



Federation for American Immigration Reform
House Committee on the Budget
March 7, 2024

FAIR is a national, nonprofit, public-interest organization comprised of millions of concerned citizens who share a common belief that our nation's immigration laws must be enforced, and that policies must be reformed to better serve the national interest. Our organization examines trends and effects, educates the public on the impacts of sustained high-volume immigration, and advocates for sensible solutions that enhance America's environmental, societal, and economic interests today, and into the future. FAIR has over three million members and supporters of all racial, ethnic, and religious backgrounds, and across the political spectrum.

The situation we are facing at our borders and in communities all across the country cannot be rectified with cosmetic changes to failed policies, or by fueling those policies with money. H.R. 2, the *Secure the Border Act*, which was passed in the House last May, provides the legislative changes needed to end the ruinous policies that have led to unprecedented levels of illegal immigration.

The Biden Administration's preferred approach – rapidly processing illegal aliens, releasing them into the country, and then pushing for amnesty – is not a solution. Continuing down that path only encourages more illegal immigration, drug trafficking, and other criminal activity. Congress must enact meaningful policy reforms and force the Biden Administration to enforce the law. The *Secure the Border Act* will provide border enforcement agencies with the manpower, technology and infrastructure they need to do their jobs. Put more simply, the bill is a landmark piece of legislation that will secure our borders and fulfill the promise made in the Commitment to America. Among its key provisions, the bill would:

- Require the Department of Homeland Security to resume construction of the border wall along no less than 900 miles of our southern border;
- Increase manpower to a total of 22,000 Border Patrol agents;
- Prohibit the DHS Secretary from releasing illegal aliens apprehended at our border;
- Reform our asylum process to deter frivolous claims and prohibit gang members, felons, and drunk drivers from benefitting from our asylum system;
- Prevent unaccompanied alien children surges at the border, ensuring they are screened and processed expeditiously with family members and sent home; and
- Significantly limit the Secretary's authority to grant humanitarian parole, so that broad programs cannot be established to circumvent Congress.

We commend the House Budget Committee for calling to implement the policies in the *Secure the Border Act* as part of its Fiscal Year 2025 concurrent resolution. Throwing more money at the Biden Administration's border crisis won't solve it and neither will weak bills that maintain the status quo. What is needed now, and what the American people are rightfully demanding, are real policy changes to secure our borders and enforce our immigration laws.