

blind eye to it, and we watch as we tragically pick up the bodies in the desert of those who are sneaking into the United States illegally that don't make it across that desert.

□ 1750

As the summer comes along, the numbers go up and up. But I asked the question a few years ago when they were testifying before the Immigration Committee about how many lives were lost in the desert while they were sneaking into the United States. How many Americans died at the hands of those who made it into the United States? How many times have we seen fatalities on the highway of someone who didn't have a driver's license? didn't have an insurance policy? that was in the United States illegally that didn't understand our laws? drinking and driving? had been picked up and had been interdicted by law enforcement?

We lost a nun in Virginia last year very close to home. Corey Stewart knows about that, the county supervisor down there in, I believe, Prince William County. That's an example.

We lost several kids in a school bus wreck in southwest Minnesota, north of me. That happened with an illegal that had been interdicted several times and turned loose into our society. And those families grieve for their lost children in a school bus wreck that would have been avoided if we'd enforced our laws at the border, if we'd enforced our law with local law enforcement here in the United States when we come across people in the United States illegally.

This is not a big ask. A sovereign nation has to have borders. And what do borders mean? They mean that you control the traffic that's coming into those borders. And we can actually decide. You control the traffic going out of the United States. But we don't have to do that because we've developed a pretty good country here, but we're going to lose this country if we don't adhere to the rule of law. And the rule of law is that, when this Congress acts, the executive branch is bound to enforce the law. It's a prudent decision that reflects the will of the American people.

The American people have said, We want our borders secure, and we don't want workers in the United States illegally taking jobs away from Americans or legal immigrants who become Americans. We want to have a tighter labor supply than that.

If we wanted to up our 1½ million immigrants into the United States, we could do that. We could double this. We could triple it. We could go tenfold. We can say that anybody could come to the United States. All you have to do is sign up at the U.S. Embassy in your home country, and we'll give you a visa to come to the United States. We could say that. We could bring anybody in that wanted to come in. But why do we say no? Because there's a limit.

We have asked the question here in this Congress, and a previous Congress

has asked and answered the question: How many are too many? And what kind of people do we want to encourage to come here? And what kind of people do we want to discourage from coming here?

These are the questions. We have all kinds of people involved in this debate that don't have the slightest idea how to begin to answer those questions. They just say, Oh, my compassion compels me to be for open borders. My heart bleeds for people that aren't as fortunate as Americans are. So, therefore, I'm just going to be for turning a blind eye or granting amnesty so that I don't feel guilty that everybody can't live the American Dream like we all do.

Well, things have changed. Things have changed.

There was a time when we had high levels of immigration into this country and a zero welfare state. When my grandmother came over here in 1894, we weren't a welfare state. They screened people before they got on the boat, and they checked them out physically; they checked them out mentally. If they had a lot of resources, they got to ride first class and got unloaded in a different dock, but the rest of them went to Ellis Island.

And even though they screened a good number of the people out before they boarded the ship—and, remember, they didn't want to haul them back to Europe. It was Europe primarily at this time. But even still, after they were screened and they arrived at Ellis Island, they gave them a physical. They looked in their eyes. They gave them kind of a quick mental test. They looked underneath their eyelids to see if they had a disease that put little white spots underneath there. And if they weren't of physical ability or mental ability to be able to take care of themselves, they put them back on the boat—I should say “ship”—and sent them back to the place where they came from. About 2 percent were sent back.

Now here we are. We're interdicting 10 percent, 25 percent. We don't even get that many sent back because it's round robin. For a long time, we did catch and release, and we said, Come back and appear. Of course, they didn't appear. Then we did catch and return. We'd pick them up at downtown Nogales, take them up to the station sector location, and they would come in with their little Ziploc bag. We fingerprinted them, took the digital photograph of them, and sometimes we saw that same person came back. The peak one that I know of down there was in 27 times.

We had a really good return trade going on with people that were coming into the United States illegally. We'd pick them up, give them a ride up to the headquarters, and all they had to do is just have their prints taken again, get their picture taken again, and then they got a little van ride down to the port of entry where they

turned that little white van sideways, opened up the side door, and they'd get out and walk back to Mexico. The van would take off and go get another load. Around and around and around we went. It was round robin, and it wasn't accomplishing very much.

Now we're at least bringing prosecution against most of them, which is providing a little more of a deterrent, Mr. Speaker. We've got to do a lot better. We've got to understand this mission. The mission is to protect our borders for this sovereign Nation. You can't have a border if you don't control the border.

We need to control the border—all of it. We need to force all traffic through the ports of entry. We can do it if we build a fence, a wall and a fence. Yes, we need to put sensory devices up there and use some of the other technology that's there. And yes, we have to have Border Patrol agents that are there that are manning the fence and running to the locations where they need to to make the proper interdictions. All of that needs to take place.

But we need to use our resources smartly, and we can. We can shut off all illegal traffic that's going to come across our southern border if we do these smart things. And I have not advocated, I will point out, Mr. Speaker, a 2,000-mile fence. I simply advocated that we build a fence, a wall and a fence, and build it until they stop going around the end—that's the standard—and force all the traffic through the ports of entry. Then we have to widen our ports of entry, beef them up so we can handle the increased traffic that's there so that it's not a significant impediment.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

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REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 839, HAMP TERMINATION ACT OF 2011; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 861, NSP TERMINATION ACT

Mr. SESSIONS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 112-34) on the resolution (H. Res. 170) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 839) to amend the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 to terminate the authority of the Secretary of the Treasury to provide new assistance under the Home Affordable Modification Program, while preserving assistance to homeowners who were already extended an offer to participate in the Program, either on a trial or permanent basis; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 861) to rescind the third round of funding for the Neighborhood Stabilization Program and to terminate the program, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

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ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.