



Ohio Senate
Senate Building
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, Ohio 43215
Phone: (614) 466-8156
Wilkin@ohiosenate.gov

Committee
Small Business & Economic Opportunity
- *Vice Chair*
Agriculture & Natural Resources
Energy & Public Utilities
Veterans & Public Safety

SHANE WILKIN
State Senator
17th Senate District

Sponsor Testimony

Senate Resolution 273

Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee

May 7, 2024

Chairman Johnson, Vice Chair Wilson, Ranking Member Craig, and members of the Veterans and Public Safety Committee, I am pleased to be here today to offer sponsor testimony on Senate Resolution 273.

Under the Biden Administration, illegal immigration has had an unprecedented surge. Further, since Biden took office in 2021, nearly 7.3 million illegal immigrants have illegally crossed our border – a number that is greater than the population of 36 individual states. (Homeland Security Committee, 2023).¹

In an effort to deter this unprecedented surge and to secure the border, Texas officials began installing concertina wire at or near a 28-mile stretch of the border near Eagle Pass in October 2023 (Garcia, 2023).² In January 2024, the Supreme Court ruled to allow U.S. Border Patrol to

¹ Homeland Security Committee. The United State House of Representatives. (2023). Factsheet: Final FY23 Numbers Show Worst Year at American's Borders – Ever, <https://homeland.house.gov/2023/10/26/factsheet-final-fy23-numbers-show-worst-year-at-americas-borders-ever/>.

² Garcia, J. U. (2023, October 17). Texas strings concertina wire along New Mexico border to deter migrants. *The Texas Tribune*, <https://www.texastribune.org/2023/10/17/texas-border-new-mexico-concertina-wire-abbott/>.

cut or remove this wire fencing (Sherman and Weber, 2024).³ This ruling came after border authorities encountered more than 225,000 illegals along the US-Mexico border in December 2023, which is the highest monthly total recorded since 2000 (Alvarez et al., 2023).⁴

This ruling shows that the Supreme Court of the United States and the Biden Administration are making deliberate policy choices to keep Texas from protecting its own citizens and border – a right and duty that is enshrined right in the Constitution. Enough is enough.

I proudly stand with Texas and commend their actions to secure their border, as we know an open border and an endless flow of illegal immigration leads to more crime and more drugs in our communities and is a huge threat to our country's national security.

I urge my colleagues to move this resolution through the legislative process swiftly to demonstrate that all of Ohio stands with the Lone Star State in their efforts to secure our border from this imminent threat to our national security.

Chair, Vice Chair, Ranking Member, and fellow members of the Committee, I thank each of you for your time and interest in SR 273. I would be happy to answer any questions at this time.

³ Sherman, M., and Weber, P. (2024, January 22). Supreme Court allows federal agents to cut razor wire Texas installed on US-Mexico border. *AP News*, <https://apnews.com/article/supreme-court-immigration-texas-razor-wire-9daef6bd316211b6633ece718e505187>.

⁴ Alvarez, P., Flores, R., and Yan, H. (2023, December 29). December migrant surge at Southern Border largest in more than two decades as mayors call for action. *CNN*, <https://amp.cnn.com/cnn/2023/12/29/us/us-mexico-border-migration>.