

## **SECURE THE BORDER BY DETERRING AND SWIFTLY REMOVING ILLEGAL ENTRANTS**

**COMPLETE CONSTRUCTION OF THE BORDER WALL: Build a southern border wall and authorize the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to raise fees from the processing of immigration-benefit applications and border-crossings to be used for security and infrastructure.**

- A meaningful physical barrier on our southern border is vital to prevent infiltration by cartels, criminals, traffickers, smugglers, and threats to both public safety and national security.
- In 2006, Congress passed legislation to secure the border with a double-layer fence but the promised barrier was not constructed.
- The inability to spend immigration fees on core law enforcement functions impedes security on both the southern and northern borders.

**ENSURE PROMPT REMOVAL OF MINORS & RELATIVES CROSSING BORDER ILLEGALLY: Ensure the swift return of Unaccompanied Alien Children (UAC) and family units by amending current laws that require authorities to release them en masse into the United States.**

- Every year, tens of thousands of illegal aliens – some traveling with their parents – are caught after illegally crossing the border, only to be quickly released into our country. This is one of the largest loopholes in U.S. border security.
  - Approximately 38,500 UACs and 71,500 members of family units have been apprehended at the southern border this fiscal year – the vast majority were released.
- Under current law, UACs from countries other than Canada and Mexico are exempt from expedited removal.
- Because of these loopholes, few UACs who illegally enter the country are ever returned home.
  - The number of UACs removed in FY 2016 represented approximately 4 percent of all UACs released into the country that same year.

**END ASYLUM ABUSE: Tighten standards (including the “credible fear” standard), impose penalties for fraud, and ensure applicants are not released while their claims are verified.**

- Chronic asylum fraud and loopholes allow illegal immigrants to gain quick and easy entry.
- Lax legal standards for claiming asylum has led to a backlog of 270,000 affirmative asylum cases with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and 250,000 in the Immigration Courts.
- Misguided judicial decisions have prevented the removal of numerous criminal aliens, while also rendering those aliens eligible to apply for asylum and other forms of relief from removal.

**REDUCE MASSIVE COURT BACKLOG THAT CRIPPLES BORDER SECURITY: Expand our capabilities to deal with the ongoing crisis of illegal border crossings through expedited removal.**

Border security will be impossible as long as we have an immigration court backlog of over 600,000 cases, preventing the removal of illegal border-crossers. It takes an average of 682 days to complete a single immigration case. Proper tools to improve our border security include:

- Expanding and strengthening the expedited removal process;
- Hiring an additional 370 Immigration Judges and 1,000 U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement attorneys;
- Establishing performance metrics for Immigration Judges; and
- Discouraging illegal re-entry by enhancing penalties and expanding categories of inadmissibility.