

SAFE Committee Op-Ed on Immigration

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Former Mayor of Chicago and Democrat operative once said: “You never let a serious crisis go to waste. And what I mean by that it's an opportunity to do things you think you could not do before.” How about creating a crisis? The current administration’s border policies created a crisis at the southern border and border state Republican Governor’s responded with a page out of the Rahm playbook and created one for “Blue State” Governors and Mayors.

Unfortunately, the victims, in the midst of all of this gamesmanship, are the immigrants who were used as human battering rams to take down our immigration laws and international laws regarding asylum. In the process many “migrants” have faced a dangerous journey where they have been robbed, raped, and murdered. And they have been used to provide cover for the human traffickers and drug Cartels.

Our immigration laws have been in place throughout the crises that we have seen for decades. We have a process for obtaining citizenship and thankfully there still are true immigrants who respect our laws and follow that process. They are coming here in the first place because the United States respects the Rule of Law unlike many of the countries that these immigrants come from.

Imagine what type of future citizens we are embracing when we disregard our process and our Rule of Law. Recent polling done by respected pollster Gallup, shows that a backlash against legal immigration is occurring because of the out of control border crashing that they are witnessing. Our country is a nation of immigrants and those who came here brought with them some documentation and sponsorships from people or entities here in the United States. They usually had a place to go and a home that would take them in.

Eight months ago, those who called the situation at the border were roundly criticized for raising the issue. Another part of the playbook is to label those who are opposed to open borders as racists or anti-immigrant. Once the crisis started to reach the blue or “purple” states and cities now it has become a crisis. The Democrat Governor of purple state Arizona called up the National Guard to deploy to the border with Mexico and Democrat Mayors across the country, mostly “sanctuary” cities, are begging the Biden Administration for help.

Here in Illinois, and especially in the sanctuary city of Chicago, the crisis has overwhelmed resources and budgets and is costing our state over \$2 Billion so far. This does not even account for the impact on school systems and local governments. The state of Illinois is actually paying for the health care of the migrants. Migrants are incentivized from all over the world to illegally cross our border because there are no consequences and free stuff.

Most commonly after you are caught crossing the border, keeping in mind that hundreds of thousands have not been caught, you get a court date four years hence. Recently it has been reported that court dates are out to seven years because the court system is overwhelmed by the numbers.

The crisis is upon us. Here in McHenry County it started with the attacks on the ICE Detention Center. The progressives in our county protested and fought to undermine the county's role in holding illegal immigrants for processing and possible deportation. Many of those in detention were criminals who thanked us for letting them into this country by committing a crime on top of the one they committed when they violated our immigration laws. The progressives won because they control our state legislature and Governor and they simply passed a law mandating that our county cut ties with ICE and forego the millions of dollars in revenue that was funding public safety.

One of the findings in the polling done by Gallup shows an uptick in the perception that illegal immigration is accompanied by higher crime. Public Safety and the Rule of Law are the most important issues for government at every level. It is in fact why we have a government to begin with. We can't be safe if these two pillars of civilization are undermined.

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