

CONGRESSWOMAN SHEILA JACKSON LEE OF TEXAS

HEARING STATEMENT

HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION INTEGRITY, SECURITY, AND ENFORCEMENT

“THE BIDEN BORDER CRISIS: PART III”

MAY 22, 2023

10:00 A.M. 2141 RAYBURN HOB



- Thank you, Chairman McClintock and Ranking Member Jayapal, for the opportunity to speak today and thank you to the witnesses who are here.

Majority Witnesses

- Tammy Nobles

Mother of Kayla Hamilton who was allegedly murdered by an unaccompanied alien child MS-13 gang member who entered the country during the Biden Border Crisis

- The Honorable Teresa Kenny
City Supervisor, Orangetown, New York

- The Honorable Rodney Scott
Retired Chief, U.S. Border Patrol; Distinguished Senior Fellow, Texas Public Policy Foundation

Minority Witness

- Mark Hetfield, President & CEO, HIAS
- Immigrants make invaluable contributions to American innovation, the American economy, and the American Dream.
- Many immigrants fill jobs with low pay and few benefits to support their families, leaving far too many in poverty and with few opportunities to get ahead.
- In addition to their contributions in the workforce, immigrants contribute to state economies through small business ownership and entrepreneurship.
- If not for their citizenship status, immigrants would be recognized for their contributions to our economy and society.
- Republicans would prefer to frame all immigrants as criminals or worse, who are the main culprits transporting illegal drugs like fentanyl over the border, rather than to recognize the legitimate reasons for their migration.
- Texas holds the second highest creation of jobs by state at about 13.8 million total number of new jobs as of February 2023.
- In Texas, immigrants are vital to the labor force, making up 37% of all workers in the construction industry, 28% of workers in the administrative support, waste management, and remediation services, 27% of the agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting industry, and 27% of the manufacturing industry.

- About half of Texas's population gain since 2000 resulted from natural increase; around 29% from net domestic migration gains; and 22% from net international migration gains.
- The contributions of immigrants, undocumented and documented, high and low skilled, as employees and entrepreneurs, are a part of what makes the Texas economy a model for the country.
- However, one troubling finding is the persistent earnings gap between Texas immigrants and their native-born counterparts, observed at every education level except among those with an advanced degree.
- Mr. Chairman, the system is broken.
- Until we value the 13.6% of the American population, or 45 million individuals that are immigrants living in the United States, we have failed the basic principles of humanity we pride ourselves on.
- In his testimony, the minority witness, Mr. Mark Hetfield, details various solutions for Congress to remedy the border crisis, including appointing a high-ranking official to make necessary reforms to protect asylum seekers and authorizing and funding independent studies on the treatment of asylum seekers.
- There is no better time than now, with the ending of Title 42, to address the necessary immigration reform that needs to happen.
- We must find a bipartisan solution that will address the legitimate issues of our current immigration plan.
- Thank you, I yield back the remainder of my time.