



Tom Young
District 42
State Representative

Phil Plummer
District 40
State Representative

Chairmen Hoagland, Vice Chair Johnson, and Ranking Member Thomas, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony urging the United States government to secure its southern border.

According to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection enforcement data, the number of migrants detained along the U.S. Mexico border exceeded 200,000 for the first time in 21 years in July 2021. Just two months ago in March alone there were 221,303 encounters at the southern border.

The United States Border Patrol is overwhelmed. Local law enforcement and mayors are calling out for help. Citizens in border communities are concerned for their safety. This has caused a humanitarian crisis that is endangering the lives and welfare of U.S. citizens, as well as those attempting to come here.

To date in Fiscal Year 2022 there have been over 1,000,000 encounters along our nation's southern border, which is a 20 year high. Our government continues to struggle with the influx of kids, thousands of whom just earlier this year were ordered to wait in border patrol facilities unsuited for minors for longer than the legal 72 hours.

The Biden administration has faced criticism for their management of the border crisis which has led to COVID-19 outbreaks and backlogged processing. Our federal government does not have a centralized system for tracking or responding to COVID-19 cases among those attempting to enter the U.S. The disjointed federal response has limited the Biden administration's ability to contain potential outbreaks in packed detention facilities and if uncontained, those hot spots could also spread into the wider U.S. population.

To put this into prospective, the administration released roughly 80,000 migrants last month, who crossed the southern border illegally, into the U.S., this just one sign of how overwhelmed some sectors of the border continue to be.

Last month, Specialist Bishop Evans died while trying to save two migrants who were crossing the Rio Grande. The situation at the Southern Border is not safe for Americans or the Migrants who seek to come here. That is why we urge you to support this resolution calling for the federal government to secure our nations southern border, and would be happy to answer any questions you may have.