

Immigration REPORT

FAIR’s 2021 Hold Their Feet to the Fire Radio Row: As Biden Torches Immigration Enforcement, 59 Talk Radio Hosts Hold Him Accountable Over Two Days

On September 29 and 30, FAIR held its 14th annual Hold Their Feet to the Fire (F2F) radio event in Washington, D.C. This year’s event, held on the rooftop deck of a Capitol Hill office building housing some of the nation’s leading news outlets, featured some 60 local and national talk hosts, dozens of members

of Congress, former high ranking Department of Homeland Security (DHS) officials, federal and local law enforcement officers, victims of illegal alien crime, and immigration policy experts.

The backdrop to F2F 2021 was the multi-pronged disaster known as the Biden-Harris immigration agenda: Sustained record levels of illegal immigration; caravans of illegal migrants from all across the globe; deliberate sabotage of border and interior immigration enforcement; and an all-out effort by the White House and congressional Democrats to enact

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a sweeping illegal alien amnesty by subverting established rules of the U.S. Senate.

In other words, there was plenty to talk about.

Adding to the importance of this year's F2F event is the fact that most mainstream news media are refusing to report the full scope of the disastrous policies that the Biden-Harris administration has implemented since coming to power in January. And, to the extent that these important issues are covered, they are deliberately distorted by many media outlets, as was the case with the Border Patrol's efforts to manage a caravan of some 17,000 Haitian migrants who crossed the border illegally in September.

Over the course of the two-day event, the 59 talk

Among the important and timely issues covered over the two days were:

- The ever-worsening border crisis.
- The administration's curtailment of virtually all interior immigration enforcement.
- The administration's dangerous Afghan resettlement efforts in the aftermath of its disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan.
- Efforts to enact amnesty for an estimated 8 million illegal aliens by including it as part of the \$3.5 trillion budget reconciliation bill (a plan twice derailed by the Senate parliamentarian).

Radio listeners across the country heard directly



hosts filled in the gaps left by other media outlets' highly selective coverage of the Biden Border and Immigration Crisis, and correct outright disinformation. F2F 2021 blanketed the nation's radio airwaves from 6:00 am until 9:00 pm 90n both days?), reaching listeners from the east coast to Hawaii.

from numerous members of Congress who oppose the president's reckless policies about what steps can be taken to minimize the damage the Biden administration is inflicting on the American public. In addition, former high ranking DHS officials during the Trump

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The FAIR Immigration Report
(ISSN 1067-3337)
Published 10 times a year by
the Federation for American
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membership organization.

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2021 Feet to Fire

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administration spoke about the effective immigration enforcement policies they had put in place that the current administration has abandoned. Leaders of the union representing the nation’s Border Patrol agents reported directly to the American people regarding the horrific and dangerous conditions at the border and the administration’s deliberate efforts to prevent them from doing their jobs.

COVID restrictions prevented F2F from being the biggest such event to date, but with so much at stake, it was undoubtedly FAIR’s most important collaboration with talk radio.

Special acknowledgements

Staging what has now become the biggest radio row event each year is a huge undertaking and could not happen without the efforts of everyone on FAIR’s staff. However, several members of FAIR’s staff must be singled out for special recognition for their roles in putting together this successful event: Bob Dane,



FAIR’s executive director, who spent many years working in the radio industry and has built strong ties with talk hosts and network executives; Matthew Tragesser, FAIR’s press secretary, who seamlessly coordinated dozens of vendors, site managers, and staffers to make F2F happen; Shari Rendall, FAIR’s Director of State and Local Affairs; and Susan Tully, Law Enforcement Relations Manager for recruiting many important and informative guests for the radio hosts to interview.



With Two Audacious (and Illegal) Policy Memos, DHS Secretary Mayorkas Effectively Abolishes ICE

The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was established by an act of Congress to, among other functions, enforce immigration laws in the interior of the United States. While it is the job of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to prevent people from entering the country illegally (a job that numerous Biden administration policies have made nearly impossible), ICE is tasked with finding and removing people who are living in the United States illegally. Both agencies are part of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

Within the space of two weeks, DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas issued two policy memoranda that effectively strip ICE of nearly all its immigration-related duties. More significantly, these two policy dictates effectively nullify numerous constitutionally enacted federal statutes and replace them with policies that serve the political goals of the Biden administration.

On September 30, Mayorkas issued his “Guidelines for the Enforcement of Civil Immigration Law” memo. Under the guise of “setting priorities,” the memo protects virtually all of the estimated 15 million illegal aliens living in the U.S. from enforcement, and bars

ICE agents from targeting them for removal – even though the law clearly establishes that anyone who is living in the country illegally is subject to deportation.

Mayorkas’ memo provides only three categories of illegal aliens who will be subject to removal. The first are threats to national security, which include those suspected of terrorism and espionage. The second category addresses threats to public safety, notably violent criminals. But even this category includes significant exceptions. If these violent criminals are of “advanced or tender age,” have lived in the United States for a “lengthy” period of time, have a mental illness that led to their criminal conduct, or whose removal would leave dependents behind, they are off-limits to enforcement.

The third category are illegal aliens who entered the country after November 1, 2020, i.e. 11 months prior to the day the policy memo was issued. But even the threat of removal for this cohort of recent arrivals is not very serious. It is relatively easy for illegal aliens to produce fraudulent documents, such as rent receipts, that “prove” they were in the country prior to Mayorkas’ arbitrary cut-off date.

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Image Credit: U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement | Flickr

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But Mayorkas wasn't done yet. Two weeks later, on October 12, the secretary issued a second memo, "Worksite Enforcement: The Strategy to Protect the American Labor Market, the Conditions of the American Worksite, and the Dignity of the Individual."



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

This blatantly mislabeled memo informs employers all across the country that they no longer need to abide by the federal law that prohibits them from knowingly hiring illegal aliens. That 1986 law (which accompanied an amnesty for some 3 million illegal aliens), was voted for by then-Senator Joe Biden, with expressed

intent of eliminating the magnet of jobs that draws illegal aliens to the United States.

The memo constrains ICE from conducting worksite enforcement operations, except against employers who are suspected of being engaged in "abusive and exploitative labor practices" – a vague term that will almost surely be enforced as leniently as possible. Worksite enforcement was used effectively by the Trump administration to deter employers from bypassing American workers and hiring lower-wage illegal aliens. Worksites were also places where ICE could effectively deploy its resources and arrest numerous illegal aliens at one time.

Perversely, as a result of this memo, rather than prevent illegal aliens from taking jobs away from American workers, DHS will entice still more illegal aliens to come to the U.S. by ensuring that they will receive higher wages and better working conditions. Meanwhile, all but the most unscrupulous of employers, will have a green light to ignore the law and hire illegal aliens. American workers, of course, will lose job opportunities and see their wages stagnate, as more illegal aliens flood the labor market – a consequence that is apparently of no concern to the Biden administration. ■

FAIR Holds Biden Border Crisis Conference on Capitol Hill, and Public Vigil for Victims of Illegal Alien Crime

More than 100 sheriffs and Angel Families gathered on September 28 in front of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) headquarters, at a rally organized by FAIR, to urge President Joe Biden to fire Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas for being derelict in his duties to secure our border and protect Americans. The day after the candlelight vigil, the sheriffs and Angel Family members participated

in a conference that focused on the border crisis and the dangers it poses not only to border communities but every community nationwide. The vigil and conference were held in conjunction with FAIR's annual Feet to the Fire.

Speakers at the vigil included sheriffs and Angel family members, former high-level Department of

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Border Crisis Conference

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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), as well as members of Congress including Senator Ted Cruz (Texas), and Representatives Andy Biggs, Louie Gohmert, and Madison Cawthorn. FAIR's candlelight vigil, remembering those who have been victimized by foreign criminals and the policies that allow them to remain in this country, received national media attention from Fox News and CNN.

The following day FAIR held a congressional roundtable at the Capitol Hill Club. Among the speakers were seven members of Congress including Minority Whip Steve Scalise and Representative John Rutherford, a former Duval County, Florida sheriff, as well as several sheriffs including a border county sheriff and a sheriff who is in the unique position of being both an Angel family member and law enforcement.

Representative Rutherford made it clear in his remarks that Biden administration's immigration policies are not "failed policies" but are their intentional policies. He also encouraged the sheriffs to meet with him on legislative fixes to the crises in their communi-

ties resulting from Biden's open-borders policies.

At the afternoon briefing, Brandon Judd, representing rank and file Border Patrol officers, highlighted how the cartels are controlling our borders by sending families and unaccompanied children across the border to seek asylum, which requires the border agent to leave the border and transport and process those aliens. Once the agent leaves the border, the cartels are trafficking drugs and people across the unpatrolled sections.

With public support for the Biden immigration agenda crashing, FAIR is rallying pushback on numerous fronts. ■



Remembering Dave Ray, FAIR's Communications Director



On September 23, FAIR suffered an immeasurable loss. Dave Ray, our long-time Director of Communications passed away unexpectedly after a brief illness.

Dave was more than just a consummate professional, a colleague and a dedicated champion for the cause of true immigration reform. He was a dear friend to everyone on staff. Dave was a warm and generous man with an infectious smile that brightened the office.

Dave first came to FAIR in the late 1980s, serving in various roles in the organization. In the early 2000s, he left FAIR to pursue a career in public relations. He returned to FAIR in 2015, guiding the organization's media and communications department, and serving as one of our primary spokespeople.

Dave is survived by his son, Eli, his long-time partner Ross, his mother and three siblings, and many nieces and nephews.



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Charity Navigator has awarded FAIR four out of a possible four stars. In addition, FAIR continues its top-rated status with Charity Watch. FAIR has demonstrated exceptional financial health, outperforming most of our peers in our efforts to manage and grow our finances in the most fiscally responsible way possible.



Support FAIR in the **2021** Combined Federal Campaign!

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.

The fight against illegal immigration and out-of-control immigration policies is a joint effort and one we would not be able to do without your generous support.

The Immigration problems we face in the U.S. have never been bigger. Your contribution to FAIR is needed now more than ever. The CFC is the largest workplace giving campaign in the world and an opportunity for you to join with other likeminded Americans to have a major impact on immigration reform.

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