



CHAIR JODEY ARRINGTON

HOUSE BUDGET COMMITTEE

Op-Ed, Lubbock Avalanche-Journal: Chairman Arrington Unveils the High Price Tag of Mass Illegal Immigration

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Yesterday, House Budget Committee Chairman Jodey Arrington (R-TX) penned an [Op-Ed](#) in the *Lubbock Avalanche-Journal* highlighting the fiscal impacts of the Biden Administration’s wide open border policies.

CHAIRMAN ARRINGTON IN THE LUBBOCK AVALANCHE-JOURNAL

Via [Lubbock Avalanche-Journal](#):

The American people understand the unprecedented humanitarian and national security impact of our current border crisis, but it doesn't end there. As Chairman of the House Budget Committee, I'm exposing the fiscal implications of our wide-open borders.

*The total hit to taxpayers is **\$150 billion per year**. That's more than the annual budget of nearly every state, and it's almost twice as much as we spend on the entire Department of Homeland Security.*

*State and local governments bear a disproportionate financial burden, spending **\$100 billion per year**, while the federal government only spends **\$50 billion**.*

However, unlike the federal government, our state and local governments can't borrow or print money – they are required to balance their budgets. That means to absorb the tens of billions in costs; they have to cut services to hardworking Americans or raise taxes on them. This is totally unsustainable and completely avoidable.



*In Texas alone, we have spent **\$13 billion** because the federal government has abdicated its first and most important responsibility: to enforce our immigration laws, secure our sovereign border, and protect our citizens.*

*As a whole, American taxpayers are spending nearly **\$9,000 per illegal immigrant**. That's more than the federal government spends on our most vulnerable citizens on Medicaid benefits. That's more than we spend on our brave veterans for their military retirement benefits.*

Here's a sample breakdown of additional taxpayer dollars spent on services for illegal immigrants.

*At the federal level, we're spending **\$2.8 billion** on Head Start, **\$8.2 billion** in uncompensated care, **\$5.8 billion** on food stamps, **\$25 billion** on additional criminal justice services, and more.*

*At the state level, we're spending **\$70.4 billion** on K-12 public school education, **\$18.2 billion** on medical expenses, and **\$12 billion** on additional law enforcement and national guardsmen.*

Oftentimes, these are programs that are supposed to serve the American people, especially the most vulnerable among us, but instead, they're supporting illegal immigrants and incentivizing more people to come into our country illegally.

*At a time when we have ballooning deficits and a record national debt, at a time when we can't even afford the safety net programs, we've promised to our own citizens, we're taking on another **\$150 billion** for people coming into our country illegally.*

This is a crisis that is costing taxpayers at the federal, state, and local levels. We must hold President Biden accountable and ensure he can no longer ignore the catastrophic consequences of his self-inflicted border crisis.



THE BOTTOM LINE

Under President Biden, our Southwest border has experienced an **unprecedented surge of illegal migrant encounters, crime, and an influx of deadly drugs**. Disjointed policymaking and woefully underfunded border security enforcement further exacerbate U.S. national security vulnerabilities:

HOW THE SOUTHWEST BORDER HAS CHANGED SINCE BIDEN TOOK OFFICE			
 BUDGET COMMITTEE	Trump Jan. 2017 - Jan 2021	Biden Jan 2021-Present	Percent Change
Fentanyl Seizures	10,312 lbs	66,868 lbs	548% increase
Apprehensions	3,004,925 Illegal Immigrants	10,062,777 Illegal Immigrants	235% increase
Terrorist Watchlist Apprehensions	11 Terrorists	365 Terrorists	3,218% increase

Source: CBP

Chairman Arrington’s Op-Ed follows a [hearing](#) held by the House Budget Committee this week entitled ***“The Cost of the Border Crisis.”*** The hearing explored the fiscal consequences of the Biden Administration’s dismantling of effective border enforcement strategies. Improving the U.S. federal government’s collective stewardship of taxpayer dollars and securing our Southwest border will demand a collaborative partnership that incorporates all facets of federal, state, and local governments.



House Budget Committee Republicans, led by Chairman Arrington, will continue to prioritize fiscal accountability within the federal government by striving to protect American taxpayers and states from footing the bill of bad executive policies.

MORE FROM THE HOUSE BUDGET COMMITTEE ON THE BORDER CRISIS

Read Chairman Arrington’s letter to Congressional Budget Office Seeking Full Analysis from CBO on Mass Illegal Migration Costs [HERE](#).

Watch the hearing entitled ***“The Cost of the Border Crisis”*** [HERE](#).

