

# Immigration REPORT

## Hundreds Turn Out for FAIR-Organized Rally to Secure the Border

Several hundred patriots turned out for a rally in Arizona, in the scorching summer heat, to protest the Biden administration’s reckless border policies that endanger migrants and American citizens alike. The June 25 rally was organized by FAIR and drew some 400 participants who traveled to the tiny border town of Hereford, Arizona, to press their demands for a restoration of order and enforcement of U.S. immigration laws.



The citizens’ rally took place on a privately owned ranch, against the backdrop of miles of secure border security fencing that, since its construction, has protected the security of surrounding communities, and in front of construction equipment that has sat idle since the Biden administration abandoned construction of additional border fencing that American tax-

payers have already paid for.

Speakers at the rally included local law enforcement officials, most notably Cochise County Sheriff Mark Dannels, and former high level Department of Homeland Security officials, such as Mark Morgan (now a senior fellow at FAIR) and Tom Homan (now a senior fellow at the FAIR-affiliated Immigration Reform Law Institute).

Sheriff Dannels, whose county includes large stretches of border where the Biden administration has halted border wall construction, noted the profound impact that the administration’s policies are having on the communities he was elected and sworn to protect.

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# Border Rally

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“Last year at this time, just off of my sheriff’s office virtual camera system we had 1,500 or in that area...illegal entries. This year, same time period, we have 15,300 entries,” Dannels stated. The effect, he and other local officials noted, is an upsurge in crime, drug-smuggling, and the increased presence of transnational criminal gangs.



Speakers also noted that the damage wrought by the Biden Border Crisis is not limited to border communities. Interior checkpoints on roads leading away from the border have been shuttered by the Biden administration, ensuring that illegal aliens, narcotics, and other contraband can easily flow to the interior of the country.

The FAIR border rally received national and local media attention (including live coverage on Fox News’ “Hannity” program). The success of the rally is also due to the dedicated activists who turned out for the event and to the Ladd family who hosted the event on their ranch. ■



## Immigration REPORT

The FAIR Immigration Report  
(ISSN 1067-3337)

Published 10 times a year by the Federation for American Immigration Reform, a non profit membership organization.

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# 40,000 COVID-Infected Migrants Released into the U.S. as the Nation Braces for Next Wave of the Pandemic

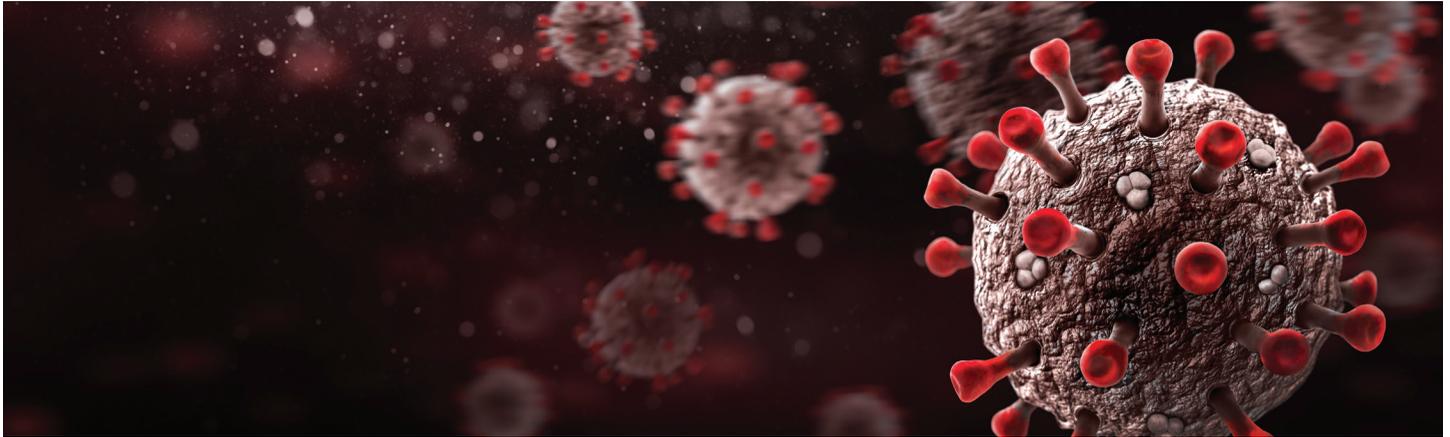


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New and more dangerous variants of the COVID virus threaten to send the nation back into some form of lockdown. But even as hospital wards are filling, and new restrictions on personal freedoms are being imposed, migrants carrying the virus and its vaccine-resistant variants are being released into the United States and settled in communities all across the country.

According to Mark Morgan, the former chief of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection and former Acting Director of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, some 40,000 COVID-positive migrants, who entered the country illegally, have been turned loose. Morgan is currently a Senior Fellow at FAIR. Morgan notes that many migrants who are apprehended at the border are not tested for COVID, and even some who test positive for the disease are released from custody anyway. Additionally, about one-third of the migrants in federal custody refuse to be vaccinated.

Many of those being released are unaccompanied minors, or families with minor children, who cannot be summarily returned to Mexico under Title 42. As such, these children are destined to wind up in schools all across the country, where children under the age of 12 cannot be vaccinated under CDC guidelines. In the immediate vicinity of the border in the Rio Grande

Valley of Texas, Morgan reports that COVID cases have surged by 900 percent.

The open border also poses unnecessary hazards to frontline personnel who come in close contact with migrants. According to Morgan, 32 Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agents have died of COVID and many more have become ill with the virus. The grave risk to CBP agents was acknowledged by Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas as he toured the border region in August. During that visit (in which he admitted that the administration's policies were "unsustainable"), Mayorkas spoke about the possibility of providing them with hazardous duty pay resulting from their continued exposure to COVID-infected migrants.

Law enforcement, by its very nature, entails hazard to those doing the enforcement. However, in this case, the policies initiated by Mayorkas and the Biden administration have deliberately created additional hazards for CBP personnel and for unsuspecting citizens around the country. While the circumstances under which CBP agents are working merit hazardous duty pay, most would rather be spared the unnecessary risk that is being imposed upon them and their families by the Biden administration's policies – as would citizens in the communities where the 40,000 infected migrants have been quietly released.

## Epic Spending Bill Could Feature Epic Showdown Over Mass Amnesty

Superlatives are thrown around all too casually these days. But it is no exaggeration to label the coming months as the most important moment in the history of U.S. immigration policy. The raging Biden Border Crisis is grabbing the headlines, deservedly so, but a Senate plan to implement a sweeping illegal alien amnesty, by means of backroom parliamentary maneuvers, could have a far more detrimental impact on the nation.

The U.S. Senate wrapped up business for the summer in early August by approving a massive \$1.2 trillion spending package, ostensibly to upgrade America's infrastructure, with bipartisan support. But that spending package was only a precursor to a much larger, \$3.5 trillion plan hatched in the Bernie Sanders-led Senate Budget Committee. Although this yet-to-be finalized legislation is also billed as an effort to upgrade infrastructure, it is laden with a dizzying array of Democratic social policy priorities, including plans to grant amnesty to 10 million, or more, illegal aliens.

Virtually none of these social policy goals (especially a mass amnesty amid a raging border crisis) could pass the Senate on their own merits, where it takes the support of 60 members to bring a bill to the floor. Understanding that the Democrats' control of both houses of Congress is tenuous, Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.), is attempting to enact amnesty and other unpopular measures by including them in a government funding bill. Under a procedure known as Budget Reconciliation, the Senate can approve measures that have a significant impact on federal revenues with a simple 51-vote majority. In an evenly divided Senate, the tie-breaking vote would be cast by Vice President Kamala Harris.

There are some hurdles that Schumer and his caucus must clear before this scenario can play out. The most important – and the best case scenario – is that the Senate Parliamentarian, Elizabeth MacDonough, will reject the Democrats' argument that amnesty for millions of illegal aliens is a legitimate matter to be

taken up in a budget bill. (If anything, amnesty would have a significantly negative impact on the federal budget.)

While FAIR is hoping that Ms. MacDonough will rule (correctly) and bar inclusion of amnesty in a budget reconciliation measure, FAIR is preparing for a legislative battle to prevent it from happening. In



Image Credit: Chuck Schumer|schumer.senate.gov

July, FAIR commissioned polling in the home states of key Democratic senators who are either up for reelection in swing states in 2022, or who are on record as opposing efforts to busting longstanding Senate rules requiring 60 votes to move legislation forward. It would only require one Democratic senator opposed to including amnesty in the budget measure to block the effort.

In each of these states, Arizona, Georgia, Nevada, New Hampshire, and West Virginia, voters overwhelmingly oppose using a budget measure to enact a massive illegal alien amnesty. The polling, conducted by Zogby Analytics, also found that voters are alarmed by the raging border crisis (for which they hold the Biden administration accountable) and believe that granting amnesty to illegal aliens would only exacerbate an already bad situation.

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## Epic Spending Bill

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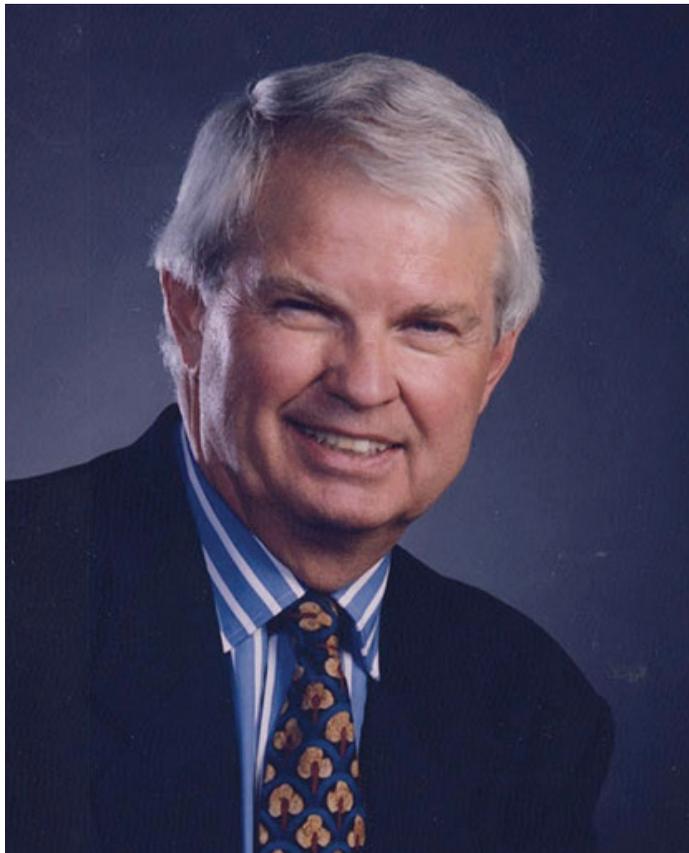
FAIR is also utilizing social media and paid advertising to educate the American public about both the underhanded tactics that the Senate Democratic leadership is employing, and the devastating impact that their massive amnesty would have on the nation. FAIR activists around the country are also active in reaching out to their senators urging them to oppose leadership's effort to use budget reconciliation to reward millions of illegal aliens. Moreover, FAIR's annual Hold Their Feet to the Fire radio row (the largest in our history) will take place just as the Senate is likely to consider the massive spending and amnesty bill, providing timely information to millions of peo-

ple across the country.

Other factors that play into the outcome include the \$3.5 trillion price tag (much of it borrowed money), amid renewed inflation and runaway government deficits, that could scare away moderate Democrats.

It is not an exaggeration to say that the stakes have never been higher. If the parliamentarian permits the abuse of Budget Reconciliation to gain amnesty for illegal aliens, it will require an unprecedented effort on our part to beat it back. Thanks to support from the American public in the past, FAIR has been able to lead the effort to block previous amnesty efforts. We urge all members and supporters to pay close attention to our website, [www.fairus.org](http://www.fairus.org), in the coming weeks and months and make sure your voices are heard by Congress as loudly as those of illegal aliens. ■

## The Passing of Gov. Richard Lamm: A Personal Reflection by FAIR President Dan Stein



There have been a few notable figures in my life that've left a big impression. Richard Lamm, former governor of Colorado is one such person. One does not realize how important a person was until they are gone. Gov. Lamm passed away on July 29, just shy of his 86th birthday.

Lamm spent decades working with the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR), as a member of the Board of Directors and as chair of our National Board of Advisors. Many an evening was spent in my younger days listening to conversations speculating on the future between the governor and luminaries who also served on this board, like Garrett Hardin, John Tanton and Otis Graham. The topic? The future, always.

What always stood out about Dick Lamm was his concern for the future – for the future of the nation, of the land of our people. He was endlessly pushing a vision that made us look years ahead at trends and their implications. For a national political figure, he was

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## Gov. Richard Lamm

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willing to tread on the most delicate of ground.

He was a Democrat. There are few Democrats like him anymore. A centrist who worked across the aisle, but a deep thinker who never shied away from controversy. As a sitting governor, he rhetorically placed himself on trial for heresy in order to defend his contention that the trends evident in 1985 could not continue. He published hypothetical speeches given decades in the future reflecting on key decisions that could have been seasonably made in time, had society only acted sooner to avert needless suffering. He warned of the devastating effects of the rapid population growth that's stressing the planet. He called for tough decisions when most leaders refused to listen.

Much of his concern stemmed from the ethics of inter-generational equity. Today, when we hear the

disparaging observations from younger millennials and Gen Z's, we think "if only" we'd listened to Dick Lamm and his concerns over the transformation of the U.S. from the world's biggest creditor nation to the world's biggest debtor; how we have squandered all the advantages we were given as a people in an effort to be all things to all nations. As he exits the scene, many of the problems he flagged decades ago have become more entrenched and even more intractable; yet we were warned.

We live today in an era dominated by juvenile thinking: "no limits" as we borrow and spend without regard to tomorrow. Dick Lamm represented a conservation of resources and an awareness of practical limits, and history will treat those who had the audacity to refuse to conform to the herd mentality of today's politics. Undoubtedly, we will look back fondly on this true visionary and leader. ■

## Border Patrol 'Encounters' 400,000 Illegal Border Crossers in June and July, as Mayorkas Concedes the Situation is 'Unsustainable'

A staggering 400,000 illegal aliens were 'encountered' (a nebulous new term employed by the Biden administration) entering the United States illegally in June and July. The brutally hot summer months historically result in an ebb in the number of people crossing the southern border, but under the Biden administration's de facto open borders policies, the pace of illegal entries soared during the summer of 2021.

The Border Patrol reported 188,829 apprehensions in June – the highest June total ever recorded. Those unprecedented summer apprehension totals were quickly surpassed in July, when 212,672 people were caught entering illegally – a 13 percent increase over June's numbers and a staggering 419 percent increase over July 2020. Even the Biden administration's decision to maintain Title 42 – a COVID-related provision invoked by the Trump administration allowing the Border Patrol to return illegal border-

crossers to Mexico – did little to dampen the surge. Even accounting for the 96,000 people who were expelled under Title 42 in July, nearly 120,000 were allowed to remain.

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Image Credit: Flickr | U.S. Department of Homeland Security



Image Credit: istock

## Border Crossers

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The figures reported by the Border Patrol, of course, only reflect the number of people who were ‘encountered’ or ‘apprehended.’ There were obviously many more who managed to enter undetected and even many of those removed under Title 42 may have subsequently crossed illegally.

The situation at the border became so dire over the summer that even the architect of the Biden Border Crisis, Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, was caught on tape admitting that it was “unsustainable” and that “we’re going to lose.” Mayorkas, who has publicly refused to even acknowledge that we have a crisis at the border, made these admissions to Border Patrol agents during an August visit to the border region of the Rio Grande Valley in Texas.

FAIR has repeatedly called for Mayorkas’ resignation or impeachment over his refusal to honor his oath of office which requires him to safeguard the homeland. In August, Rep. Andy Biggs (R-Ariz.) filed articles of impeachment against the secretary, charging that he is “a threat to the sovereignty and security of our nation.” While the articles of impeachment are a non-starter in the Democratic-controlled House, Mayorkas’ sober admission that his own policies are unsustainable should make adherence to those poli-

cies unsustainable for the administration.

Even some of the staunchest apologists for the Biden administration’s disastrous border and immigration policies have begun to turn on the president and his chief lieutenant. In a Sunday edition editorial, the Washington Post accused the administration of having an “incoherent” border strategy and openly blamed it for the border crisis. (In fact, the situation at the border is a product of design, not incoherence. Nonetheless, the fact that the Post and others acknowledge that the policies are “politically toxic” is significant.)

The political toxicity of the Biden Border Crisis is reflected in recent public opinion polls. Polling conducted by Fox News and Morning Consult show that a majority of voters (57 percent in the Fox poll and 54 percent in the Morning Consult poll) oppose the administration’s policies. Support for the president’s immigration policies are in the low-30s. Overall, these policies are cited as a key factor in the president’s overall job approval numbers, which sunk below 50 percent for the first time in August. ■

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The Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) allows Federal employees from all over the country to easily make a tax-deductible donation by payroll deduction, credit card, check or cash.

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