

Good morning, Mr. Chairman and members of this committee. My name is John Franklin. I'm the Mayor of the City of Vista in San Diego's North County.

The President is required by our constitution to "take care that the Laws be faithfully executed" in our land. This is not an option. He is bound by his oath of office to do this.

Unfortunately, The Biden-Harris Administration, has decided not to "take care that the laws be faithfully executed" with respect to the border and our immigration laws.

I want to talk to you today about what this Administration's open border has done to my community.

Known as the climatic wonderland for our outstanding weather, we are a city of middle-class and working families. We didn't ask for the administration to ignore the law and harm our community.

Our county medical examiner has reported 1,203 people died last year of an accidental drug overdose.<sup>1</sup> This is double the rate that it was just a few years ago. Double. Yet our administration doesn't care. I think everyone gathered here today knows the primary cause behind this surge in unnecessary deaths. The drug – fentanyl – is being smuggled across our open border by drug cartels. Last year, over 700 people died from fentanyl. This crisis is killing at a higher rate than we've ever seen before. Why? One major factor is that many individuals simply don't realize they are consuming a hard drug. They have no opioid tolerance, and if they consume a substance laced with fentanyl, they'll be sent into an immediate overdose.

One of these individuals was my friend's son. He thought he was taking Adderall. He bought it from a drug dealer whose product has likely killed others. These drugs come from all over the world, but they only arrive in our country through one source – our open southern border.

We're also dealing with high rates of crime. Statistics on crimes committed by illegal immigrants are unavailable, because unlike in Texas, the state of California refuses to collect these data. The Texas Department of Public Safety over the last decade – and especially in the last four years – has recorded thousands of incidents of illegal aliens committing crimes including robbery, rape and murder.<sup>2</sup> If we extrapolate the numbers that

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/2024/08/29/overdose-deaths-in-san-diego-county-decrease-but-fentanyl-and-meth-remain-key-culprits/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://cis.org/Bensman/While-Illegal-Aliens-Kill-and-Rape-Bogus-Crime-Comparisons-Still-Blunt-Solutions>

California is subjected to 25% of the illegal border crossings that Texas has that means we have a crime rate that is approximately

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533,000 criminal offenses. 997 of these were homicide charges (resulting in 498 convictions). 1,245 of these were kidnapping charges (resulting in 354 convictions). 6,744 of these were sexual assault charges (resulting in 3,537 convictions). 6,560 of these were illegal weapons charges (resulting in 2,138 convictions).<sup>3</sup>

Because we know that the California border sector experiences approximately 25% of the illegal border crossings that Texas experiences, it is reasonable to extrapolate that we are experiencing these crimes at approximately 25% of the rate.

In Vista I organized an anti-retail theft task force. I stood with the deputies in the security office monitoring the store. In less than 10 minutes, we identified our first shoplifter. As we arrested them and looked into their background, we were shocked to discover the people stealing from our stores were not troubled individuals down on their luck, but members of organized crime syndicates with connections south of our border who were stealing and looting from not just Vista's businesses, but businesses across our region in a methodical fashion – exploiting not only the fact that they could travel freely across our border, but also that in California we have allowed people to steal with impunity as long as they take \$950 or less. Businesses and grocery stores in our city have closed – usually in our poorest neighborhoods because of victimization by these organized criminals.

Finally, we have to deal with the fact that illegal immigrants put negative wage pressure on our job market. When illegal immigrants come into our country, they also violate our labor laws. They take jobs that pay below the market rate, often don't pay into our taxes, and now our state legislature is even considering allowing illegal immigrants to be employed in our state government.<sup>4</sup> This is insane. If you broke the law when you came to our country, certainly we should all agree that you shouldn't get a job paid for by our taxpayers. I am the Mayor of a working-class city with a large Latino population. They elected me for a reason – because I gave voice to their concerns and promised to be their champion. I appreciate the

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<sup>3</sup> <https://cis.org/Bensman/While-Illegal-Aliens-Kill-and-Rape-Bogus-Crime-Comparisons-Still-Blunt-Solutions>

<sup>4</sup> [California to Give Illegal Immigrants Jobs in State Government \(reformcalifornia.org\)](https://reformcalifornia.org/california-to-give-illegal-immigrants-jobs-in-state-government/)

opportunity to be here to speak to my community's concerns and my city feels the economic effects of illegal immigration.

The President and Vice-President must adhere to their oaths to take care that the law is faithfully executed. They swore these oaths before God and our Nation. My city needs them to uphold the law. I ask President Biden and Vice-President Harris to please start enforcing our laws beginning with securing our border. Thank you for letting me speak before you today.