

# IMMIGRATION REPORT



## FAIR Puts a Price Tag on the Biden Border Crisis: \$20.4 Billion

If you've been feeling a bit squeezed of late, you are not imagining it. The purchase power of your dollar was 8.3 percent less in August than it was a year ago. You're also suddenly on the hook for more than half a trillion in student loan debt that President Biden didn't really cancel, so much as shift to the rest of us. If that wasn't enough, the costs associated with the never-ceasing influx of illegal migrants since President Biden took office are mounting.

According to a new analysis by FAIR the additional cost burden that has been heaped on beleaguered U.S. taxpayers is at least \$20.4 billion per year. That figure is in addition to the approximately \$143 billion federal, state and local taxpayers were already shelling-out to provide public benefits and services to longer-term illegal aliens and their U.S.-born children.

Since taking office in January 2021, some 5 million illegal entries into the United States have occurred. Of that total, roughly 2.3 million have either been released into the country or were never apprehended by Customs and Border Protection. Based on the most recent comprehensive

cost study from 2020, FAIR conservatively estimates that each illegal alien costs American taxpayers \$9,232 per year – bringing the additional cost wrought by the Biden administration's self-inflicted border crisis to \$20.4 billion.

FAIR emphasizes that this new cost estimate is likely a conservative one. Among the unprecedented influx of new illegal aliens are an unprecedented number of unaccompanied children (UAC's). The Department of Homeland Security estimates that for Fiscal Year 2022 (which ended on September 30), 161,000 UAC's arrived here. Under a 25-year-old court settlement, all of these minors are granted entry to the country, with American taxpayers assuming all the costs associated with their presence, including housing, education, health care, and other needed services. These costs are certain to run well in excess of the average per illegal alien cost of \$9,232 a year.

Even the adult migrants – single adult males constitute the largest component of the influx – are likely to impose higher than average costs on U.S. taxpayers. Newly arriving migrants enter with no resources or jobs. Due to those

# Price of Border Crisis

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circumstances, food, shelter and other basic necessities must be provided. These additional costs come at a time when, according to a report by Brandeis University, 35 percent of American households with a full-time working adult struggle to meet the cost of their basic needs.

In an age in which trillion dollar government spending packages are labeled modest, FAIR notes that the \$20.4 billion that will be expended annually on newly-arriving illegal aliens could pay for a lot of other priorities:

- Providing every homeless veteran in America \$50,000 per year for a decade. This would effectively end veteran homelessness.
- Giving every family in America earning \$50,000 or less a grocery voucher of roughly \$410.
- Providing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits to more than 7 million additional needy families.
- Funding and expanding the entire National School Lunch Program.
- Hiring more than 315,000 police officers to combat rising crime across the country.
- Hiring of 330,000 new teachers, which would easily end the long-standing teacher shortage in America.
- Construction of nearly the entire Southern Border Wall (which could prevent millions more illegal aliens from entering).



FAIR's report garnered national media attention. Among many others, it was featured on Fox News' Faulkner Focus; in an appearance by FAIR president Dan Stein on Neil Cavuto's Coast to Coast program on the Fox Business Channel; and on Sean Hannity's website.

## Immigration REPORT

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## But Wait, There's More (Costs to You)!

### Biden Issues Rules Essentially Nullifying Public Charge Rules and Proposes Free Legal Representation to Illegal Aliens

For well over a century, the United States has had laws on the books barring people who are likely to become public charges, i.e. rely substantially on public benefit programs, from legally immigrating to this country. Much like the Biden administration has done to laws against illegal immigration, it has issued a new set of final rules that render public charge laws meaningless.

The Biden administration's new rules defining what it means to be a public charge exclude the utilization of just about every public benefit program that would reasonably define someone as being a public charge. Reliance on public assistance programs to pay the rent, pay the utility bills, pay medical bills, or put food on the table is no longer considered grounds for barring someone from becoming an immigrant to the United States.

Among the factors the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) will no longer deem as an indication that someone seeking a green card is likely to become reliant on public assistance include:

- Emergency medical assistance
- National school lunch programs

- The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (food stamps)
- The Children's Health Insurance Program
- Government-subsidized student and mortgage loans
- Energy assistance
- Food pantries and homeless shelters

For many mass immigration advocates, the Biden evisceration of the public charge rules is a good start but still does not go far enough. "Letting families know that eligible immigrant families can use most of the health care and social service programs is a small win for us in an ongoing battle," said Jennifer Duarte, of the El Paso, Texas-based Project Vida.

However, for 14 state attorneys general, the Biden rule is another gut-punch to overburdened taxpayers who are also struggling with the highest levels of inflation in 40 years. Led by Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, the states (which will pick up most of the costs of these welfare programs) filed a 147-page brief before the U.S. Supreme Court seeking to bar the DHS rule from taking effect. "With America in the midst of a recession and families across the country already



# Public Charge & Free Representation

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facing record-high inflation, it's completely reprehensible to expect taxpayers to foot the bill for hundreds of millions of dollars to sponsor more and more illegal aliens," Paxton said. As of completion of this newsletter, the Supreme Court had not yet issued a ruling on the states' request.

But the administration was not yet done with sticking taxpayers with the bills for their unchecked immigration policies. The president's proposed FY 2023 budget includes a funding request for legal representation for unaccompanied children [UC] that his policies are admitting at a record clip. According to the administration the funding would "help ensure that unaccompanied immigrant children are unified with relatives and sponsors as safely and quickly as possible and receive appropriate care and services while they are

in ORR's [Office of Refugee Resettlement] custody." And clearly the administration anticipates that the numbers will grow even greater. "The Budget also includes mandatory investments in the UC program, including a multiyear contingency fund that would automatically provide additional resources when there are large increases in UC referrals, and a proposal to scale up to universal UC legal representation."

In case you were wondering how much this will cost, the Congressional Budget Office estimates that over the next decade providing publicly funded legal representation to illegal aliens under the age of 18 (at the time of their arrival) will cost \$30 billion.

## Biden's Handpicked Border Patrol Chief Admits There are No Consequences to Illegal Immigration

Raul Ortiz was appointed Chief of the U.S. Border Patrol in August 2021 by President Biden because of his willingness to go along with the administration's lax border enforcement policies. In that role, Ortiz has towed the administration's line that our borders are secure and our immigration laws are being enforced, even as it is plainly evident that they are not.

However, while Ortiz has been willing to lie for the administration in the media, he drew the line at perjuring himself. In July, Ortiz was deposed, under oath, by the office of the Florida Attorney General in a lawsuit brought by the state against the Biden administration's handling of the border. A video of that deposition was publicly released in September. In it, Ortiz, under penalty of perjury, effectively calls Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas and Vice President Kamala Harris liars for claiming that our borders are secure.

Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody claims (with a great deal of justification) that the Biden administration's refusal to secure the border is imposing significant burdens on the state. An estimated 48,000 migrants traveling to Florida failed to check in with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. "The federal government now has no idea of their location or activity — even though most of them are legally inadmissible," Moody charges.

The transcript of Ortiz's sworn deposition speaks for itself:

**Q: Would you agree, Chief Ortiz, that the southern border is currently in crisis:**

Ortiz: Yes.

**Q: Would you agree, Chief Ortiz, that unprecedented numbers of aliens are illegally entering the United States?**

Ortiz: Yes.



**Q: Are the individuals that are turning themselves in, are they turning themselves in because they believe they are going to be paroled?**

Ortiz: I would imagine that they are turning themselves in because they think they are going to be paroled, yes.

**Q: Would you agree, Chief Ortiz, that the aliens who cite favorable immigration policy as a reason to come to the United States are perceiving what actually is happening in the United States?**

Ortiz: Yes.

**Q: When President Biden was elected, the number of aliens attempting to illegally enter the United States illegally increase, or decrease?**

Ortiz: Increase.

**Q: From your 31 years of experience, has the Border Patrol ever had the number of encounters that it's going to have in 2022?**

Ortiz: No.

**Q: Is the crisis that is currently ongoing at the southern border making the border less safe for Americans and aliens alike?**

Ortiz: Yes.

**Q: Since President Biden was elected, does this document indicate that aliens illegally entering the United States perceive that they will be able to enter and remain in the United States?**

Ortiz: Yes.

**Q: Why is it important to detain or remove demographics that are inadmissible?**

Ortiz: One, you want to make sure you have consequences.

**Q: And, if you don't have consequences, what is likely going to happen?**

Ortiz: In my experience we have seen increases when there are no consequences.

**Q: So, if migrant populations believe there are not going to be consequences, then more of them will come to the border. Is that what you are saying?**

Ortiz: There is an assumption that if migrant populations are told that there is a potential that they may be released, yes you can see increases.

**Q: If you are not detaining and removing demographics that are inadmissible, the flow will compound, so it will increase at an exponential rate. Is that what is being suggested here?**

Ortiz: Well, I do think it will increase, yeah.



## Reality Bites: Being a Sanctuary Jurisdiction Is Great Fun Until the Aliens Start Showing Up

More than 600 jurisdictions – including entire states – have declared themselves to be sanctuaries for illegal aliens. It feels great to bask in the warm feeling of self-righteousness until you are called upon to put it into practice. Then...not so much.

Over the past several months, Governors Greg Abbott of Texas, Doug Ducey of Arizona and Ron DeSantis of Florida, whose states are being overwhelmed by the Biden administration's self-induced border crisis have started busing and flying migrants to "welcoming" sanctuary cities, counties and states. Contrast the statements of local leaders in the sanctuary jurisdictions before the migrants started showing up and after:

### **Before: New York City Mayor Eric Adams (January 2022)**

"Under the new leadership of Mayor Eric Adams and with the coordination and support of New York City Council and our community partners, [the Office of Immigrant Affairs] will continue to affirm the City's unwavering commitment to protecting, serving, and safeguarding the rights and well-being of all New Yorkers, regardless of immigration status."

### **After: Mayor Adams (September 2022)**

"In this new and unforeseen reality, where we expect thousands more to arrive every week going forward, the city's system is nearing its breaking point. As a result, the city's prior practices, which never contemplated the bussing of thousands of people into New York City, must be reassessed."

### **Before: Washington, D.C., Mayor Muriel Bowser (November 2016)**

"We celebrate our diversity and respect all DC residents no matter their immigration status. We are a sanctuary city because we know that our neighborhoods are safer and stronger when no one is afraid to call on our government for help, and when our police can focus on protecting and serving."

### **After: Mayor Bowser request assistance from the Department of Defense (August 2022)**

"The District of Columbia...request[s] to deploy the DC National Guard to help prevent a prolonged humanitarian crisis in our nation's capital resulting in the daily arrival of migrants in need of assistance."

### **Before: Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot (February 2021)**

"Chicago has been a welcoming city and a city of immigrants since its very founding, and proudly so."

**After: Mayor Lightfoot (September 2022)**

“Let me say loud and clear to Greg Abbott and his enablers in Texas, with these continued political stunts Gov. Abbott has confirmed what unfortunately many of us have already known. That he is a man without any morals, humanity or shame.

**Before: Illinois Gov. J.D. Pritzker\* (August 2021)**

“Throughout my governorship I’ve directed my administration to adopt policies that make Illinois a welcoming state for immigrants, and I’m proud to sign these accountability measures into law to advance our cause. Every family, every child, every human being deserves to feel safe and secure in the place they call home. I am committed to making sure that value defines what it means to live in Illinois.”

**After: Gov. Pritzker (September 2022)**

“The governor of Texas is forcing on New York and D.C. and Chicago – and potentially other places – a needlessly last-minute and complex process that is a heartless display of politics over people. Why not give reasonable

notice? Why send these folks only to blue cities or blue states? Why isn’t Abbott sending refugees to Mississippi, Oklahoma or Idaho? This is about politics for him.”

*(\*Gov. Pritzker’s family owns the Hyatt Hotel chain. So far their values do not include providing accommodations to the migrants.)*

**Before: Dukes County, Mass., (Martha’s Vineyard) Commissioner Keith Chatinover (October 2021)**

“I would love Martha’s Vineyard to become a haven for new immigrants to this country, but Senator Cruz has no idea what he’s talking about regarding a ‘border crisis.’”

**After: Commissioner Chatinover (September 2022)**

“Again, Vineyarders support refugee resettlement—we just can’t adequately help them when given no advance notice. Using the ensuing disarray to prove a point is a blatant disregard for these Venezuelas’ human rights.”

## News from State and Local Operations

**California**

You know the public is getting fed up when even the California Legislature decides a sanctuary bill goes too far in protecting criminal aliens. California is proudly a sanctuary state and codified that status with the enactment of SB 54 in 2017. But SB 54 carved out a few exceptions to the general rule barring state and local law enforcement from cooperating with federal immigration authorities. Notably, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, which holds 102,945 convicted criminal aliens behind bars, is still permitted to turn prisoners over to Immigration and Customs Enforcement upon release.

But that exception was too much for some California lawmakers. Assembly Bill 937, the so-called VISION Act (“Voiding Inequality and Seeking Inclusion for Our Immigrant Neighbors”), was sponsored and introduced by Assembly Member Wendy Carrillo (D-Los Angeles).

The VISION Act would have eliminated the exceptions in SB 54 and prohibited any cooperation with federal immigration enforcement for illegal aliens, even those convicted of the most heinous crimes. Perhaps chastened by public anger over rampant crime and the recent voter recall of San Francisco County District Attorney Chesa Boudin, legislators thought perhaps this was not the best idea at the moment.

After winning approval in the State Assembly last year, the VISION Act unexpectedly stalled out in the Senate. After lying dormant in the upper chamber for a year, proponents of the bill brought AB 937 to the floor in late August. Needing 21 votes in the Senate for passage, the final tally was 18-13, with four Democrats voting against the measure and nine senators abstaining. Abstentions essentially count as “no” votes and the bill was defeated, and a shred of common sense prevailed in the Golden State.



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Charity Navigator has awarded FAIR four out of a possible four stars. In addition, FAIR continues its top-rated status with Charity Watch. FAIR has demonstrated exceptional financial health, outperforming most of our peers in our efforts to manage and grow our finances in the most fiscally responsible way possible.



## Support FAIR in the 2022 Combined Federal Campaign!

The Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) allows Federal employees from all over the country to easily make a tax-deductible donation by payroll deduction, credit card, check or cash.

The fight against illegal immigration and outof-control immigration policies is a joint effort and one we would not be able to do without your generous support.

The Immigration problems we face in the U.S. have never been bigger. Your contribution to FAIR is needed now more than ever. The CFC is the largest workplace giving campaign in the world and an opportunity for you to join with other likeminded Americans to have a major impact on immigration reform.

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