally. An “adverse event” is defined by the report as dying along the way, becoming a victim of a crime, or being arrested by authorities in Mexico or the United States.



Graph reprinted from Princeton Policy Advisors report.

The Princeton Policy Advisors’ analysis of the data estimates that about 2,200 migrants died or were killed en route to the United States. Another 118,000 were victims of rape or coerced sex, 102,000 faced kidnap-

## ZERO-TOLERANCE *continued from page 3*

ping and extortion, and 138,000 were robbed or assaulted along the way. Other serious crimes against migrants included human trafficking, being forced to smuggle drugs and extended incarceration.

The “lucky” ones – 526,000 – were arrested by U.S. or Mexican authorities. Those who were arrested by U.S. authorities were at least assured of humane treatment. 26,000 simply abandoned their efforts to reach the United States and presumably returned home.

This startling data makes it clear that, contrary to popular percep-

tion, it is the illegal alien advocates who are cruel and inhumane. These groups and their allies have worked cynically to create the perception among would-be border crossers that reaching the United States illegally would pay off, because unchecked illegal immigration serves their own political or economic interests. Many of those who do reach the border manage to gain entry, but endure a horrible price along the way.

FAIR has consistently argued that the most effective and humane way of controlling the border is to convince would-be migrants that the

risks associated with illegal immigration far outweigh the benefits. When people understand that our borders are secure and that those who do not have a valid claim of entry will be turned away, fewer people attempt the dangerous journey. Conversely, the policies promoted by those who claim to care about the migrants are at least partially responsible for 2,200 deaths (this year alone) and countless violent crimes committed against them.

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## Department of Homeland Security Attempts to Stop Punishing American Taxpayers for Bad Immigration Policies

The Trump administration is seriously considering enforcing laws that require legal immigrants to be self-sufficient. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is proposing a rule that would limit the entry of new immigrants who are likely to become government dependent, and that would prevent some government-dependent immigrants from becoming citizens and gaining access to even more government assistance programs. The proposed rule sparked the usual hyperbolic reaction from open border advocates and the media. An August headline in *The Washington Post* read, “Now the Trump administration is trying to punish legal immigrants for being poor.”

A more accurate headline would have read, “Now the Trump administration is trying to *stop* punishing American taxpayers because immigrants and sponsors renege on commitments.” To begin with, barring the admission of immigrants who are likely to become public charges has been on the books since 1882. The intent of the law is not to punish people for being poor, but to protect American taxpayers from having to support immigrants who have little hope of being self-suffi-



cient. Despite those prohibitions, millions of immigrants access expensive government assistance programs such as Medicaid, the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and other means-tested programs.

The proposed DHS rule also restores financial responsibility to sponsors who are legally committed to provide for the relatives they bring to this country. But the government has consistently failed to enforce these sponsorship agreements. In part, the failure of the government to enforce sponsorship agreements is attributable to the fact

# NEWS FROM OUR State & Local Operations

## Florida

In the absence of decisive federal action to rein-in sanctuary policies, battles over whether to cooperate with federal immigration law enforcement not only pit states against one another, but even jurisdictions within states. In July, the Orlando City Council unanimously adopted a resolution to bar police officers and other city officials from asking individuals about their immigration status, and from contacting federal immigration officials about any suspicions they may have about a person's immigration status without meeting new guidelines.

Additionally, it expands the policy beyond the police department to cover all of city government. Any city employee or law enforcement officer violating this policy is subject to discipline. In response to Orlando's sanctuary policy, neighboring Brevard County unanimously passed a resolution in August seeking to ensure the county never becomes a sanctuary county in August. The Brevard resolution bars the county manager from instituting policies that "prohibit or impede communication or cooperation with a federal immigration agency with respect to federal immigration enforcement." It also specifically prohibits any policy that would "limit or prevent": 1) complying with immigration detainers; 2) initiating immigration status investigations; or 3) assisting or cooperating with immigration officers.

## Connecticut

Throughout his tenure in office, Danbury Mayor Mark Boughton has consistently stood firm in opposition to illegal immigration, which has apparently made him very popular among his constituents. Boughton has been mayor since 2002, making him the longest serving mayor in the state. Under a loophole in Connecticut's statewide sanctuary law, known as the "Trust Act," local jurisdictions may still ask about someone's immigration status and may communicate with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Which is exactly what Danbury has been doing. The result is that since 2005, Danbury has seen its illegal alien population drop from 15,000 to 5,000, its economy has flourished, and it has the lowest crime rate in the state.

*DHS continued from page 4*

that the income requirements for sponsorship are so low that many of the sponsors themselves rely on public assistance. Instead, American taxpayers have been forced to bear the costs, in spite of the promises made by the immigrants and their sponsors.

More importantly, tightening the public charge rules should serve to reinvigorate the debate about reforming our legal immigration policies. President Trump has proposed scrapping our current family chain migration policy and replacing it with a merit-based policy that prioritizes new immigrants based

on objective criteria that indicate their likelihood to succeed and become self-reliant once they settle in the United States. Under our current practice, most legal immigrants are admitted irrespective of their education and jobs skills.

Adopting a merit-based immigration policy that enhances the likelihood that the immigrants who settle here will be successful is not a new idea. Among the key recommendations of a presidential commission chaired by noted civil rights leader Barbara Jordan in the 1990s was adoption of a merit-based immigra-

tion policy with admissions capped at about half our current levels. Over the years, FAIR has supported legislation that would favor skills over family connections as the basis of our immigration policy, along with reductions in overall admissions.

Bills aimed at overhauling our legal immigration policies were introduced in this session of Congress. Yet, despite efforts by President Trump to enact commonsense reforms, the Republican-led Congress failed to bring them to the floor of either the House or the Senate.

## ICE Reopening Deportation Cases Closed Under Obama

**D**erived Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) is the best known of the administrative steps undertaken by the Obama White House to grant de facto amnesty to illegal aliens, but was not the only one. Under the guise of exercising prosecutorial discretion, the Obama administration closed as many as 200,000 deportation cases that did not meet their self-defined set of priorities for removal. As a result, these illegal aliens, who were already in deportation proceedings, were allowed to remain in the United States.

The current administration is taking steps to reverse that Obama-era backdoor amnesty policy. Attorney General Jeff Sessions has limited the power of immigration judges to indefinitely suspend deportation cases, while Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is reopening some 8,000 cases that were closed under the previous administration. ICE continues to prioritize the removal of criminals and others who pose a unique danger, but the new policy reinforces the message that all immigration lawbreakers may be subject to deportation.

A misperception was created under the Obama administration that in order to be subject to deportation an alien had to have committed a serious offense other than being illegally present in the United States. This



erroneous idea has been carefully cultivated by illegal alien advocacy groups and many in the media, which have attempted to stir up outrage whenever someone whose “only offense” was being in the country illegally is deported.

Deportation is the prescribed penalty under law for entering or remaining in the United States illegally. Reopening deportation cases that were administratively closed is an important step toward restoring integrity to our immigration laws and correcting the misconception that removal is only warranted if an illegal alien has been convicted of a serious crime.



Image: istock | wildpixel

## DACA Moves Closer to a Supreme Court Showdown

**T**he fate of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, is destined to wind up in the Supreme Court. It's just a matter of when. The amnesty program for illegal aliens who entered the country as minors was established by former President Obama without the approval of Congress. When President Trump announced his intention to terminate DACA, it set up a judicial free-for-all that the Supreme Court will have to untangle.

Leaving aside the fact that President Obama stated publicly that he did not have constitutional authority to establish DACA, the program is the product of a mere policy memo issued by the Department of Homeland Security in 2012. As legal analyst Noah Feldman noted, "Ordinarily, what one president can do by fiat, another can undo by fiat." Except nothing is ordinary in an age when judges believe they can legislate from the bench.

Advocates for illegal aliens immediately challenged President Trump's decision to rescind DACA. To date, three federal judges have ordered the president to continue the program on the specious legal grounds that he did not provide an adequate explanation for his decision to terminate DACA. He didn't really need one. Presidents have no authority to change laws, but they have almost unlimited authority to implement their own policies in areas delegated to the executive branch.

One judge, John D. Bates, went so far as to order the administration to not only renew existing DACA protections, but reopen the program to new applicants. In August, Judge Bates delayed that requirement after the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services agency indicated that doing so would create long delays for approvals of green cards for legal immigrants.

While illegal alien advocates were suing to prevent the administration from ending DACA, seven states – Texas, Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Nebraska, South Carolina and West Virginia – have gone to court to challenge the constitutionality of the program. That case is pending before Federal District Court Judge Andrew Hanen, the same judge who ruled two later Obama-era amnesty programs to be unconstitutional. Based on his earlier decisions, which were upheld by the Supreme Court, there is strong reason to believe Judge Hanen will rule in favor of the states. Conflicting district or appellate court rulings can only be resolved by the Supreme Court.

But timing is everything. Judge Hanen's earlier rulings were upheld by a 4-4 vote on the Supreme Court, after the death of Justice Antonin Scalia. Because of the tie vote, the ruling did not set precedent. Currently there is another vacancy on the high court, with the retirement of Justice Anthony Kennedy. If the case makes it to the Supreme Court after Brett Kavanaugh is confirmed, there is a strong chance of a precedent setting 5-4 ruling that presidents do not have the authority to exempt entire classes of illegal aliens from enforcement.

Overtaking DACA could have enormous implications for immigration reform legislation in the next Congress. As protections for DACA beneficiaries expire, Democrats and pro-amnesty Republicans may be more willing to accept true immigration reform package – border security, mandatory E-Verify, interior enforcement, an end to sanctuary policies, and merit-based legal immigration – if they want to extend certain protections for current DACA beneficiaries. The next few months will be crucial. ■

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