

THE HISTORIC DOLLAR
COSTS OF DHS SECRETARY
ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS'
OPEN-BORDERS POLICIES

PHASE 4 INTERIM REPORT

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY
MAJORITY REPORT

NOVEMBER 13, 2023



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction: The Massive Financial Costs of Mayorkas' Open Borders.....

Section 1: Health Care Costs.....

- *Understanding the Uninsured Illegal Alien Population*
- *Hospital and Emergency Services Provided to Illegal Aliens*
- *Specific Cases of the Border Crisis Burden Placed on Providers*
- *The Economic Cost of the Fentanyl Crisis*
- *Illegal Alien Births in U.S. Medical Facilities*
- *Medicaid Fraud Benefitting Illegal Aliens*

Section 2: Law Enforcement Costs.....

- *Policing, Judicial, and Other Enforcement Costs Related to Illegal Alien Crime*
- *Tactical Law Enforcement Costs Directly Borne by States*
- *National Guard Deployments Costing Federal and State Governments Hundreds of Millions*
- *New Costs Incurred by CBP Due to Mayorkas' Crisis*
- *The Rising Cost of Federal Incarceration of Illegal Aliens*
- *The State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP)*
- *Illegal Alien Costs Connected with the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR)*

Section 3: Education Costs.....

- *Illegal Aliens Receiving Billions in Public School Expenditures*
- *Education Benefits for Low-Income Families Going to Illegal Aliens*

Section 4: Welfare and Other Benefit Costs.....

- *Basic Food and Nutrition Benefits for Illegal Alien Families Cost Billions*
- *Illegal Aliens Receive Childcare Benefits on the Taxpayer Dime*

Section 5: Housing and Shelter Costs for Illegal Aliens.....

- *Cities Funding Hotel Rooms, Other Services for Illegal Aliens*

Section 6: The Cost to Private Property and Border Livelihoods.....

- *The Impact of the Crisis on Ranchers and Farmers*
- *Consequences for Local Businesses and Economies*

Section 7: Putting Illegal Aliens Above American Citizens.....

Section 8: The Cost of Caring for Unaccompanied Alien Children.....

Section 9: The Costs of Transporting Illegal Aliens.....

Conclusion: Mayorkas' Open-Borders Policies Have Wasted, Abused Hundreds of Billions of Taxpayer Dollars.....



INTRODUCTION

Introduction: The Massive Financial Costs of Mayorkas' Open Borders

Every day, millions of American taxpayer dollars are spent on costs directly associated with illegal immigration and the unprecedented crisis at the Southwest border sparked by Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas' policies. Only a small fraction is ever recouped from the taxes paid by illegal aliens, with the rest falling on the shoulders of American citizens and lawful residents. Mass illegal immigration, accelerated by Mayorkas' open-borders policies, now represents a massive cost to the federal government and state governments alike, as well as the pocketbooks of private citizens and businesses.

The range of costs inflicted by Mayorkas' border crisis cover everything from emergency medical care to increased demands on law enforcement to housing and shelter benefits for illegal aliens. Many additional costs involve devoting resources to many uses Americans would never think of, as this report will demonstrate.

Few studies exist to demonstrate the comprehensive scope of the overall federal and state costs of the ongoing crisis and mass illegal immigration. Instead, Americans must rely on a patchwork of federal and state records, media reports, and other publicly available information to gain even limited insights into the costs illegal aliens represent.

Some have attempted to provide this comprehensive data to the extent official numbers are available. The Center for Immigration Studies (CIS) released figures in May 2023 calculating the financial impact of the crisis for cities and states across the country, finding that the annual cost just to care for and house the known gotaways and illegal aliens who have been released into the country under Mayorkas' leadership could cost as much as an astounding \$451 billion.¹

Another key comprehensive study is published by the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR). The group's 2023 report found that illegal immigration's annual net burden on the U.S. economy as of 2022 totaled more than \$150 billion.² In particular, researchers found that illegal immigration imposes around \$182 billion in federal, state, and local costs, while illegal aliens pay approximately \$31 billion in total tax contributions.³ The federal government is responsible for more than \$66 billion in expenditures, an increase of 45 percent from 2017, while the states foot the bill for more than \$115 billion in additional spending on illegal aliens, a 30-percent increase from 2017.⁴

¹ Andrew Arthur, "Biden's Border Fiasco Costing Local Taxpayers Billions," *The Center for Immigration Studies*, May 4, 2023, <https://cis.org/Arthur/Bidens-Border-Fiasco-Costing-Local-Taxpayers-Billions>.

² "The Fiscal Burden of Illegal Immigration On United States Taxpayers 2023," *Federation for American Immigration Reform*, March 2023, 4-6, <https://www.fairus.org/sites/default/files/2023-03/Fiscal%20Burden%20of%20Illegal%20Immigration%20on%20American%20Taxpayers%202023%20WEB%20o.pdf>.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid, 33 & 62.

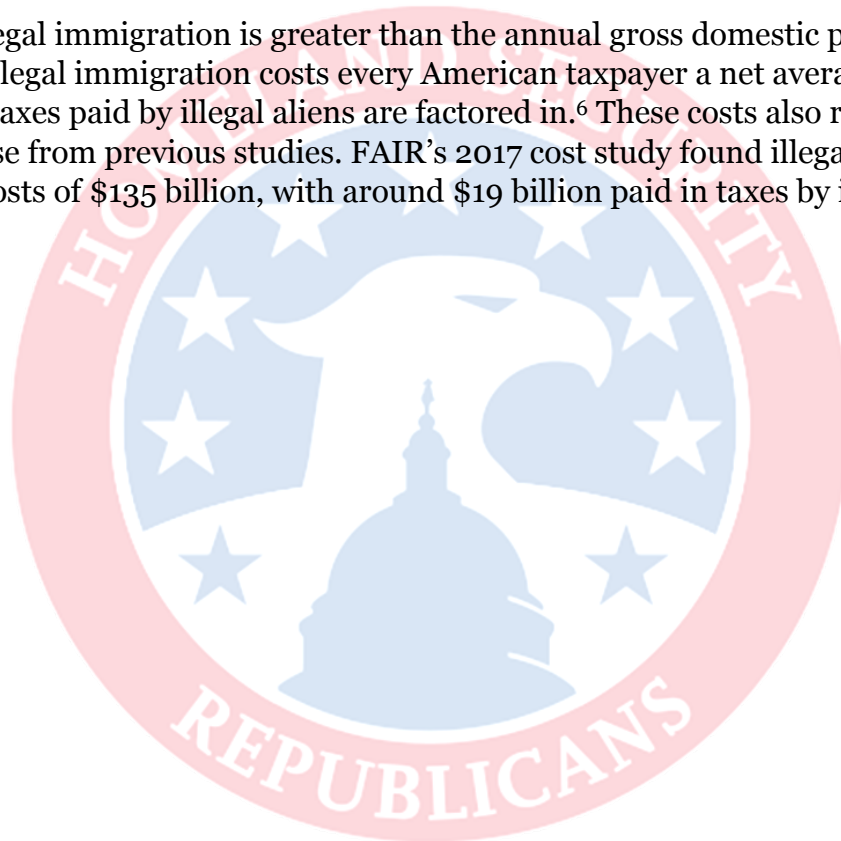


INTRODUCTION



(Source: FAIR 2023 Cost Study)

This net cost of illegal immigration is greater than the annual gross domestic product (GDP) of 15 different states.⁵ Illegal immigration costs every American taxpayer a net average of \$956—or \$1,156 before the taxes paid by illegal aliens are factored in.⁶ These costs also represent a substantial increase from previous studies. FAIR’s 2017 cost study found illegal immigration imposed topline costs of \$135 billion, with around \$19 billion paid in taxes by illegal aliens.⁷



⁵ U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Newsroom, *Gross Domestic Product by State and Personal Income by State*, 3rd Quarter 2022, December 23, 2022, <https://www.bea.gov/sites/default/files/2022-12/stgdppi3q22.pdf>.

⁶ See Erica York, “Summary of the Latest Federal Income Tax Data, 2023 Update,” *Tax Foundation*, January 26, 2023, <https://taxfoundation.org/publications/latest-federal-income-tax-data/>; and “The Fiscal Burden of Illegal Immigration On United States Taxpayers 2023,” *Federation for American Immigration Reform*, March 2023, 6, <https://www.fairus.org/sites/default/files/2023-03/Fiscal%20Burden%20of%20Illegal%20Immigration%20on%20American%20Taxpayers%202023%20WEB%20o.pdf>.

⁷ “Illegal Immigration Costs \$116 Billion Annually,” *Federation for American Immigration Reform*, September 27, 2017, <https://www.fairus.org/press-releases/illegal-immigration-costs-116-billion-annually>.



SECTION 1: HEALTH CARE COSTS

Section 1: Health Care Costs

Illegal aliens are largely barred from receiving most health care benefits available to American citizens and other legal residents, though earlier this year the Biden administration announced several changes to allow some illegal aliens access to Medicaid and the Obamacare health care exchanges.⁸ However, illegal aliens still receive medical care through a variety of taxpayer-funded means, and many jurisdictions are liberally doling out these benefits to them.

New York City is just one example of a city that has openly embraced the concept of taxpayer-funded health care for illegal aliens, even as tens of thousands have streamed into the city on Mayorkas' watch. According to the mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, "Every immigrant New Yorker has the right to get quality health care regardless of immigration status or ability to pay. Many city healthcare and social services are available to all New Yorkers, even if you are undocumented."⁹

Illinois is also facing a massive cost surge in providing care for illegal aliens. According to Politico in May 2023, "A state program that offers health benefits to undocumented adults is ballooning. When it was started a few years ago, lawmakers estimated it to run from \$2 million to \$4 million. Now health officials say the state needs more than \$1.1 billion to keep it running," because the number of aliens using the service was far more than the state planned for.¹⁰ The report also notes that the state's budget only accounts for about 20 percent of this overall cost, with no agreement on where the rest will come from.¹¹

In May 2022, California expanded its Medi-Cal program to cover health care costs of more than 304,000 illegal aliens in the state, which, per FAIR's analysis of California Health and Human Services data, costs more than \$4.8 billion.¹²

To top it off, these city and state governments will often look to the federal government to reimburse them for the very programs those governments created in the first place, meaning the federal government is ultimately, if indirectly, providing benefits to illegal aliens for which they are otherwise ineligible.

⁸ Zeke Miller, Amanda Seitz, and Michael Balsamo, "Biden Says He's Expanding Some Migrants' Health Care Access," *Associated Press*, April 14, 2023, <https://apnews.com/article/biden-daca-affordable-care-act-obamacare-health-5e8777aea489484c90dbcf184cad6310>.

⁹ City of New York, Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, *Health & Disability Access*, accessed on July 27, 2023, <https://www.nyc.gov/site/immigrants/help/city-services/health.page>.

¹⁰ Shia Kapos, "The Billion-Dollar Budget Drama," *Politico*, May 19, 2023, <https://www.politico.com/newsletters/illinois-playbook/2023/05/19/the-1-1b-state-budget-drama-00097828>.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² "The Fiscal Burden of Illegal Immigration On United States Taxpayers 2023," *Federation for American Immigration Reform*, March 2023, 52, https://www.fairus.org/sites/default/files/2023-03/Fiscal%20Burden%20of%20Illegal%20Immigration%20on%20American%20Taxpayers%202023%20WEB_0.pdf.



SECTION 1: HEALTH CARE COSTS

Understanding the Uninsured Illegal Alien Population

Before examining the specific health care costs illegal aliens incur, it is necessary to understand their overall share of the uninsured population, as well as how many illegal aliens reside in the country to begin with.

Many illegal aliens simply do not have health insurance. In 2012, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) estimated that once the Affordable Care Act was fully implemented, illegal aliens would account for 25 percent of the *total* uninsured population in the United States.¹³ More recently, a 2019 estimate from the Migration Policy Institute (MPI) suggested that a little over half (53 percent) of the illegal alien population in the United States is uninsured—around 5.8 million illegal aliens.¹⁴ Further, it would seem that illegal aliens are likely to be without health insurance at a higher rate than American citizens. Per a May 2023 report released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 27.6 million people in the United States were uninsured, a rate of 8.4 percent.¹⁵

However, it should be noted that the MPI numbers are based on the relatively conservative, and certainly outdated, estimate of approximately 11 million illegal aliens residing in the United States. Other estimates range from 16.8 million¹⁶ to as many as 29 million.¹⁷ Given that the estimate of 11 million was being used as far back as 2005,¹⁸ it would seem untenable to continue relying on such an outdated figure, particularly given the millions of illegal aliens released into the interior by the Biden administration since February 2021. But even using MPI's conservative estimate, a minimum of approximately six million illegal aliens without health insurance are placing demands on America's health care system. Further, using MPI's estimate that 53 percent of illegal aliens do not have health insurance, and calculating the illegal alien population based on the aforementioned 16.8 million estimate, this number jumps to nearly nine million.

Hospital and Emergency Services Provided to Illegal Aliens

Hospital and emergency room care represents one of the most significant expenses incurred by illegal aliens. The Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA) of 1986 requires that public hospitals provide emergency medical services to individuals regardless of their ability to

¹³ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, U.S. Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Genevieve Kenney and Mike Huntress, *The Affordable Care Act: Coverage Implications and Issues for Immigrant Families*, April 29, 2012, <https://aspe.hhs.gov/reports/affordable-care-act-coverage-implications-issues-immigrant-families-o>. The brief was prepared by the Urban Institute under contract with HHS.

¹⁴ "Profile of the Unauthorized Population - US," *The Migration Policy Institute*, 2019, <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/data/unauthorized-immigrant-population/state/US>.

¹⁵ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, Division of Health Interview Statistics, *Health Insurance Coverage: Early Release of Estimates From the National Health Interview Survey, 2022*, Report by Robin A. Cohen, Ph.D., and Amy E. Cha, Ph.D., M.P.H., May 16, 2023, 1, https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nhis/earlyrelease/insur202305_1.pdf.

¹⁶ "How Many Illegal Aliens Are in the United States: 2023 Update," *Federation for American Immigration Reform*, June 22, 2023, <https://www.fairus.org/issue/illegal-immigration/how-many-illegal-aliens-are-united-states-2023-update>.

¹⁷ Mohammad Fazel Zarandi, Jonathan Feinstein, and Edward Kaplan, "Yale Study Finds Twice as Many Undocumented Immigrants as Previous Estimates," *Yale Insights*, September 21, 2018, <https://insights.som.yale.edu/insights/yale-study-finds-twice-as-many-undocumented-immigrants-as-previous-estimates>.

¹⁸ Jeffrey S. Passel, "Estimates of the Size and Characteristics of the Undocumented Population," *Pew Research Center*, March 21, 2005, <https://www.pewresearch.org/hispanic/2005/03/21/estimates-of-the-size-and-characteristics-of-the-undocumented-population/>.

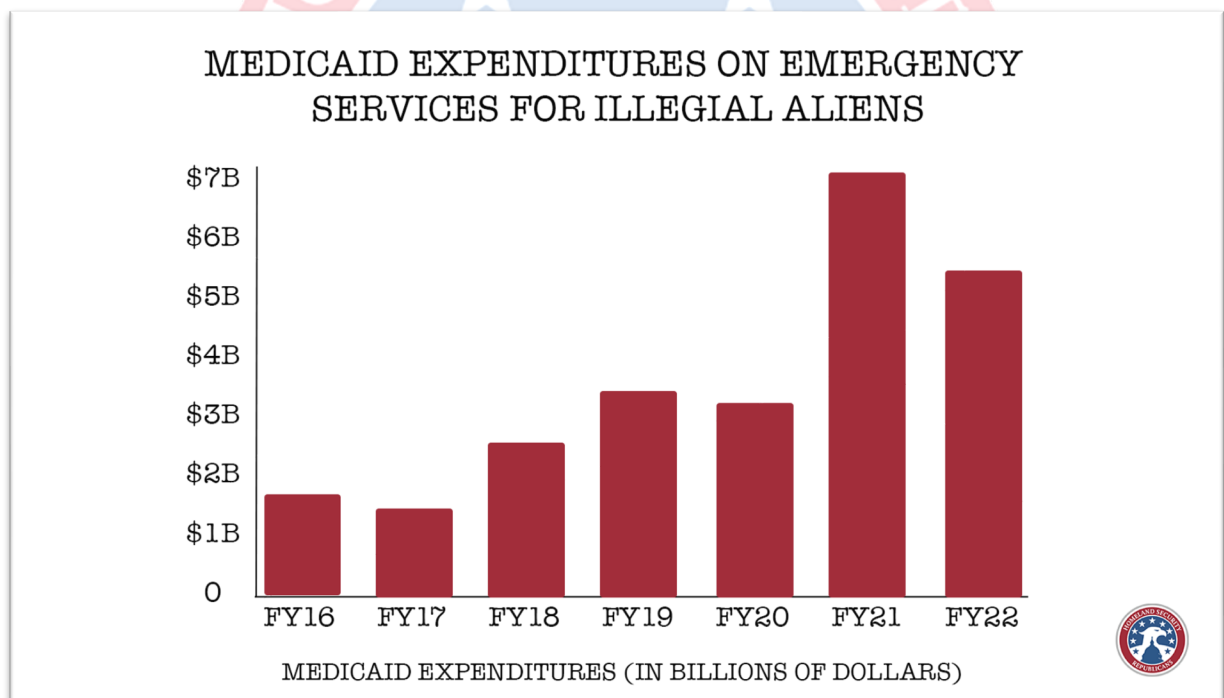


SECTION 1: HEALTH CARE COSTS

pay for those services.¹⁹ Due to the lack of health insurance, many illegal aliens often rely on emergency rooms and services as a source of free or cheap health care—leading to significant costs for medical providers, and the American patients they serve.

Figures published by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services show that total Medicaid costs for “emergency services for undocumented aliens” in Fiscal Year (FY)21 alone exceeded \$7 billion, while in FY22, these costs were more than \$5.4 billion.²⁰ Notably, several states—including Colorado, Michigan, Minnesota, and Tennessee—did not report Medicaid data in this category in either year, meaning the overall numbers were almost certainly larger than reported. Both annual totals represent a steep increase from FY20, when reported expenditures were just over \$3 billion, and an even sharper rise from FY16, which saw approximately \$1.6 billion in total expenditures.²¹

In a January 2021 lawsuit challenging the Biden administration’s deportation moratorium, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton wrote that his state alone was required to pay anywhere between \$62-90 million per year to cover illegal aliens under its Emergency Medicaid program—and that was before the last several years of mass illegal immigration into Texas.²²



¹⁹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Newsroom, *Emergency Health Services For Undocumented Aliens: Section 1011 Of The Medicare Modernization Act*, May 9, 2005, <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/emergency-health-services-undocumented-aliens>.

²⁰ See Financial Management Report for FY 2021 and Financial Management Report for FY 2022, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services, *Expenditure Reports From MBES/CBES*, accessed on July 27, 2023, <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/financial-management/state-expenditure-reporting-for-medicicaid-chip/expenditure-reports-mbescbes/index.html>.

²¹ Ibid, Financial Management Report for FY 2020 and Financial Management Report for FY 2016.

²² See Emergency Application for a Temporary Restraining Order in *State of Texas v. United States*, No. 6:20-cv-00003, 16, (S.D. Tex. 2021).



SECTION 1: HEALTH CARE COSTS

This is to say nothing of uncompensated health care costs for providers who do not receive any reimbursement for services. According to FAIR's analysis, using data provided by the Kaiser Family Foundation and CIS, uncompensated hospital expenses alone incurred by illegal aliens accounted for \$8.15 billion in federal expenditures in 2022, while costing the states another \$4.5 billion.²³

Texas' 2021 lawsuit also pointed out that between 2006-2008, uncompensated costs borne by Texas state hospitals providing care to illegal aliens ranged from \$597 million to \$717 million.²⁴ Factoring in 2008 inflation rates, \$717 million equals *more than \$1.03 billion in May 2023 dollars*.²⁵ One can only wonder how much those costs have skyrocketed on Mayorkas' watch. Data released by the state of Florida, meanwhile, showed that illegal aliens cost hospitals in the state about \$312 million in FY20-21, with hospitals only receiving around \$103 million in reimbursements.²⁶

In January 2023, in *Texas v. Department of Homeland Security*, 20 states challenged the Biden administration's new mass-parole program for Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans, and Venezuelans (CHNV).²⁷ Many of these states detailed how this program alone, to say nothing of Mayorkas' other open-borders policies, would increase health care costs. For example, Tennessee held that the program would require the state "to increase expenditures on various social services like healthcare. Tennessee already spends approximately \$214 million on total uncompensated care costs at public hospitals. ... These expenditures will increase under the parole program."²⁸

Specific Cases of the Border Crisis Burden Placed on Providers

"We're taking up, we're using, emergency rooms and medical facilities that citizens could be using."²⁹ That was the testimony of Joel Martinez, chief patrol agent for the Border Patrol's Laredo Sector, in a transcribed interview with the House Committee on Homeland Security in June 2023. The reality on the ground, particularly in border states, demonstrates this fact.

Dr. Robert Trenchel, chief executive officer of Yuma Regional Medical Hospital in Arizona, testified before the House Committee on Homeland Security in February 2023 about the impact of the record flow of illegal aliens through his hospital's doors. He noted how the influx of aliens seeking medical services has skyrocketed over the past two years, that most do not have insurance or money to pay for services, and that many arrive suffering from major illnesses or ailments:

"Some migrants come to us with minor ailments but many of them come in with significant disease. We have had migrant patients on dialysis, cardiac catheterization and

²³ "The Fiscal Burden of Illegal Immigration On United States Taxpayers 2023," *Federation for American Immigration Reform*, March 2023, 16 & 51-52, https://www.fairus.org/sites/default/files/2023-03/Fiscal%20Burden%20of%20Illegal%20Immigration%20on%20American%20Taxpayers%202023%20WEB_o.pdf.

²⁴ See Emergency Application for a Temporary Restraining Order in *State of Texas v. United States*, No. 6:20-cv-00003, 17, (S.D. Tex. 2021).

²⁵ U.S. Federal Reserve System, Federal Reserve bank of Minneapolis, *Inflation Calculator*, accessed on July 27, 2023, <https://www.minneapolisfed.org/about-us/monetary-policy/inflation-calculator>.

²⁶ State of Florida, Agency for Healthcare Administration, *Cost of Services on the Health Care System, Executive Order 21-223, Data for State Fiscal Year 2020-2021*, August 18, 2022, https://ahca.myflorida.com/content/download/20792/file/Executive_Order_21-223_Update_01302023.pdf.

²⁷ *State of Texas v. U.S. Department of Homeland Security*, No. 6:23-cv-00007, (S.D. Tex. 2023).

²⁸ *Ibid*, 28.

²⁹ Joel Martinez, Transcribed Interview with the House Committee on Homeland Security, 115, June 1, 2023.



SECTION 1: HEALTH CARE COSTS

in need of heart surgery. Many are very sick. They have long-term complications of chronic disease that have not been cared for. Some end up in the ICU for 60 days or more. One of the largest cohorts we have seen are maternity patients who present with little or no prenatal care. These higher risk pregnancies and births result in higher complication rates and longer hospital stays. Due to a lack of pre-natal care, many of these babies require a stay in our Neonatal Intensive Care Unit – some for a month or more at a time. ... Migrants often require three times the amount of human resources to resolve their cases and provide them with a safe discharge...”³⁰

The hospital often provides transportation costs and hotel rooms, as well, and incurred more than \$26 million in unreimbursed medical costs from December 2021 to November 2022 alone. Trenchel noted the impact of those unreimbursed funds:

“\$26 million dollars is equal salary and benefits to support 212 bedside nurses. The City of Yuma has 100,000 people and we’ve had over 300,000 people cross the border here. That’s three times the population of Yuma coming across the border. We are the only hospital within a 3-hour radius – which means they come here.”³¹

The hospital’s costs began escalating in 2021, when the number of illegal aliens being treated per month rose from around 50 to as high as 200, and “settling” at around 100, more than double the hospital’s usual traffic. In 2021, the hospital treated more than 1,000 illegal aliens.³²

In September 2023, Yuma County Supervisor Jonathan Lines testified to the House Committee on Homeland Security that the influx of illegal aliens was even forcing American citizens in need of care to drive hundreds of miles away to receive it:

“We have seen surges that have resulted in large numbers of people being taken directly to Yuma Regional Medical Center. We have seen women approaching the border in labor, I’ve witnessed that multiple times, to the point where our emergency room and our maternity ward was overrun.”³³

[...]

“I had several people tell me that they had to travel to San Diego or to Phoenix to deliver their baby or to have regular surgery that had been scheduled that had been put off. We had an 18-month period where it was almost impossible to go into the hospital...”³⁴

It is not just border-town health care systems that have been impacted, either. New York City’s health care system has also been overwhelmed by the surge of illegal aliens into the city.

³⁰ U.S. Congress, House of Representatives, Committee on Homeland Security, *Prepared Testimony of Robert J. Trenchel for Every State is a Border State: Examining Secretary Mayorkas’ Border Crisis*, 118th Cong., 1st sess., February 28, 2023, 31-32, <https://homeland.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/2023-02-28-HRG-PressPacket.pdf>.

³¹ Ibid.

³² Arlette Yousif, “Spike in Undocumented Immigrant Hospital Visits,” *KYMA News*, December 28, 2021, <https://kyma.com/news/immigration/2021/12/28/spike-in-undocumented-immigrant-hospital-visits/>.

³³ “The Financial Costs of Mayorkas’ Open Border,” *Homeland Security Committee Events*, YouTube video, 2:06:44, September 20, 2023, <https://www.youtube.com/live/49LVY4FL2xk?si=JXJVcmK2a1WdWu92&t=7604>.

³⁴ “The Financial Costs of Mayorkas’ Open Border,” *Homeland Security Committee Events*, YouTube video, 2:54:38, September 20, 2023, https://www.youtube.com/live/49LVY4FL2xk?si=5H74C_-j3DGorytc&t=10478.



SECTION 1: HEALTH CARE COSTS

According to an October 2023 NBC News report, “In the past year alone, medical centers across the five boroughs have received nearly 30,000 visits from undocumented migrants seeking medical care, according to data from New York City Health + Hospitals,” and approximately 300 babies have been born to “migrant moms” during this period.³⁵

Alarming, U.S. citizens who may need help with issues like addiction or eviction may have to wait months before receiving assistance from groups like LegalHealth, a “taxpayer-funded legal clinic at Bellevue Hospital” in Manhattan, because so many illegal aliens are being referred to the service by health care providers.³⁶

New York state lawmakers are also considering proposals to add procedures like kidney transplants to the list of emergency medical procedures available to illegal aliens.³⁷ Procedures like this are typically given to Americans who have valid Social Security numbers, potentially putting illegal aliens ahead of American citizens in need of this vital treatment.³⁸

Inside a New York City hospital on the front lines of the migrant crisis

In the past year alone, Bellevue Hospital has seen one-quarter of the nearly 30,000 visits from undocumented migrants seeking medical care in the city's public hospital system.

Fair Haven Community Health Center in New Haven, Connecticut, has said that one out of every four patients coming to the clinic are illegal aliens.³⁹ At Yale New Haven Hospital, one illegal alien's outpatient dialysis treatment and six-month hospital stay was costing the hospital more than \$1 million—the tab being covered by the federal and Connecticut governments.⁴⁰ Hartford Hospital in Connecticut said they have decided to cover the cost of outpatient dialysis for alien patients, which costs them \$270,000 per year.⁴¹ One pre-crisis study in 2020 estimated that as many as 8,800 illegal aliens with severe kidney disease were present in the United States,⁴² representing potentially tens of millions of dollars in costs just for treatment of this condition alone.

³⁵ Julia Ainsley and Didi Martinez, “Inside a New York City hospital on the front lines of the migrant crisis,” *NBC News*, October 3, 2023, <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/new-york-city-hospital-front-lines-migrant-crisis-rcna118369>.

³⁶ Ibid.

³⁷ Joseph Goldstein, “Why Undocumented Immigrants Struggle to Receive Organ Transplants,” *The New York Times*, May 16, 2023, sec. New York, <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/05/16/nyregion/undocumented-immigrants-organ-transplants.html>.

³⁸ John Binder, “NY Dems Eye Organ Transplants for Illegals as Americans Die on Wait List,” *Breitbart News*, May 19, 2023, <https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2023/05/19/new-york-democrats-eye-organ-transplants-for-illegal-aliens-as-americans-die-on-wait-list/>.

³⁹ Jacqueline Rabe Thomas and Kasturi Pananjady, “Undocumented Immigrants Become ‘Permanent Patients’ in Hospitals,” *CT Mirror*, June 15, 2021, <http://ctmirror.org/2021/06/15/this-undocumented-immigrant-has-been-stuck-in-the-hospital-for-six-months-and-shes-not-alone/>.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹ Ibid.

⁴² Rudolph Rodriguez, Lilia Cervantes, and Rajeev Raghavan, “Estimating the Prevalence of Undocumented Immigrants with End-Stage Renal Disease in the United States,” *Clinical Nephrology* 93, no. 1 (January 2020), <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/31426911/>.



SECTION 1: HEALTH CARE COSTS

“IN TALKING WITH HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATORS IN THE IMPERIAL VALLEY, SPECIFICALLY THE EL CENTRO REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER, THEY ARE **CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS AND THE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION, AND WHAT CAN BE DONE TO STOP IT.**”

– EL CENTRO CHIEF PATROL AGENT
GREGORY BOVINO



California hospitals have also been affected, including the U.C. San Diego Medical Center, which has seen an increase in injured alien patients released by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) into their care. The average cost per patient in “fiscal year 2020-2021” was \$5,548, more than three times the cost two years prior.⁴³ The number of patients being transferred from CBP to the center has also increased dramatically, from 49 in 2019 to 270 in 2021, and 201 in 2022 through July. This jump represents more than \$1.5 million in costs for the hospital. Gregory Bovino, chief patrol agent for the Border Patrol’s El Centro Sector, told the House Committee on Homeland Security in July 2023 that he had observed similar experiences in his California sector:

“I believe that a lot of the individuals that cross the border illegally and end up having to go to the hospital, those hospitals oftentimes bear the burden of some of—of those costs. In talking with hospital administrators in the Imperial Valley, specifically the El Centro Regional Medical Center, they are concerned about what happens and the costs associated with illegal immigration, and what can be done to stop it.”⁴⁴

These accounts alone demonstrate tens of millions, even hundreds of millions of dollars, shouldered by medical providers across the country to provide services to those unlawfully present in the United States. Even if these costs are reimbursed, those paying for them are American taxpayers. Those costs are assuredly growing as the number of illegal aliens released into the interior continues to rise under Mayorkas’ policies.

⁴³ Gustavo Solis, “Border Patrol Avoiding Medical Costs by Releasing Injured Migrants, Records Show,” *KPBS Public Media*, October 7, 2022, <https://www.kpbs.org/news/border-immigration/2022/10/07/border-patrol-avoiding-medical-costs-by-releasing-injured-migrants-records-show>.

⁴⁴ Gregory Bovino, Transcribed Interview with the House Committee on Homeland Security, 103, July 12, 2023.



SECTION 1: HEALTH CARE COSTS

The Economic Cost of the Fentanyl Crisis

As documented in the Committee's October 2023 interim report on the human cost of Mayorkas' border crisis, the human cost of the fentanyl crisis has proven incalculable.⁴⁵ The lives lost from the fentanyl flowing across the Southwest border can never be replaced by any amount of money. However, it is important to note the financial costs this crisis has exacted from the American people, as well.

In 2022, Congress' Joint Economic Committee released a report showing that the opioid epidemic cost the United States almost \$1.5 trillion in 2020 alone, an increase of more than 35 percent since the last time the cost was measured in 2017.⁴⁶ Since 2020, the fentanyl crisis has only worsened, almost guaranteeing the next study will show an even higher cost.

Health care providers have been hit hard by the rising opioid epidemic, as well. According to an Axios report in January 2023, the treatment of opioid use disorder (OUD) is costing hospitals an astounding \$95 billion per year, accounting for almost eight percent of total hospital expenditures.⁴⁷ The report specifically names "the proliferation of the synthetic opioid fentanyl" as a driver of the crisis.⁴⁸

Meanwhile, states are incurring significant financial costs directly associated with the fentanyl crisis, whether in treating those suffering from addiction or devoting law enforcement resources to interdicting the drug or handling the violence associated with the drug trade. In Missouri, for example:

"Drug smugglers unlawfully entering the United States through the southern border are critical suppliers for distributors of fentanyl and other illegal substances in Missouri and elsewhere in the United States. In addition to devastating the lives and health of Missouri's citizens, drug-related and other crimes committed by or against illegal aliens impose major healthcare and law-enforcement costs on the State."⁴⁹

Illegal Alien Births in U.S. Medical Facilities

The cost of illegal alien births in the United States also represents a significant health care expenditure. One study estimated that in 2016, illegal aliens in the United States gave birth to around 250,000 children, around six percent of total births in the United States that year.⁵⁰

⁴⁵ U.S. Congress, House of Representatives, Committee on Homeland Security, Majority, *The Devastating Human Costs of DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas' Open-Borders Policies, Phase 3 Interim Report*, 118th Cong., 1st sess., October 10, 2023, 4-19, <https://homeland.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Phase-3-Report.pdf>.

⁴⁶ U.S. Congress, The Joint Economic Committee, Democrats, *The Economic Toll of the Opioid Crisis Reached Nearly \$1.5 Trillion in 2020*, 117th Cong., 2nd sess., September 28, 2022, https://www.jec.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/67bcd7f-4232-40ea-9263-f033d280c567/jec-cost-of-opioids-issue-brief.pdf.

⁴⁷ Maya Goldman, "How Opioid Misuse Is Costing Health Systems," *Axios*, January 24, 2023, <https://www.axios.com/2023/01/24/opioid-abuse-hospital-costs>.

⁴⁸ *Ibid.*

⁴⁹ See Complaint in *State of Texas v. U.S. Department of Homeland Security*, No. 6:23-cv-00007, 25-26, (S.D. Tex. 2023).

⁵⁰ Jeffrey S. Passel, D'Vera Cohn, and John Gramlich, "Number of U.S.-born babies with unauthorized immigrant parents has fallen since 2007," *Pew Research Center*, November 1, 2018, <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2018/11/01/the-number-of-u-s-born-babies-with-unauthorized-immigrant-parents-has-fallen-since-2007/>.



SECTION 1: HEALTH CARE COSTS

Medicaid covers illegal alien mothers who give birth in the United States, whether they have been in the country for an extended period of time, or if they have crossed the border specifically to give birth in an American medical facility, as thousands do every year, often to engage in “birth tourism”⁵¹ that ensures that their child is born an American citizen.⁵² Anthony “Scott” Good, chief patrol agent for the Border Patrol’s El Paso Sector, told the House Committee on Homeland Security in June 2023, “I have heard, or I have seen, that some [illegal aliens] have come across for medical attention or to have a child born in the U.S. without intention of living in the U.S.”⁵³

Texas’ Paxton stated in March 2021 that perinatal care for illegal aliens cost his state alone as much as \$38 million a year.⁵⁴ After accounting for legal aliens and average costs of natural and surgical births, the approximate cost for illegal alien births comes out to at least \$2.53 billion, with the federal government assuming around \$1.6 billion of the cost and the states \$937 million.⁵⁵

Medicaid Fraud Benefitting Illegal Aliens

In FY22, improper Medicaid payouts across the United States totaled more than \$80 billion, about 16 percent of total outlays.⁵⁶ According to FAIR’s analysis, around \$8 billion likely went to illegal aliens:

“Assuming that uninsured illegal aliens receive improper Medicaid payouts and/or commit Medicaid fraud at the same rate as U.S. citizens — a very conservative estimate, considering illegal aliens are both more likely to commit document-related fraud and have greater incentive to commit Medicaid fraud — there would be approximately 1.28 million illegal aliens receiving improper Medicaid payouts each year. The average improper Medicaid payout per-person comes out to approximately \$6,226, meaning the overall annual total loss attributable to illegal aliens is approximately \$8 billion.”⁵⁷

⁵¹ Pawel Styma, “Birth Tourism,” *Federation for American Immigration Reform*, March 4, 2020, <https://www.fairus.org/issue/legal-immigration/birth-tourism>.

⁵² Pawel Styma, “Birthright Citizenship and Illegal Immigration,” *Federation for American Immigration Reform*, March 4, 2020, <https://www.fairus.org/issue/legal-immigration/birthright-citizenship-and-illegal-immigration>.

⁵³ Anthony “Scott” Good, Transcribed Interview with the House Committee on Homeland Security, 28, June 29, 2023.

⁵⁴ State of Texas, Office of the Attorney General, AG Paxton: *Illegal Immigration Costs Texas Taxpayers Over \$850 Million Each Year*, March 31, 2021, <https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/news/releases/ag-paxton-illegal-immigration-costs-texas-taxpayers-over-850-million-each-year>.

⁵⁵ “The Fiscal Burden of Illegal Immigration On United States Taxpayers 2023,” *Federation for American Immigration Reform*, March 2023, 16-17 & 51, <https://www.fairus.org/sites/default/files/2023-03/Fiscal%20Burden%20of%20Illegal%20Immigration%20on%20American%20Taxpayers%202023%20WEB%20o.pdf>.

⁵⁶ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Newsroom, *Federally-facilitated Exchange Improper Payment Rate Less Than 1% in Initial Data Release*, November 15, 2022, <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/federally-facilitated-exchange-improper-payment-rate-less-1-initial-data-release>.

⁵⁷ “The Fiscal Burden of Illegal Immigration On United States Taxpayers 2023,” *Federation for American Immigration Reform*, March 2023, 12, <https://www.fairus.org/sites/default/files/2023-03/Fiscal%20Burden%20of%20Illegal%20Immigration%20on%20American%20Taxpayers%202023%20WEB%20o.pdf>.



SECTION 2: LAW ENFORCEMENT COSTS

Section 2: Law Enforcement Costs

As long as illegally entering the United States remains an attractive and viable option for illegal aliens, the costs of securing the border, enforcing the law, and holding accountable those who break the law will remain high. The law enforcement costs associated with illegal immigration are not just those directly associated with border security, such as the CBP budget, but the increased costs to law enforcement, who must devote additional resources to dealing with illegal aliens, and to the criminal justice system, which must deal with those who commit additional crimes while in the United States.

It is important to note that these costs are increasing across the board given the historic flow of illegal aliens across the border, including more than 1.7 million known gotaways,⁵⁸ many of whom are no doubt individuals with prior criminal records or who are entering the country for nefarious purposes.

Policing, Judicial, and Other Enforcement Costs Related to Illegal Alien Crime

State and local law enforcement have experienced the costs of dealing with increased illegal immigration more acutely than many in the Biden administration seem to comprehend. For example, in September 2023, Lines testified to the House Committee on Homeland Security that in FY22, “our cost specifically related to the illegals that were detained was \$1.3 million, of which I believe maybe we were reimbursed 10 percent—or 10 cents on the dollar, I should say. But we continue to see other costs attributed to that, as well, especially our first responders, who have to respond to 911 calls on the border and most often people are just looking for a ride.”⁵⁹

Lines later confirmed to Florida Rep. Laurel Lee, “They are responding to calls that are not medically related. It’s simply with people who want to be removed from the border.”⁶⁰ Yuma County Sheriff Leon Wilmot told the House Judiciary Committee in 2023 that the county spent \$445,122 in FY21 just to book illegal aliens in county jails.⁶¹

Sheriff Benny Martinez in Brooks County, Texas, said in 2022 that the county had spent more than “\$1 million in the past few years on migrant-related pursuits, detention, as well as autopsies” of illegal aliens.⁶² Another Texas county official has also said that the costs to bury and cremate illegal aliens found dead on U.S. soil “were such an expense that county employees had to take a pay cut to cover the cost.”⁶³

⁵⁸ Adam Shaw and Thomas Catenacci, “Biden admin may have lost track of millions of migrants crossing southern border: congressional report,” Fox News, October 9, 2023, <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/biden-admin-may-have-lost-track-millions-of-migrants-crossing-southern-border-congressional-report>.

⁵⁹ “The Financial Costs of Mayorkas’ Open Border,” *Homeland Security Committee Events*, YouTube video, 1:39:50, September 20, 2023, <https://www.youtube.com/live/49LVY4FL2xk?si=LswFxmFX3sRNWoXZ&t=5990>.

⁶⁰ “The Financial Costs of Mayorkas’ Open Border,” *Homeland Security Committee Events*, YouTube video, 2:53:23, September 20, 2023, <https://www.youtube.com/live/49LVY4FL2xk?si=gCeB9rf5TEAs4mqL&t=10403>.

⁶¹ U.S. Congress, House of Representatives, Judiciary Committee, Prepared Testimony of Leon N. Wilmot for The Biden Border Crisis: Part II, 118th Cong., 1st sess., February 23, 2023, 2, <https://judiciary.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/republicans-judiciary.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/WilmotTestimony.pdf>.

⁶² Sandra Sanchez, “‘Got-aways,’ migrant smugglers frequently damage property far from border, Texas ranchers lament,” *WFXR TV*, August 4, 2022, <https://www.wfxrtv.com/news/got-aways-migrant-smugglers-frequently-damage-property-far-from-border-texas-ranchers-lament/>.

⁶³ Andrew Arthur, “RGV Border Disaster: Demoralized Agents, Angry and Despondent Residents,” *The Center for Immigration Studies*, April 13, 2022, <https://cis.org/Arthur/RGV-Border-Disaster-Demoralized-Agents-Angry-and-Despondent-Residents>.



SECTION 2: LAW ENFORCEMENT COSTS

Tarrant County, Texas, home to Fort Worth, “averages 246 inmates with immigration detainees at any given time,” costing the county more than \$3.6 million per year.⁶⁴ Sheriff Emmett Shelton of McMullen County, Texas, told the House Committee on Homeland Security in August 2023 that in 2022 alone, the county—which does not have its own jail—spent more than \$224,000 to pay a neighboring county to detain prisoners on smuggling-related charges, and that he estimated total annual costs to his department of dealing with the crisis to be around half a million dollars.⁶⁵ Meanwhile, the number of miles driven by his deputies, in part due to the need to respond to increased smuggling and trafficking, rose from 238,188 in 2020 to 329,996 in 2022.⁶⁶ For context, McMullen County is home to approximately just 600 Texans.

In Arizona’s Cochise County, the sheriff’s department was allocated more than \$12 million by the state in March 2021 to support operations connected to the border crisis.⁶⁷ However, the county’s budget summary also notes that costs associated with the crisis have forced the department to spend money on detaining illegal aliens that would otherwise have been used for salaries and benefits, necessitating an increased request for funding for the latter.⁶⁸ For example, Cochise County Sheriff Mark Dannels later testified to the House Judiciary Committee in February 2023 that in calendar year 2022, “border related booking costs” totaled \$4.3 million, while 1,578 suspects were booked into the county jail for “border-related crimes.”⁶⁹

IN 2022, COCHISE COUNTY, AZ:

- INCURRED BORDER RELATED BOOKING COSTS TOTALING **\$4.3 MILLION**
- BOOKED **1,578 SUSPECTS** INTO THE COUNTY JAIL FOR BORDER-RELATED CRIMES

Based on cost data provided by the National Institute of Corrections,⁷⁰ and an analysis of Justice Department statistics of each state’s illegal and deportable alien population,⁷¹ FAIR estimates police expenditures associated with illegal aliens costs states around \$8.95 billion, with judicial

⁶⁴ See Memorandum Opinion and Order, *State of Texas v. United States*, No. 6:21-cv-00016, 22, (S.D. Tex. 2022).

⁶⁵ Information provided by the McMullen County Sheriff’s Office to the House Committee on Homeland Security, August 14, 2023.

⁶⁶ Ibid.

⁶⁷ Cochise County, Board of Supervisors, *FY 2022-23 Final Budget*, July 12, 2022, 66,

<https://www.cochise.az.gov/DocumentCenter/View/7772/2023-Fiscal-Year-Budget-Book-PDF#:~:text=The%20Fiscal%20Year%202022-23,General%20Fund%20Contingency%20of%20%2415%2C020%2C798>.

⁶⁸ Ibid.

⁶⁹ U.S. Congress, House of Representatives, Committee on the Judiciary, *Prepared Testimony of Sheriff Mark Dannels for The Biden Border Crisis: Part I*, 118th Cong., 1st sess., February 1, 2023, 2, <https://judiciary.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/republicans-judiciary.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/the-honorable-mark-dannels-testimony.pdf>.

⁷⁰ U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Prisons, National Institute of Corrections, Library and Information Center, *2020 National Averages*, accessed on July 27, 2023, <https://nicic.gov/resources/nic-library/state-statistics/2020>.

⁷¹ U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Prisoners in 2020 – Statistical Tables*, NCJ 302776, by E. Ann Carson, December 2021, <https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/p20ost.pdf>.



SECTION 2: LAW ENFORCEMENT COSTS

costs around \$3.72 billion and prison costs around \$6.2 billion, for a total of approximately \$19 billion.⁷² By comparison, FAIR's 2017 report estimated these costs totaled around \$10.5 billion.⁷³

According to the complaint filed in January 2023 in *Texas v. Department of Homeland Security*, "Florida's state prison system spends more than \$100 million per year incarcerating criminal aliens who commit crimes in Florida. Only a small fraction of this expenditure is reimbursed by the federal government under 8 U.S.C. § 1231(i)." ⁷⁴ In the state of Missouri, meanwhile, "Human-trafficking and other crimes committed by or against illegal aliens inflict irreparable costs on Missouri, both in law enforcement costs and in providing resources for victims."⁷⁵

Another overlooked aspect of costs affecting local law enforcement, as well as first responders, is the immense cuts to overtime that New York City police and firefighters could experience following possible budget cuts to pay for the growing costs of illegal aliens arriving in the city.

In early September, New York City Mayor Eric Adams directed agencies "to implement a 5 percent reduction in city-funded spending in each year of the financial plan" in order to find the funds.⁷⁶ According to Joseph Borelli, minority leader of the New York City Council, who testified before the House Committee on Homeland Security in September 2023, "First to go in this case will be police and fire and sanitation, etc., overtime because that's something we obviously issue on a weekly basis, on a daily basis, to different people."⁷⁷ Data provided by Borelli's office to the Committee showed that overtime paid to New York Police Department personnel last year totaled \$740 million, while city firefighters received around \$418 million, with his office informing the Committee that this overtime "is used mostly for crime surges, investigations, large scale events and for firefighters to fight fires."⁷⁸ Cutting this overtime will only reduce the consistent presence of first responders on New York City streets.

⁷² "The Fiscal Burden of Illegal Immigration On United States Taxpayers 2023," *Federation for American Immigration Reform*, March 2023, 56, <https://www.fairus.org/sites/default/files/2023-03/Fiscal%20Burden%20of%20Illegal%20Immigration%20on%20American%20Taxpayers%202023%20WEB%20o.pdf>.

⁷³ Matt O'Brien and Spencer Raley, "The Fiscal Burden of Illegal Immigration on United States Taxpayers," *Federation for American Immigration Reform*, September 27, 2017, <https://www.fairus.org/issue/publications-resources/fiscal-burden-illegal-immigration-united-states-taxpayers>

⁷⁴ See Complaint, *State of Texas v. U.S. Department of Homeland Security*, 6:23-cv-00007, 15, (S.D. Tex. 2023).

⁷⁵ *Ibid.*, 25.

⁷⁶ Office of the New York City Mayor, Eric Adams, *Amid Deepening Asylum Seeker Crisis, Mayor Adams Announces New Steps to Stabilize City's Budget as Required by Law*, September 9, 2023, <https://www.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/650-23/amid-deepening-asylum-seeker-crisis-mayor-adams-new-steps-stabilize-city-s-budget-as>.

⁷⁷ "The Financial Costs of Mayorkas' Open Border," *Homeland Security Committee Events*, YouTube video, 1:28:14, September 20, 2023, <https://www.youtube.com/live/49LVY4FL2xk?si=NWP61S8GcC364QYB&t=5294>.

⁷⁸ Correspondence provided to the House Committee on Homeland Security by the Office of New York City Council Minority Leader Joseph Borelli, September 21, 2023.



SECTION 2: LAW ENFORCEMENT COSTS

Tactical Law Enforcement Costs Directly Borne by States

Numerous states have devoted substantial resources to respond to the crisis sparked by Mayorkas' policies, especially given the Biden administration's refusal to provide relief to these states or change its policies. These efforts have cost the states billions of dollars. States like Texas and Arizona have borne the brunt of this cost, with Texas spending the most—more than \$4 billion as of November 2022.⁷⁹ Texas is projected to spend more than \$9 billion by the end of 2024 to secure its border.⁸⁰



Members of the Texas Department of Public Safety's Tactical Marine Unit patrol the Rio Grande along the U.S.-Mexico border near Mission, Texas, in March 2021. (Source: John Moore/Getty Images)

States have also stepped up to help secure the Southwest and northern borders, at immense cost to themselves. Though dollar figures are not yet available, on May 16, 2023, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis announced that the state was “deploying assets to aid Texas’ border security crisis,” and that substantial law enforcement personnel and resources were available, including:⁸¹

- 101 Florida Highway Patrol troopers
- 200 Florida Department of Law Enforcement officers, in teams of 40
- 20 Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission officers
- 20 Emergency Management personnel – including radio technicians, logisticians, mechanics, and planners
- Five available fixed wing aircraft with monitoring equipment and downlink capabilities with two aviation crew teams
- Two Mobile Command Vehicles and two command teams
- 17 available unmanned aerial vehicles (drones) and support teams
- 10 vessels – including airboats, shallow draft vessels, and mid-range vessels

⁷⁹ State of Texas, Office of the Texas Governor, *Operation Lone Star Escalates Unprecedented Border Security Efforts*, November 18, 2022, <https://gov.texas.gov/news/post/operation-lone-star-escalates-unprecedented-border-security-efforts>.

⁸⁰ See State of Texas, Office of the Texas Governor, *Governor Abbott Urges Nation's Governors To Help Combat Border Crisis*, May 16, 2023, <https://gov.texas.gov/news/post/governor-abbott-urges-nations-governors-to-help-combat-border-crisis>; and J. David Goodman, “Gov. Abbott’s Policing of Texas Border Pushes Limits of State Power,” *The New York Times*, July 26, 2023, <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/07/26/us/texas-greg-abbott-border-migrants.html>.

⁸¹ State of Florida, Office of the Governor, *Governor Ron DeSantis: 'Florida is Sending Help to Texas to Secure the Southern Border'*, May 16, 2023, <https://www.flgov.com/2023/05/16/governor-ron-desantis-florida-is-sending-help-to-texas-to-secure-the-southern-border/>.



SECTION 2: LAW ENFORCEMENT COSTS

Other states that have contributed National Guard or other resources to the effort along the Southwest border include Arkansas, Idaho, Iowa, Mississippi, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia.⁸² In addition, New Hampshire Gov. Chris Sununu has proposed \$1.4 million in new spending on a Northern Border Alliance to secure the northern border.⁸³

National Guard Deployments Costing Federal and State Governments Hundreds of Millions

Texas' deployment of National Guard troops to the border as part of Operation Lone Star accounts for a large amount of the more than \$4 billion cost of the operation, and the Texas Military Department told lawmakers in February 2023 it would need another \$460 million to keep troops on the border just through August 2023.⁸⁴ U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) funding for 2,500 members of the National Guard to be deployed to the Southwest border in late 2022 to assist CBP⁸⁵ costs the federal government more than \$190 million, per FAIR estimates.⁸⁶ The Biden administration also announced in May 2023 the deployment of 1,500 National Guard troops to the border for at least 90 days to deal with the fallout of the expiration of Title 42, where they would primarily help process and release illegal aliens into the interior.⁸⁷

New Costs Incurred by CBP Due to Mayorkas' Crisis

The Biden administration has also requested and spent hundreds of millions of dollars to respond to the very crisis Mayorkas' policies have created—spending that would have been unnecessary if Mayorkas was enforcing the law and securing the border. For example, in its FY23 budget request, DHS asked for \$140 million to construct a new Joint Processing Center at the Southwest border.⁸⁸ This facility would do nothing to help secure the border, but would simply help CBP process and release illegal aliens more quickly into the interior of the United States, or as DHS framed it, “yield processing efficiencies.”⁸⁹

⁸² See Greg Abbott [@GregAbbott_TX], “Tennessee Joins Idaho, Florida, and Nebraska in Support of Texas’ Historic Border Mission. Thank You, @GovBillLee. Together, We Will Fill the Gaps Biden’s Open Border Policies Created and Keep Americans Safe.”, Tweet, *Twitter*, May 25, 2023, https://twitter.com/GregAbbott_TX/status/1661856812650446854; Summer Concepcion, “Four GOP Governors Send National Guard to the Southern Border,” *NBC News*, May 31, 2023, <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/immigration/va-gov-glenn-youngkin-sends-national-guard-southern-border-rcna87048>; and Misty Severi, “These are the states sending National Guard troops to southern border,” *The Washington Examiner*, June 3, 2023, <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/policy/immigration/these-states-are-sending-national-guard-troops-us-southern-border>.

⁸³ State of New Hampshire, Office of the Governor, *Re: Request to Enter into an I.C.E. Delegation Agreement Pursuant to Section 287(g)*, March 13, 2023, <https://www.governor.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt336/files/inline-documents/sonh/20230313123049.pdf>

⁸⁴ Karen Brooks Harper and James Barragán, “Texas Military Department Says It Needs \$460 Million More to Keep Border Mission Afloat This Year,” *The Texas Tribune*, February 9, 2023, <https://www.texastribune.org/2023/02/09/texas-military-department-operation-lone-star-money/>.

⁸⁵ Christian Wade, “States Deploy about 2,500 National Guard Troops to U.S.-Mexico Border,” *The Center Square*, October 4, 2022, https://www.thecentersquare.com/national/article_b043558a-440d-11ed-98b5-37b300fa8344.html.

⁸⁶ “The Fiscal Burden of Illegal Immigration On United States Taxpayers 2023,” *Federation for American Immigration Reform*, March 2023, 25-26, https://www.fairus.org/sites/default/files/2023-03/Fiscal%20Burden%20of%20Illegal%20Immigration%20on%20American%20Taxpayers%202023%20WEB_o.pdf

⁸⁷ Alex Horton and Nick Miroff, “Biden orders 1,500 more troops to Mexico border amid migration surge,” *The Washington Post*, May 2, 2023, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2023/05/02/biden-border-us-troops/>.

⁸⁸ U.S. Department of Homeland Security, *FY 2023 Budget in brief*, March 2022, 22, https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/2022-03/22-%201835%20FY%202023%20Budget%20in%20Brief%20FINAL%20with%20Cover_Remediated.pdf.

⁸⁹ *Ibid.*



SECTION 2: LAW ENFORCEMENT COSTS

A November 2023 press report cited Border Patrol sources saying that other “soft-sided processing facilities” that have “popped up all across the southern border” cost \$100 million per month to operate.⁹⁰ Additionally, DHS requested \$23 million to hire 300 “processing coordinators,” individuals whose primary responsibility is to process illegal aliens and ensure their prompt release into the country.⁹¹ The department even requested approximately \$97 million to fund “additional transportation of noncitizens at the Southwest border,” specifically because “recent high volumes of family units and unaccompanied children at the Southwest border” required more resources.⁹²

Months later, in October 2023, the Biden administration would request another \$14 billion as part of a supplemental spending package, with billions going toward more processing and holding facilities, reimbursing state and local governments and nongovernmental organizations providing services to illegal aliens, and more.⁹³

The Rising Cost of Federal Incarceration of Illegal Aliens

Most illegal aliens convicted of crimes while in the United States are prosecuted and incarcerated by the states in which they commit those crimes. However, the costs to the federal government of incarcerating illegal aliens are also increasing with the number of criminal aliens crossing the border on Mayorkas’ watch.

Per the Bureau of Prisons (BOP), as of April 2023, as many as 24,954 criminal aliens were in federal incarceration,⁹⁴ and according to a 2020 Department of Justice (DOJ) report, 94 percent of criminal aliens in BOP custody in FY19 “were unlawfully present in the United States.”⁹⁵ Data from the bureau also indicates the average annual cost per individual incarcerated in federal prison in FY20 was \$39,158, increasing around \$3,800 from the previous fiscal year.⁹⁶ If one assumes the 94 percent figure indicated in the DOJ report, illegal aliens in federal prisons cost the American taxpayer more than \$918 million. However, when also factoring in the number of illegal aliens in the short-term custody of the U.S. Marshals Service, that number jumps approximately \$648 million, bringing the total to around \$1.6 billion.⁹⁷

⁹⁰ Ali Bradley, “How much is the migrant crisis costing American taxpayers?,” *NewsNation*, November 7, 2023, <https://www.newsnationnow.com/us-news/immigration/migrant-crisis-costing-american-taxpayers/>.

⁹¹ U.S. Department of Homeland Security, *FY 2023 Budget in brief*, March 2022, 39, <https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/2022-03/22-%201835%20-%20FY%202023%20Budget%20in%20Brief%20FINAL%20with%20Cover%20Remediated.pdf>.

⁹² Ibid.

⁹³ Adam Shaw, “White House funding request includes \$14 billion for border as crisis hits new records,” *Fox News*, October 21, 2023, <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/white-house-funding-request-includes-14-billion-border-crisis-hits-new-records>.

⁹⁴ U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Prisons, Statistics, *Inmate Citizenship*, last updated October 21, 2023, https://www.bop.gov/about/statistics/statistics_inmate_citizenship.jsp.

⁹⁵ U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Public Affairs, *Departments of Justice and Homeland Security Release Data on Incarcerated Aliens*, October 16, 2020, <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/departments-justice-and-homeland-security-release-data-incarcerated-aliens>.

⁹⁶ U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Prisons, Statistics, “Annual Determination of Average Cost of Incarceration Fee (COIF),” *Federal Register* 86, no. 167 (September 1, 2021): 49060, <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/09/01/2021-18800/annual-determination-of-average-cost-of-incarceration-fee-coif>.

⁹⁷ “The Fiscal Burden of Illegal Immigration On United States Taxpayers 2023,” *Federation for American Immigration Reform*, March 2023, 21-22, <https://www.fairus.org/sites/default/files/2023-03/Fiscal%20Burden%20of%20Illegal%20Immigration%20on%20American%20Taxpayers%202023%20WEB%20o.pdf>.



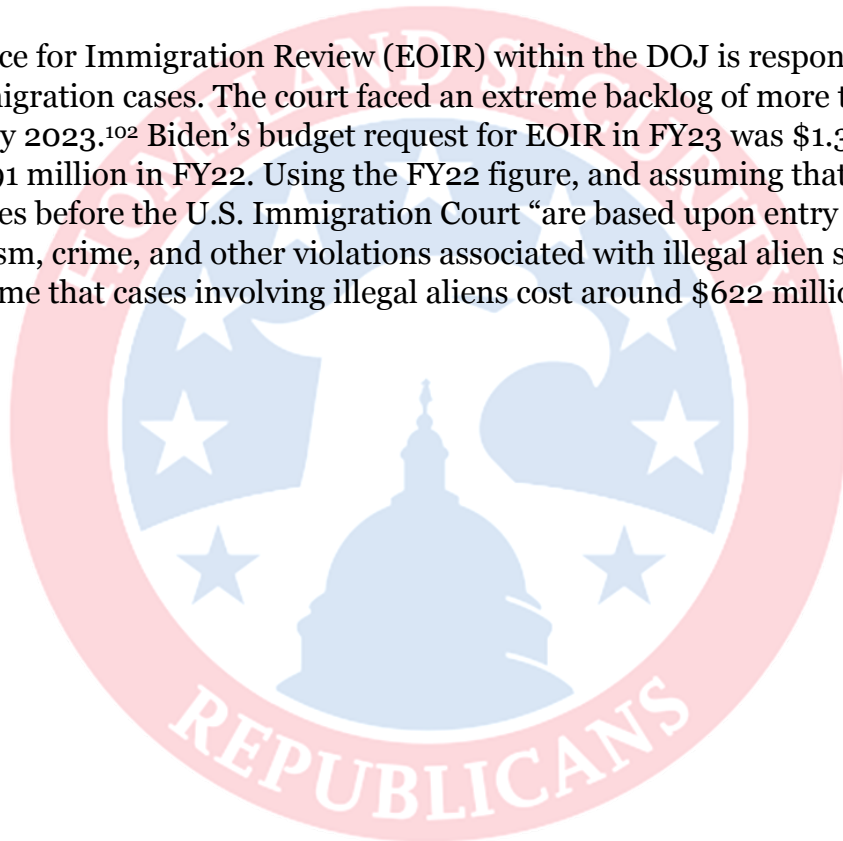
SECTION 2: LAW ENFORCEMENT COSTS

The State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP)

States also incur a fiscal burden due to criminal illegal aliens in their prison systems. The State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) provides federal funding to jurisdictions that incur costs incarcerating criminal illegal aliens.⁹⁸ The SCAAP paid out \$244 million to states in FY22,⁹⁹ though it should be noted this program covers only a small percentage of the full cost of incarcerating illegal aliens (usually less than one percent),¹⁰⁰ leaving the states on the hook for the rest. For two years in a row, the Biden administration has proposed cutting this funding completely.¹⁰¹

Illegal Alien Costs Connected with the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR)

The Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) within the DOJ is responsible for the disposition of immigration cases. The court faced an extreme backlog of more than two million cases, as of January 2023.¹⁰² Biden's budget request for EOIR in FY23 was \$1.35 billion, while the office received \$891 million in FY22. Using the FY22 figure, and assuming that an estimated 70 percent of new cases before the U.S. Immigration Court "are based upon entry without inspection, terrorism, crime, and other violations associated with illegal alien status," it is reasonable to assume that cases involving illegal aliens cost around \$622 million in 2022.¹⁰³



⁹⁸ U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance, State Criminal Aliens Assistance Program, *Overview*, April 22, 2021, <https://bja.ojp.gov/program/state-criminal-alien-assistance-program-scaap/overview>.

⁹⁹ "Federal Budget: The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2022," *National League of Cities*, March 25, 2022, 9, <https://www.nlc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/FY22-Appropriations-Chart.pdf>.

¹⁰⁰ "The Fiscal Burden of Illegal Immigration On United States Taxpayers 2023," *Federation for American Immigration Reform*, March 2023, 24, https://www.fairus.org/sites/default/files/2023-03/Fiscal%20Burden%20of%20Illegal%20Immigration%20on%20American%20Taxpayers%202023%20WEB_o.pdf.

¹⁰¹ "The Fiscal Burden of Illegal Immigration On United States Taxpayers 2023," *Federation for American Immigration Reform*, March 2023, 24, https://www.fairus.org/sites/default/files/2023-03/Fiscal%20Burden%20of%20Illegal%20Immigration%20on%20American%20Taxpayers%202023%20WEB_o.pdf.

¹⁰² "Historical Immigration Court Backlog Tool," *Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse: Immigration*, Syracuse University, January 2023, https://trac.syr.edu/phptools/immigration/court_backlog/.

¹⁰³ "The Fiscal Burden of Illegal Immigration On United States Taxpayers 2023," *Federation for American Immigration Reform*, March 2023, 24, https://www.fairus.org/sites/default/files/2023-03/Fiscal%20Burden%20of%20Illegal%20Immigration%20on%20American%20Taxpayers%202023%20WEB_o.pdf.



SECTION 3: EDUCATION COSTS

Section 3: Education Costs

The costs of providing education services to illegal alien children, or the U.S.-born children of illegal aliens, represent enormous expenditures for the states and the federal government. Simultaneously, the burdens placed on classrooms across the country by these individuals, due to the fact many are limited in their ability to speak or read English, has further stressed America's education system—particularly as large numbers of school-aged illegal alien children have flooded into American communities throughout the country since the Biden administration took office.

Illegal Aliens Receiving Billions in Public School Expenditures

By far, the largest government expenditures on education for illegal aliens are the costs that states, and to a lesser degree the federal government, assume to provide public education services. FAIR estimates that in the 2021-2022 school year, approximately 5.1 million public school students, around 6.5 percent of the school age population, were the children of illegal aliens or illegal aliens themselves. Most of these individuals are designated as Limited English Proficiency (LEP) students. Using MPI data, based on a population of just 11 million illegal aliens present in the United States, approximately just 25 percent of illegal aliens are proficient in English.

FAIR estimates that at least 3.8 million illegal aliens qualify as LEP students, costing taxpayers nearly \$59 billion, while those children of illegal aliens not classified as LEP students cost another \$16.9 billion, with the states shouldering the vast bulk of this burden.¹⁰⁴ And this number continues to grow as record numbers of illegal aliens cross the border. Another estimate found that illegal alien children who entered just in 2022 represent a \$7 billion burden on public education budgets.¹⁰⁵

LEP students also cost around 15 percent more to educate than non-LEP students.¹⁰⁶ Per another recent FAIR report published in 2022, "The cost to educate LEP students has swelled by \$18.8 billion since 2016. This massive increase is primarily due to an increase in the total number of LEP students..." with the overall cost rising from about \$60 billion to \$78 billion.¹⁰⁷

Indeed, the number of LEP students flooding American school districts is starting to overwhelm public schools. In Fairfax County, Virginia, LEP students made up 20 percent of total enrollment, per the county's approved budget for FY24,¹⁰⁸ with the funding for "English for Speakers of Other

¹⁰⁴ "The Fiscal Burden of Illegal Immigration On United States Taxpayers 2023," *Federation for American Immigration Reform*, March 2023, 46-47, <https://www.fairus.org/sites/default/files/2023-03/Fiscal%20Burden%20of%20Illegal%20Immigration%20on%20American%20Taxpayers%202023%20WEB%20o.pdf>.

¹⁰⁵ Merrill Matthews, "Estimating Illegal Immigration's Cost to Public Education," *The Hill*, January 31, 2023, <https://thehill.com/opinion/immigration/3837385-estimating-illegal-immigrations-cost-to-public-education/>.

¹⁰⁶ "The Fiscal Burden of Illegal Immigration On United States Taxpayers 2023," *Federation for American Immigration Reform*, March 2023, 46, <https://www.fairus.org/sites/default/files/2023-03/Fiscal%20Burden%20of%20Illegal%20Immigration%20on%20American%20Taxpayers%202023%20WEB%20o.pdf>.

¹⁰⁷ "The Elephant in the Classroom: Mass Immigration Imposing Colossal Cost and Challenges on Public Education," *Federation for American Immigration Reform*, September 14, 2022, <https://www.fairus.org/issue/illegal-immigration/elephant-classroom-mass-immigration-imposing-colossal-cost-and-challenges>.

¹⁰⁸ Fairfax County, Fairfax County Public Schools, School Board, *Fiscal Year 2024 Approved Budget*, July 2023, 34, <https://www.fcps.edu/sites/default/files/media/pdf/FY-2024-Approved-Budget.pdf>.



SECTION 3: EDUCATION COSTS

Languages” increasing \$17.2 million.¹⁰⁹ In Buffalo, New York, the LEP budget increased from roughly \$12.9 million in the 2017-2018 year to \$20.4 million for 2019-2020.¹¹⁰ In Indianapolis, the number of “English learners” in the public school system in 2022 had increased by 27,000 from 2016.¹¹¹ In May 2023, schools in Portland, Oregon, were “scrambling” to place more than 800 new LEP students.¹¹² In Chicago, the city budgeted \$15 million in additional funds for public schools to provide “bilingual instruction” for the 2023-2024 school year, to handle an estimated 2,000 additional children, many of whom have recently arrived from the Southwest border.¹¹³

In New York City, schools have been overwhelmed by the surge of students with little or no ability to speak English, with one teacher telling the New York Post, “We’re overwhelmed. We’ve all got migrant students in our classrooms. The teachers don’t speak Spanish. There’s no resources helping us out right now—it’s a very challenging situation.”¹¹⁴ According to one analysis, New York City could ultimately spend around \$440 million just to educate around 11,500 illegal alien children who could be present in the city next year,¹¹⁵ and the city does not know how to provide education to approximately 19,000 children in temporary housing who have been enrolled in the school system—the vast majority of them illegal aliens.¹¹⁶ Similarly, in Rockland County, New York, the influx of illegal aliens has added more than 1,000 children to county school districts.¹¹⁷

According to Borelli, these education costs are exorbitant, and can disproportionately affect schools in close proximity to the shelters housing illegal aliens:

“The cost per student in New York is about \$38,000 per student. We’ve seen about 20,000 children related to the migrant crisis enter our schools. Now, we have available space in many school buildings around the city. However, where we see the concentrations of hotels is also where we see the concentration of migrant shelters.

“When you look at a very small neighborhood, you might have vast overcrowding in certain schools, while the school down the block might be available. The impossibility is that folks are coming in 5-, 6-, 7,000 a month, and even on our best day, the good people of the Department of Education can’t figure out how to sort and place these students.

¹⁰⁹ Ibid, 62.

¹¹⁰ “Buffalo Public Schools 2019-2020 Approved Budget,” *Buffalo Public Schools*, May 15, 2019, 23, <https://web.archive.org/web/20230215114415/https://www.buffaloschools.org/site/handlers/filedownload.ashx?moduleinstanceid=97&dataid=197087&FileName=2019-20%20Adopted%20Budget.pdf>.

¹¹¹ Camila Fernandez, “IPS Responds to Increase in English Language Learners,” *WISH-TV*, March 29, 2022, <https://www.wishtv.com/news/inside-story/ips-responds-to-increase-in-english-language-learners/>.

¹¹² Nancy Loo, “Across the Nation, Cities Feel Strain of Housing Migrants,” *NewsNation*, May 23, 2023, <https://www.newsnationnow.com/us-news/immigration/border-coverage/cities-strain-housing-migrants/>.

¹¹³ Nell Salzman, “Migrants staying at Chicago police station turned away from school: ‘They didn’t have people who spoke Spanish,’” *Chicago Tribune*, August 22, 2023, <https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/breaking/ct-migrant-students-turned-away-chicago-public-schools-20230822-zjf2zvqjr5c3j65rp2dccaui-story.html>.

¹¹⁴ Bernadette Hogan, et. al., “NYC schools struggle to cope with influx of 5,500 migrant kids,” *The New York Post*, October 11, 2022, <https://nypost.com/2022/10/11/nyc-schools-struggle-to-cope-with-influx-of-5500-migrant-kids/>.

¹¹⁵ Andrew Arthur, “NYC Comptroller Report Suggests Why Migrants Are Headed to the Big Apple,” *The Center for Immigration Studies*, May 8, 2023, <https://cis.org/Arthur/NYC-Comptroller-Report-Suggests-Why-Migrants-Are-Headed-Big-Apple>.

¹¹⁶ Nolan Hicks and Craig McCarthy, “NYC public schools don’t know DOE’s plan to handle nearly 20K migrant kids,” *The New York Post*, August 24, 2023, <https://nypost.com/2023/08/24/nyc-public-schools-dont-know-does-plan-for-nearly-20k-migrant-kids/>.

¹¹⁷ U.S. Congress, House of Representatives, Judiciary Committee, Subcommittee on Immigration Integrity, Security and Enforcement, *Prepared Testimony of Teresa Kenny for The Biden Border Crisis: Part III*, 118th Cong., 1st sess., May 23, 2023, <https://judiciary.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/republicans-judiciary.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/kenny-testimony.pdf>.



SECTION 3: EDUCATION COSTS

“Now, the DOE just added \$110 million to hire more language-specific teachers and teachers qualified for [English as a Second Language], but that’s \$110 million that we were not expecting to spend.”¹¹⁸

Compounding the problem for New York City—and likely other major cities—is that while the city has hired additional teachers able to teach English as a second language, under Mayorkas’ policies illegal aliens are arriving from more than 160 countries,¹¹⁹ speaking far more languages than just Spanish, and the city “may not have readily available services for them.”¹²⁰



627 Comments

METRO EXCLUSIVE

NYC schools struggle to cope with influx of 5,500 migrant kids

By Bernadette Hogan, Kyle Schnitzer, Cayla Bamberger and Bruce Golding

Published Oct. 11, 2022 | Updated March 14, 2023, 11:50 a.m. ET

This multitude of costs is not just limited to major cities like New York, however. Demonstrating the irreparable harm Mayorkas’ CHNV mass-parole program would cause, several states in *Texas v. Department of Homeland Security* outlined the fiscal burden illegal immigration places on their education systems. Arkansas, for example, held that there are around 5,000 children “unlawfully present” in the state, and given that the state spends more than \$7,300 per student in its public school system, illegal immigration costs the education system more than \$36 million—a number Arkansas projected would increase as “the number of children unlawfully present will only increase that financial burden.”¹²¹ Florida spends more than \$8,000 per public-school student, “regardless of immigration status,”¹²² Louisiana spends more than \$10,000 per student,¹²³ and Ohio more than \$12,000.¹²⁴

¹¹⁸ “The Financial Costs of Mayorkas’ Open Border,” *Homeland Security Committee Events*, YouTube video, 47:19, September 20, 2023, <https://www.youtube.com/live/49LVY4FL2xk?si=nNY4Dv37zuKEPCqh&t=2839>.

¹¹⁹ Robert Sherman, “Migrants from more than 160 countries encountered at border,” *NewsNation*, October 6, 2022, <https://www.newsnationnow.com/us-news/immigration/migrants-from-more-than-160-countries-encountered-at-border/>.

¹²⁰ “The Financial Costs of Mayorkas’ Open Border,” *Homeland Security Committee Events*, YouTube video, 2:02:00, September 20, 2023, <https://www.youtube.com/live/49LVY4FL2xk?si=NrgNuJbHPoKOiYW&t=7320>.

¹²¹ See Complaint in *State of Texas v. U.S. Department of Homeland Security*, No. 6:23-cv-00007, 14-15, (S.D. Tex. 2023).

¹²² *Ibid*, 15.

¹²³ *Ibid*, 22.

¹²⁴ *Ibid*, 27.

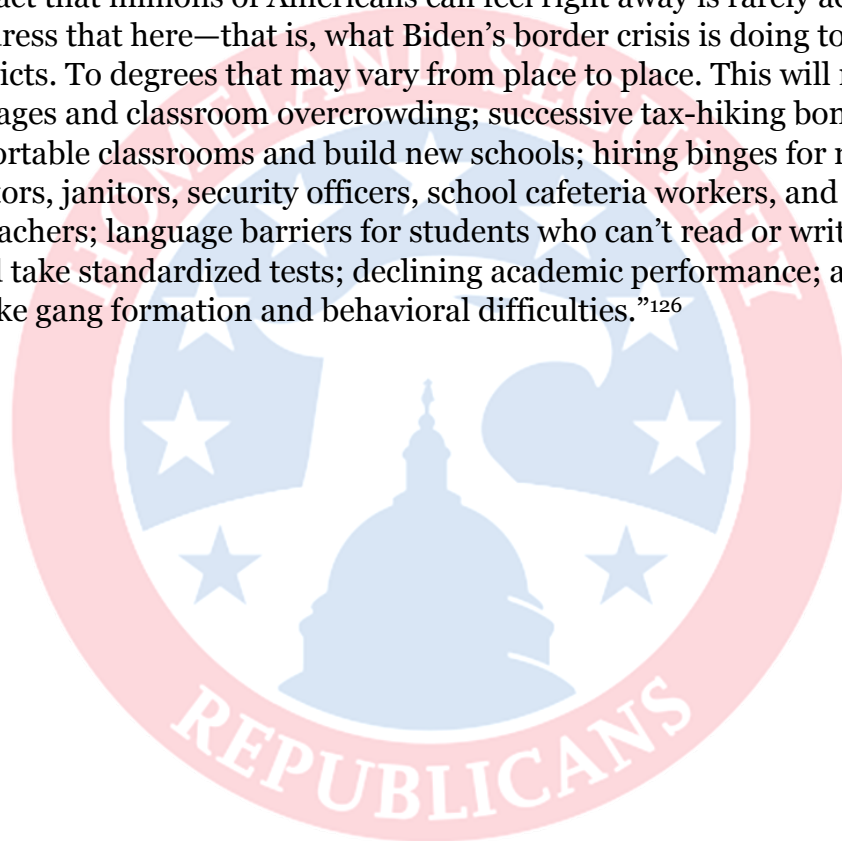


SECTION 3: EDUCATION COSTS

States also receive grants based on the number of LEP students that census data show reside in those states. Given an estimate of approximately 3.8 million LEP students who are either the children of illegal aliens or illegal aliens themselves, FAIR estimated in its 2023 cost study that more than \$580 million in federal funds went to cover the cost of illegal alien education through this program alone, out of a budget of more than \$831 million in FY22.¹²⁵

Journalist and former Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) veteran Todd Bensman may have best described how the Mayorkas-Biden border crisis is having a devastating impact on America's public-school systems in his July 2023 testimony before two subcommittees of the House Committee on Homeland Security:

“[O]ne impact that millions of Americans can feel right away is rarely addressed, and I want to address that here—that is, what Biden's border crisis is doing to America's public-school districts. To degrees that may vary from place to place. This will manifest as acute space shortages and classroom overcrowding; successive tax-hiking bond elections to purchase portable classrooms and build new schools; hiring binges for more administrators, janitors, security officers, school cafeteria workers, and English-as-second-language teachers; language barriers for students who can't read or write but must mix in anyway and take standardized tests; declining academic performance; and new social problems like gang formation and behavioral difficulties.”¹²⁶



¹²⁵ U.S. Department of Education, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Office of Formula Grants, *Funding Status & Awards*, July 7, 2023, <https://oese.ed.gov/offices/office-of-formula-grants/school-support-and-accountability/english-language-acquisition-state-grants/funding-status/>.

¹²⁶ “The Real Cost of an Open Border: How Americans are Paying the Price,” *Homeland Security Committee Events*, YouTube video, 1:04:34, July 26, 2023, <https://www.youtube.com/live/q2n1h6l1bMg?feature=share&t=3874>.



SECTION 3: EDUCATION COSTS



WATCH: Immigration Expert Explains How Biden Administration's Open-Borders Policies Have Led to An Influx of Children into Public School System

Education Benefits for Low-Income Families Going to Illegal Aliens

Illegal aliens are also the recipients of various education benefit programs aimed at low-income households. For example, the “Every Student Succeeds Act” program provides federal funding to children from low-income families, a demographic in which illegal aliens and their children are disproportionately represented. Around 47 percent of all K-12 students in the country qualify for grants under the program, including illegal alien children or those of illegal aliens.¹²⁷ In 2022, the program received \$17.5 billion.¹²⁸ Given the estimated number of illegal alien children or children who are illegal aliens themselves in public schools, and the disproportionate representation of illegal aliens among the population eligible for these grants, FAIR estimates that the federal government spends around \$3 billion per year on illegal aliens through this program.¹²⁹

Meanwhile, the Head Start and Early Head Start programs were budgeted approximately \$11 billion in FY22. At least one third of total enrollees in Head Start come from non-English speaking homes.¹³⁰ Using estimates on the number of illegal alien children that are classified as LEPs and illegal alien household poverty rates, FAIR has estimated that around 25 percent of Head Start enrollment is composed of illegal alien children or children of illegal aliens, meaning that total federal Head Start spending going toward illegal aliens exceeds \$2.7 billion.

¹²⁷ “The Fiscal Burden of Illegal Immigration On United States Taxpayers 2023,” *Federation for American Immigration Reform*, March 2023, 11, <https://www.fairus.org/sites/default/files/2023-03/Fiscal%20Burden%20of%20Illegal%20Immigration%20on%20American%20Taxpayers%202023%20WEB%20o.pdf>.

¹²⁸ U.S. Department of Education, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Office of Formula Grants, *Funding Status & Awards*, July 7, 2023, <https://oese.ed.gov/offices/office-of-formula-grants/school-support-and-accountability/title-i-part-a-program/funding-status/>.

¹²⁹ “The Fiscal Burden of Illegal Immigration On United States Taxpayers 2023,” *Federation for American Immigration Reform*, March 2023, 11, <https://www.fairus.org/sites/default/files/2023-03/Fiscal%20Burden%20of%20Illegal%20Immigration%20on%20American%20Taxpayers%202023%20WEB%20o.pdf>.

¹³⁰ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Head Start, Early Childhood Learning Knowledge Center, *Culture and Language*, April 12, 2022, <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/culture-language/article/home-language-support>.



SECTION 4: WELFARE AND OTHER BENEFIT COSTS

Section 4: Welfare and Other Benefit Costs

Illegal immigration has a profound impact on programs intended to provide financial aid or services exclusively for low-income Americans. Although most illegal aliens are ineligible for these taxpayer-funded benefits, many still receive them, because essentially all federal and state welfare programs available to the children of American citizens are also available to U.S.-born children of illegal aliens. There are also many recipients of benefits who obtain them by fraud.¹³¹ Other studies demonstrate that non-citizens, including illegal aliens, avail themselves of these benefits at a higher rate than American citizens.¹³²

According to one recent analysis, for every one million parolees released into the United States on Mayorkas' watch, the cost in federal welfare benefits that will be incurred could total \$3 billion annually, with those costs starting to kick in January 2026.¹³³

Additionally, cities and states assume other social welfare costs. For example, Teresa Kenny, city supervisor of Orangetown, New York, told the House Judiciary Committee in a May 2023 hearing that after illegal aliens were sent from New York City to Rockland County, where Orangetown sits, the county had to invest more than \$1 million to help food banks restock their shelves.¹³⁴

Basic Food and Nutrition Benefits for Illegal Alien Families Cost Billions

The children of illegal aliens are eligible for benefits through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), more commonly known as “food stamps.” Research conducted by CIS in 2015 found that approximately 31 percent of illegal alien households with children benefit from the SNAP program,¹³⁵ meaning at least 2.1 million children of illegal aliens are likely making use of this benefit. Numbers from the U.S. Department of Agriculture indicate the average monthly benefit per participant in FY22 was \$230.39, coming out to \$2,764 per year.¹³⁶ Therefore, assuming just over two million children of illegal aliens were eligible for SNAP, the total cost in FY22 was around \$5.8 billion. Through July 14, 2023, the FY23 average monthly benefit per person totaled \$235.91.¹³⁷

Simultaneously, the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program provides federal grants to states for low-income, pregnant, and breastfeeding mothers, as well as infants and children up to age five who may be at risk of receiving inadequate nutrition. Every state has made illegal aliens eligible for the program. The 2015 CIS report found that approximately 35 percent of illegal alien

¹³¹ Mark Krikorian and Ben Weingarten, “Identity Fraud by Illegal Aliens Ignored by the Federal Government,” *The Center for Immigration Studies*, September 1, 2022, <https://cis.org/Parsing-Immigration-Policy/Identity-Fraud-Illegal-Aliens-Ignored-Federal-Government>.

¹³² Steven A. Camarota, “Welfare Use for Immigrants and Native-Born Households,” *The Center for Immigration Studies*, September 1, 2021, <https://cis.org/Camarota/Welfare-Use-Immigrants-and-NativeBorn-Households>.

¹³³ George Fishman, “Parole with Benefits,” *The Center for Immigration Studies*, April 13, 2023, <https://cis.org/Report/Parole-Benefits>.

¹³⁴ U.S. Congress, House of Representatives, Judiciary Committee, Subcommittee on Immigration Integrity, Security and Enforcement, *Prepared Testimony of Teresa Kenny for The Biden Border Crisis: Part III*, 118th Cong., 1st sess., May 23, 2023, 3, <https://judiciary.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/republicans-judiciary.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/kenny-testimony.pdf>.

¹³⁵ Steven A. Camarota, “Welfare Use by Legal and Illegal Immigrant Households,” Table 3, *The Center for Immigration Studies*, September 9, 2015, <https://cis.org/Report/Welfare-Use-Legal-and-Illegal-Immigrant-Households>.

¹³⁶ U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Food and Nutrition Service, *SNAP: Monthly Participation [sic], Households, Benefits*, last updated July 14, 2023, <https://fns-prod.azureedge.us/sites/default/files/resource-files/snap-4fymonthly-7.pdf>.

¹³⁷ Ibid.



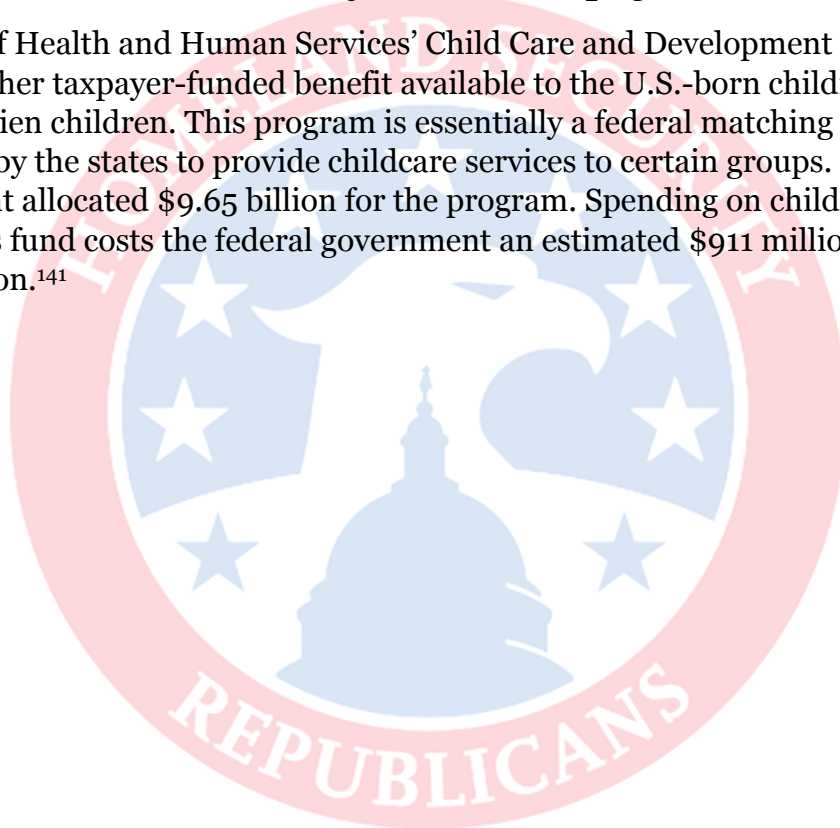
SECTION 4: WELFARE AND OTHER BENEFIT COSTS

households with children use the WIC program,¹³⁸ which, when combined with FAIR's estimated 6.7 million illegal alien households, means around 2.3 million individuals (937,000 households) are benefitting from WIC. Given an average annual price tag of \$573 per individual,¹³⁹ this cost amounts to more than \$1.3 billion.

Mayorkas' crisis has no doubt driven expanded use of this benefit. Per one recent press report, in New York City alone, "Public Health Solutions, which operates New York state's largest program for Women, Infant and Children nutrition...has had a 30% increase in enrollment due to the large number of newly arrived migrants, with lines out the door on some days at its Queens location."¹⁴⁰

Illegal Aliens Receive Childcare Benefits on the Taxpayer Dime

The Department of Health and Human Services' Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) programs are another taxpayer-funded benefit available to the U.S.-born children of illegal aliens and some illegal alien children. This program is essentially a federal matching fund that expands on money offered by the states to provide childcare services to certain groups. In FY22, the federal government allocated \$9.65 billion for the program. Spending on childcare for illegal aliens through this fund costs the federal government an estimated \$911 million, and the states another \$171 million.¹⁴¹



¹³⁸ Steven A. Camarota, "Welfare Use by Legal and Illegal Immigrant Households," *The Center for Immigration Studies*, September 9, 2015, <https://cis.org/Report/Welfare-Use-Legal-and-Illegal-Immigrant-Households>.

¹³⁹ U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Food and Nutrition Service, *WIC Participation and Costs*, last updated July 14, 2023, <https://fns-prod.azureedge.us/sites/default/files/resource-files/37wic-monthly-7.pdf>.

¹⁴⁰ Julia Ainsley and Didi Martinez, "Inside a New York City hospital on the front lines of the migrant crisis," *NBC News*, October 3, 2023, <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/new-york-city-hospital-front-lines-migrant-crisis-rcna118369>.

¹⁴¹ "The Fiscal Burden of Illegal Immigration On United States Taxpayers 2023," *Federation for American Immigration Reform*, March 2023, 30-31 & 60, <https://www.fairus.org/sites/default/files/2023-03/Fiscal%20Burden%20of%20Illegal%20Immigration%20on%20American%20Taxpayers%202023%20WEB%200.pdf>.



SECTION 5: HOUSING AND SHELTER COSTS FOR ILLEGAL ALIENS

Section 5: Housing and Shelter Costs for Illegal Aliens

Because Mayorkas refuses to follow the law requiring him to detain and remove illegal aliens, towns and cities across the country have been forced to pick up the costs of housing and providing shelter for the hundreds of thousands that have been released into their communities. This reality has been documented everywhere from small towns thousands of miles from the border, all the way to America's largest cities.

Cities Funding Hotel Rooms, Other Services for Illegal Aliens

New York City provides one of the starkest examples of the massive costs cities and states are assuming in order to handle the influx of illegal aliens. Tens of thousands of illegal aliens have flocked to the city in recent months. According to the Wall Street Journal in August 2023, "Over 100,000 migrants have come to New York City since the spring of 2022 and continue to arrive at a rate of more than 2,000 a week. As of last week, more than 59,000 were in the city's care."¹⁴² By October, the number was more than 130,000.¹⁴³

Earlier this year, the city signed a \$275 million contract with the Hotel Association of New York City to house just 5,000 illegal aliens—a cost of \$55,000 per individual.¹⁴⁴ For \$7.6 million, the city in May 2023 turned "Brooklyn's Hippest Hotel" into a shelter for illegal aliens.¹⁴⁵ The same month, Mayor Adams declared that nearly half of all hotel rooms in New York City were being occupied by illegal aliens, limiting the ability of the city to generate revenue from tourists using those hotels instead.¹⁴⁶ Adams and his office would later clarify that this number was 40-50 percent of hotels that could handle illegal aliens, whether for reasons of cost or lack of interest in housing these individuals.¹⁴⁷

On March 29, 2023, the city submitted a request to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) asking for \$650 million in reimbursement for these costs.¹⁴⁸ In the same application, the city's budget director Jacques Jiha said New York City estimated it will have spent \$4.3 billion on shelter and services for illegal aliens by July 2024.¹⁴⁹

¹⁴² Erin Ailworth, "New York Gov. Kathy Hochul Is Under Fire for NYC's Migrant Crisis," *The Wall Street Journal*, August 27, 2023, <https://www.wsj.com/politics/policy/new-york-gov-kathy-hochul-is-under-fire-for-nycs-migrant-crisis-fb6fbc35>.

¹⁴³ Jay Root, "From Smugglers and TikTok, Migrants Get a Message: Go to New York," *The New York Times*, October 29, 2023, <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/10/29/nvregion/migrants-nyc-shelter-mauritania.html>.

¹⁴⁴ See Carl Campanile and Bernadette Hogan, "Eric Adams inks \$275M hotel room deal to house at least 5,000 migrants," *The New York Post*, January 13, 2023, <https://nypost.com/2023/01/13/ka-ching-adams-ink-275-million-with-hotels-to-house-migrants/>; and David Lazar, "Mayor Signs \$275 Million Deal with Hotels to House Migrants," *Spectrum News NY1*, January 15, 2023, <https://www.ny1.com/nyc/all-boroughs/housing/2023/01/15/mayor-signs-275-million-deal-with-hotels-to-house-migrants>.

¹⁴⁵ Carl Campanile and Haley Brown, "NYC building that once housed 'Brooklyn's hippest hotel' turned into migrants shelter," *The New York Post*, May 7, 2023, <https://nypost.com/2023/05/07/new-cool-brooklyn-hipster-hotel-turned-into-migrants-shelter/>.

¹⁴⁶ "Migrants moved from school gym in Brooklyn amid protests and backlash," *ABC7 New York*, May 17, 2023, <https://abc7ny.com/nyc-migrants-gyms-brooklyn-schools/13258610/>.

¹⁴⁷ Ethan Stark-Miller, "Mayor claims migrants are taking up nearly half of city hotel rooms amid surge, but quickly revised that figure," *AM New York*, May 17, 2023, <https://www.amny.com/politics/mayor-claims-migrants-are-taking-up-nearly-half-of-city-hotel-rooms-amid-surge/>.

¹⁴⁸ Chris Sommerfeldt, "NYC Submits FEMA Application for \$650 Million in Federal Migrant Aid — 4 Days before Deadline," *Yahoo News and New York Daily News*, April 10, 2023, <https://news.yahoo.com/nyc-submits-fema-application-650-163200271.html>.

¹⁴⁹ Ibid.



SECTION 5: HOUSING AND SHELTER COSTS FOR ILLEGAL ALIENS

Other reports confirmed similar figures.¹⁵⁰ Later, in August 2023, Adams said that total costs will balloon by 2025 to around \$12 billion.¹⁵¹

As more illegal aliens arrive in the city, those costs have continued to expand. By June 2023, the number of people in New York's shelter facilities exceeded 98,000, with nearly half of them—48,700—illegal aliens.¹⁵² According to city officials at the time, it cost \$385 per night to provide shelter, food, medical care, and social services to an illegal alien family unit, meaning New York City was spending almost \$8 million a day just to provide these services to this population.¹⁵³ By August, given more than 57,000 illegal aliens present in the city, Adams said that these costs had expanded to more than \$9.8 million per day, which would equal around \$3.6 billion per year, with the possibility of increasing to nearly \$5 billion.¹⁵⁴ This daily expenditure is more than the city spends on the fire department, sanitation department, and the Office of Emergency Management combined.¹⁵⁵

Borelli explained to the House Committee on Homeland Security that over the next year alone, New York “will spend enough money to cover the entire budget of Dallas, Texas. Meaning for the cost of sheltering migrants, New York City taxpayers could pay to man every firehouse, police station, pick up the garbage, maintain the water and sewers, inspect the buildings, run the airport and even cut the grass in Dallas parks, a city of 1.3 million people.”¹⁵⁶

The city has even reportedly considered housing illegal aliens at a closed prison facility on Riker's Island,¹⁵⁷ and on May 22, 2023, New York Gov. Kathy Hochul said the state was considering housing illegal aliens in an airplane hangar at JFK International Airport.¹⁵⁸

In July 2023, the New York Times reported that the city had awarded a \$432-million, no-bid contract to a firm called DocGo in May 2023 to provide housing and other services to illegal aliens, including transportation elsewhere in the state.¹⁵⁹

¹⁵⁰ Bernadette Hogan and Bruce Golding, “Biden migrant crisis to cost NYC \$4.2B, more than twice what mayor warned,” *The New York Post*, February 7, 2023, <https://nypost.com/2023/02/07/biden-migrant-crisis-to-cost-nyc-4-2-billion/>.

¹⁵¹ Jefferey Mays, “Mayor Adams Says Migrant Influx Will Cost New York City \$12 Billion,” *The New York Times*, August 9, 2023, <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/08/09/nyregion/adams-nyc-migrants-cost.html>.

¹⁵² Khristina Narizhnaya et al., “NYC's Migrant Shelter Population Surges to Nearly 100K, Costing Taxpayers \$8M a Day,” *The New York Post*, June 23, 2023, <https://nypost.com/2023/06/23/nycs-shelter-population-surges-to-nearly-100k-as-migrant-crisis-escalates/>.

¹⁵³ Ibid.

¹⁵⁴ Office of the New York City Mayor, Eric Adams, *Transcript: Mayor Adams Delivers Address on Asylum Seeker Humanitarian Crisis and Takes Q&A*, August 9, 2023, <https://www.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/585-23/transcript-mayor-adams-delivers-address-asylum-seeker-humanitarian-crisis-takes-q-a#/>.

¹⁵⁵ “The Financial Costs of Mayorkas' Open Border,” *Homeland Security Committee Events*, YouTube video, 1:51:07, September 20, 2023, <https://www.youtube.com/live/49LVY4FL2xk?si=bt83f-TGOe6fCtaW&t=6667>.

¹⁵⁶ “The Financial Costs of Mayorkas' Open Border,” *Homeland Security Committee Events*, YouTube video, 35:02, September 20, 2023, <https://www.youtube.com/live/49LVY4FL2xk?si=C57fioXwiYIHe8Ea&t=2102>.

¹⁵⁷ Chris Sommerfeldt and Graham Rayman, “NYC Seriously Mulls Housing Migrants in Shuttered Jail on Rikers Island,” *New York Daily News*, May 17, 2023, <https://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/nyc-crime/ny-rikers-island-migrants-closed-jail-mayor-adams-20230517-m5yhrivoffdwbtzrln63upxrq-story.html>.

¹⁵⁸ Jennie Taer, “‘Overflowing’: Blue State Considers Using Airplane Hangars At Major Airport To House Migrants,” *The Daily Caller*, May 22, 2023, <https://dailycaller.com/2023/05/22/overflowing-blue-state-considers-using-airplane-hangars-major-airport-house-migrants/>.

¹⁵⁹ Jay Root, “New York City Had a Migrant Crisis. It Hired a Covid Expert to Help,” *The New York Times*, July 30, 2023, <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/07/30/nyregion/migrants-albany-docgo.html>.



SECTION 5: HOUSING AND SHELTER COSTS FOR ILLEGAL ALIENS

In August 2023, officials expanded a shelter at Randall Island to house 3,000 illegal aliens that will cost New Yorkers at least \$20 million per month.¹⁶⁰ One recent occupant of the shelter, a 29-year-old man from Venezuela, said upon arriving at the shelter, “I’m feeling good. The government of the United States of America, they help you.”¹⁶¹



WATCH: New York City Council Minority Leader Joe Borelli Describes Devastating Financial Impact of Mass Illegal Immigration

Borelli would later testify, “I’ve never seen a situation where New York City or any other municipality that I have direct knowledge of has paid this amount of money for services provided to people who have crossed the border. That’s not happened.”¹⁶² He further told the House Committee on Homeland Security that the blame for these massive costs to New York City lies squarely at the feet of Mayorkas and his open-borders policies:

“I blame the federal government. And I’ll accept responsibility for not being able to push back against sanctuary-city policies and the right-to-shelter policy in my city. But at the same time, we’ve had those in place since the 1980s. It’s only been since this administration has took over, it’s only been since Secretary Mayorkas has taken over, where we have had this level of unprecedented migration to our cities from people who are relying on the city taxpayer to provide every resource available to them.”¹⁶³

¹⁶⁰ Khristina Narizhnaya and Jorge Fitz-Gibbon, “Randall’s Island \$20M-per-month migrant shelter takes in first asylum seekers as capacity expands to 3,000,” *The New York Post*, August 20, 2023, <https://nypost.com/2023/08/20/randalls-island-migrant-shelter-built-on-youth-soccer-fields-already-massively-expanded-gets-first-asylum-seekers/>.

¹⁶¹ Ibid.

¹⁶² “The Financial Costs of Mayorkas’ Open Border,” *Homeland Security Committee Events*, YouTube video, 59:06, September 20, 2023, <https://www.youtube.com/live/49LVY4FL2xk?si=ukrI5ZxecteQlFFD&t=3546>.

¹⁶³ “The Financial Costs of Mayorkas’ Open Border,” *Homeland Security Committee Events*, YouTube video, 55:54, September 20, 2023, <https://www.youtube.com/live/49LVY4FL2xk?si=jDbcMm2aekqMDzkh&t=3354>.



SECTION 5: HOUSING AND SHELTER COSTS FOR ILLEGAL ALIENS



213 Comments

METRO EXCLUSIVE

Hung out to dry: NYC spending millions to clean migrants' laundry

By **Carl Campanile**

Published Oct. 26, 2023, 7:28 p.m. ET

New York has penned more than \$10 million in contracts to clean the laundry of illegal aliens arriving in the city.¹⁶⁴

This is just one major American city and state. Other cities and states have also shelled out substantial amounts of money to house illegal aliens in hotels or other sites, or continue to do so.

- In 2021, California spent \$500,000 per month on housing illegal aliens in just two hotels near the Southwest border.¹⁶⁵
- Chicago is spending more than \$20 million per month to “house and support” illegal aliens,¹⁶⁶ with approximately \$200 million of the city’s anticipated \$538 million budget deficit in 2024 due to the cost of providing services for illegal aliens.¹⁶⁷ Chicago Alderman Raymond Lopez said in August 2023, “We have a structural surplus built into the annual budget of \$400 million, of which \$300 has been eaten away because of this migrant crisis, and it will only get worse the longer we wait to address this matter.”¹⁶⁸
- Illinois as a whole has spent more than \$350 million responding to crisis, with the federal government reimbursing around 10 percent of those costs.¹⁶⁹

¹⁶⁴ Carl Campanile, “Hung out to dry: NYC spending millions to clean migrants’ laundry,” *The New York Post*, October 26, 2023, <https://nypost.com/2023/10/26/metro/nyc-spending-millions-to-clean-migrants-laundry/>.

¹⁶⁵ Rush Styles, “Inside the California Hotels Housing Migrants for a \$500,000 a Month,” *The Daily Mail*, May 7, 2021, <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-9538189/Inside-California-hotels-housing-migrants-500-000-month.html>.

¹⁶⁶ Diane Pathieu, “City Seeks More Federal Funding to Manage Migrant Influx as Some Sleep in Chicago Police Stations,” *ABC7 Chicago*, April 28, 2023, <https://abc7chicago.com/chicago-migrants-immigrants-border-migrant/13191997/>.

¹⁶⁷ Heather Cherone, “Johnson Sets Aside \$150M to Care for Migrants in 2024, Less Than Half of 2023 Costs,” *WTTW*, October 12, 2023, <https://news.wttw.com/2023/10/12/johnson-sets-aside-150m-care-migrants-2024-less-half-2023-costs>.

¹⁶⁸ Scott Schneider, “Chicago Ald. Ray Lopez calls out Biden for not addressing migrant crisis,” *Fox 32 Chicago*, August 15, 2023, <https://www.fox32chicago.com/news/chicago-ray-lopez-joe-biden-immigration-crisis>.

¹⁶⁹ “As the number of migrants in Chicago tops 13,000, the city’s struggle to provide housing continues,” *WMAQ NBC 5 Chicago*, August 31, 2023, <https://www.nbcchicago.com/news/local/as-the-number-of-migrants-in-chicago-tops-13000-the-citys-struggle-to-provide-housing-continues/3218640/>.



SECTION 5: HOUSING AND SHELTER COSTS FOR ILLEGAL ALIENS

- In November 2022, now-former Gov. Charlie Baker asked the Massachusetts legislature for \$130 million in additional funding to help house illegal aliens arriving in the state,¹⁷⁰ while his successor proposed supplemental funding in January 2023 that included \$85 million to help pay for the state's emergency assistance program, which could cover some of the illegal alien population in Massachusetts.¹⁷¹
- Denver city officials estimated they would spend \$20 million just from January-June 2023 to house illegal aliens,¹⁷² with officials later saying total expenditures statewide may have reached \$24 million.¹⁷³ In mid-June, the Biden administration announced the city would receive another \$8.6 million.¹⁷⁴
- Through May 2023, Washington, D.C. had spent \$15.1 million to house, feed, and support illegal aliens arriving in the city—with local hotels used to house them maxed out.¹⁷⁵ Those costs were expected to rise to \$52.5 million by October 2023.¹⁷⁶
- By September-October 2022, the city of El Paso, Texas, was spending \$250,000-300,000 per day to handle the historic flow of illegal aliens into the city.¹⁷⁷ Over the course of a year, that would represent approximately \$90 million, nearly 20 percent of the city's general fund budget for FY23.¹⁷⁸
- The state of Maine, thousands of miles from the Southwest border, has seen an influx of illegal aliens in recent months including roughly 1,600 to the capital city of Portland—a city of 68,000 people.¹⁷⁹ According to city officials, it will cost Portland nearly \$2 million to rent hotel space for incoming aliens.¹⁸⁰ The city of Sanford, Maine, has said it allocated \$155,000 this fiscal year to house and care for illegal aliens arriving in the city, but have now spent more than \$483,000. City Manager Steve Buck said in May 2023, "We've been overrun."¹⁸¹

¹⁷⁰ Mike Damiano and Matt Stout, "Baker Asks Legislature for \$130 Million for Emergency Migrant Housing," *The Boston Globe*, November 21, 2022, <https://www.bostonglobe.com/2022/11/21/metro/baker-asks-legislature-130-million-emergency-migrant-housing/>.

¹⁷¹ "Massachusetts Gov. Healey Unveils \$85M State Housing Plan," *The Associated Press and Fox News*, January 30, 2023, <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/massachusetts-gov-healey-unveils-85m-state-housing-plan>.

¹⁷² Zachary Rogers, "Housing Migrants Will Cost Denver up to \$20 Million in Just Six Months, Officials Estimate," *KTUL News*, April 7, 2023, <https://ktul.com/news/nation-world/housing-migrants-will-cost-denver-up-to-20-million-in-just-six-months-officials-estimate-mexico-border-biden-administration-illegal-immigrants>.

¹⁷³ Joe Mueller, "Federal Government Sending Denver \$8.6M to Assist Migrants," *The Center Square*, June 14, 2023, https://www.thecentersquare.com/colorado/article_d9boai1b4-0af2-11ee-b3df-472a366ac9fc.html.

¹⁷⁴ Ibid.

¹⁷⁵ Antonio Olivo and Michael Brice-Saddler, "Migrants Find No Space in Crowded Hotels Leased by D.C., Council Members Say," *The Washington Post*, May 3, 2023, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2023/05/02/migrants-dc-hotels-buses-closed/>.

¹⁷⁶ Cuneyt Dil, "D.C. struggles to help migrants amid influx," *Axios*, May 15, 2023, <https://www.axios.com/local/washington-dc/2023/05/15/dc-struggles-to-help-migrants>.

¹⁷⁷ Megan Stack, "El Paso Shows Migrant Buses Aren't Just for Republican Politicians," *The New York Times*, October 20, 2022, <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/10/20/opinion/el-paso-migrant-buses-republicans.html>; and Julian Resendiz, "20,000 Venezuelans have crossed into El Paso since July," *Border Report*, September 26, 2022, <https://www.borderreport.com/immigration/20000-venezuelans-have-crossed-into-el-paso-since-july/>.

¹⁷⁸ City of El Paso, Office of Management & Budget, *Fiscal Year 2023 Budget*, August 23, 2022, 22, <https://www.elpasotexas.gov/assets/Documents/CoEP/OMB/FY23-Budget/FY-2023-Budget-Book-FINAL.pdf>.

¹⁷⁹ Anna Giaritelli, "Maine forced to house immigrants in hotels for the next year at cost of \$1.9 million," *The Washington Examiner*, August 17, 2023, <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/policy/immigration/maine-migrants-hotels-cost-of-1-9-million>.

¹⁸⁰ Ibid.

¹⁸¹ Edward Tomic, "'We've Been Overrun': Sanford City Officials Express Frustration Over Migrant Crisis at Emergency Meeting," *The Maine Wire*, May 10, 2023, <https://www.themainewire.com/2023/05/weve-been-overrun-sanford-city-officials-express-frustration-over-migrant-crisis-at-emergency-meeting/>.



SECTION 5: HOUSING AND SHELTER COSTS FOR ILLEGAL ALIENS

FEATURED

"We've been overrun": Sanford City Officials Express Frustration Over Migrant Crisis at Emergency Meeting

According to an August 2023 report by Politico, Mayorkas' DHS unsurprisingly "received more funding requests than it could fulfill from border and interior communities"¹⁸² seeking reimbursement from federal programs that provide hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars to state and local governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) who offer services to illegal aliens. As long as Mayorkas maintains his open-borders policies, these costs will only grow.



¹⁸² Burgess Everett, "Sinema takes on Schumer, Jeffries and the White House over the border," *Politico*, August 16, 2023, <https://www.politico.com/news/2023/08/16/sinema-takes-on-schumer-jeffries-border-00111355>.



SECTION 6: THE COST TO PRIVATE PROPERTY AND BORDER LIVELIHOODS

Section 6: The Cost to Private Property and Border Livelihoods

The Impact of the Crisis on Ranchers and Farmers

The devastation to private property, particularly ranches and farming operations along the Southwest border, has represented an unprecedented and daily challenge for the citizens of border states. In a June 2021 letter to Mayorkas, the American Farm Bureau Federation and the farm bureaus of all 50 states and Puerto Rico wrote, “Farm and ranch families, many of whom have owned land for generations, are bearing the brunt of this unprecedented influx and have never seen a more dire situation.”¹⁸³

Chronicling the challenges these ranchers face, one media outlet interviewed Susan Kibbe, who has lived in the area for almost 40 years. According to Border Report, “she says most of the members in the property rights association suffer property damage relating to a surge in migration. And she says they can’t afford it and are tired of tolerating it and want lawmakers in Washington, D.C., to act.”¹⁸⁴ According to Kibbe, “It’s just one more thing we have to add to the list of expenses and it shouldn’t be. Just because we happen to live in a certain geographical area.”¹⁸⁵

Brad Coe, sheriff of Kinney County, Texas, recently told the House Homeland Security Committee that his county, which shares 16 miles of border with Mexico had seen a huge influx of illegal alien foot traffic, with these individuals causing an untold amount of property damage to farms, ranches, and game-hunting operations.¹⁸⁶ Illegal aliens have torn down fences, damaged houses, and left “astronomical” amounts of trash on land owned by ranchers throughout Texas.¹⁸⁷

“We have a lot of brushland and private land and a lot of damage to private property. Some of the fences are gone and ranchers just don’t repair them. They leave them down because they’re just going to get torn down again,” Brooks County’s Martinez has said.¹⁸⁸

And those costs are growing more exorbitant by the day. The cost to repair fences that human smugglers and illegal aliens have damaged or destroyed represent one such major cost.¹⁸⁹ Dr. Mike Vickers, a veterinarian and rancher in South Texas, said in June 2023 he had already spent \$40,000 repairing fences damaged by “human smugglers charging through” them and that the constant traffic of illegal aliens and smugglers across ranches has driven down property value—“All this smuggling and open-border stuff and all this criminal element coming through private

¹⁸³ “Letter to Secretaries Mayorkas, Vilsack, and Haaland,” *The American Farm Bureau Federation*, June 3, 2021, https://texasfarmbureau.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Letter_to_Sec_Mayorkas_Vilsack_Haaland_June3_2021.pdf.

¹⁸⁴ Sandra Sanchez, “‘Got-aways,’ migrant smugglers frequently damage property far from border, Texas ranchers lament,” *WFXR TV*, August 4, 2022, <https://www.wfxrtv.com/news/got-aways-migrant-smugglers-frequently-damage-property-far-from-border-texas-ranchers-lament/>.

¹⁸⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁸⁶ U.S. Congress, House of Representatives, Committee on Homeland Security, *Prepared Testimony of Brad Coe for Failure By Design: Examining Secretary Mayorkas’ Border Crisis*, 118th Cong., 1st sess., March 15, 2023, 12, <https://homeland.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/2023-03-15-FHRG-Testimony-Combined.pdf>.

¹⁸⁷ Kaylee Greenlee, “Texas Rancher Says Illegal Immigrants Repeatedly Damage His Property,” *The Daily Signal*, March 11, 2021, <https://www.dailysignal.com/2021/03/11/texas-rancher-says-illegal-immigrants-are-repeatedly-causing-property-damage-and-trashing-his-land/>.

¹⁸⁸ Sandra Sanchez, “‘Got-aways,’ migrant smugglers frequently damage property far from border, Texas ranchers lament,” *WFXR TV*, August 4, 2022, <https://www.wfxrtv.com/news/got-aways-migrant-smugglers-frequently-damage-property-far-from-border-texas-ranchers-lament/>.

¹⁸⁹ Marie Banks, “Farmers Want Biden to Pay for Damage from Illegal Immigration,” *The New York Post*, July 20, 2021, <https://nypost.com/2021/07/20/farmers-want-biden-to-pay-for-damage-from-illegal-immigration/>.



SECTION 6: THE COST TO PRIVATE PROPERTY AND BORDER LIVELIHOODS

property is having a huge negative impact on ranchers and farmers who live in the rural areas.”¹⁹⁰ One rancher told NPR in April 2021, just weeks into the crisis, that he had spent at least \$30,000 repairing damage caused by illegal aliens.¹⁹¹

McMullen County’s Shelton told the House Committee on Homeland Security in August 2023 that he knew multiple ranchers that had paid between \$70,000-\$100,000 to repair their fences.¹⁹² Javier Ramirez, a rancher in La Pryor, Texas, and member of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association (TSCRA), said in March 2023 that his ranch is “literally every day...bombarded with...bailouts, drive-throughs, high-speed chases, cut fences, cut locks, gates left open, foot traffic, break-ins [and] stolen vehicles...,” and that vehicles being driven by human smugglers or illegal aliens often damage multiple fences at a time.¹⁹³

Ramirez testified before Congress on July 26, 2023, that ranches “are bearing financial burdens that are threatening our ability to operate profitable businesses. In the last 12 months, our ranches have 30 documented cases of our fences or gates being breached by a vehicle. The least damaging of those cases cost our operation \$1,000, while other incidents have surpassed \$10,000 in damages.”¹⁹⁴



[WATCH: Arizona Rancher John Ladd Says At Least 30 Percent of His Income Goes to Repairing His Ranch](#)

¹⁹⁰ Sandra Sanchez, “Migrant Smugglers Adjust to Extreme Heat in Rural South Texas, Sheriff Says,” *Border Report*, June 22, 2023, <https://www.borderreport.com/immigration/border-crime/migrant-smugglers-adjust-to-extreme-heat-in-rural-south-texas-sheriff-says/>.

¹⁹¹ John Burnett, “Human Smugglers Bypass Border Patrol, Bedeviling Sheriffs And Ranchers In South Texas,” *NPR*, April 24, 2021, <https://www.npr.org/2021/04/24/990150761/human-smugglers-bypass-border-patrol-bedeviling-sheriffs-and-ranchers-in-south-texas>.

¹⁹² Information provided by the McMullen County Sheriff’s Office to the House Committee on Homeland Security, August 14, 2023.

¹⁹³ Bethany Blankley, “Ranchers Testify to Property Damage, Crime Caused by Illegal Foreign Nationals,” *The Center Square*, March 17, 2023, https://www.thecentersquare.com/texas/article_1755e2b6-c4be-11ed-b10f-a300cefd0853.html.

¹⁹⁴ “The Real Cost of an Open Border: How Americans are Paying the Price,” *Homeland Security Committee Events*, YouTube video, 1:11:15, July 26, 2023, <https://www.youtube.com/live/q2n1h6llbMg?feature=share&t=4275>.



SECTION 6: THE COST TO PRIVATE PROPERTY AND BORDER LIVELIHOODS

Page Day owns more than 20,000 acres of land near the Southwest border in south-central Texas, operating guided hunting expeditions for deer and exotic game animals on the property. The damage and uncertainty caused by mass illegal immigration has caused major financial harm for his family. Day said in September 2021, “The major problem we’re having now is [illegal immigrants] cut the fence, [and] they let those animals out. ... They did cut a high fence, left the gate open, too, and let some fallow deer that I was getting ready to breed. So, I just lost five grand right there one night.”¹⁹⁵

The Washington Examiner noted the following in its report about Day’s operation:

“Day is always armed, as is his wife when she goes out to check the fences across the property twice a day. Many ranchers have started hiring people to come in twice a day and check fences for cuts by smugglers because of how often it is happening lately and the financial loss that comes when animals escape. For those other ranchers, it costs around \$2,000 a week just to monitor the fences twice a day, he said.”¹⁹⁶

Repairing the fences Day relies upon to contain the animals on his property costs a staggering \$26,000 per mile.¹⁹⁷ Another rancher in Maverick County, Texas, has said that hunting blinds on his property, worth \$3,500-\$5,000 and which are key to his business, have been destroyed by illegal aliens.¹⁹⁸

Jim Chilton, a fifth-generation rancher who owns a 50,000-acre ranch in Arivaca, Arizona, told the House Committee on Homeland Security in June 2023 that repairs to his ranch cost more than \$60,000 per year, and that the value of his property would be around \$1 million higher if it was not located on the border.¹⁹⁹

Damaged fences also increase the risk that ranchers’ livestock can escape, necessitating long and costly retrieval operations, and potentially endangering drivers on rural highways when the animals wander onto roads, according to Ramirez.²⁰⁰ Per Zippy Duvall of the American Farm Bureau Federation, “Ranchers also raise different breeds of cattle and have varying vaccination protocols for their animals so keeping them separate is essential to herd health,”²⁰¹ illustrating another challenge posed by damaged fences.

¹⁹⁵ Anna Giaritelli, “Border Landowner’s 20,000-Acre Hunting Grounds Become Human Smugglers’ Paradise,” *The Washington Examiner*, September 25, 2021, <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/border-landowners-hunting-grounds-become-human-smugglers-paradise>.

¹⁹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁹⁸ Carine Hajjar, “Nightmare on the Border: Locals Left to Fend for Themselves as Migrant Surge Overruns Ranches, Towns,” *National Review*, April 20, 2022, <https://www.nationalreview.com/2022/04/nightmare-on-the-border-locals-left-to-fend-for-themselves-as-migrant-surge-overruns-ranches-towns/>.

¹⁹⁹ Information provided to the House Committee on Homeland Security, June 21, 2023.

²⁰⁰ Bethany Blankley, “Ranchers Testify to Property Damage, Crime Caused by Illegal Foreign Nationals,” *The Center Square*, March 17, 2023, https://www.thecentersquare.com/texas/article_1755e2b6-c4be-11ed-b10f-a300cefd0853.html.

²⁰¹ Zippy Duvall, “The Crisis at Our Border,” *The American Farm Bureau Federation*, June 9, 2021, <https://www.fb.org/the-zipline/the-crisis-at-our-border>.



SECTION 6: THE COST TO PRIVATE PROPERTY AND BORDER LIVELIHOODS



Illegal aliens often damage or destroy fences trespassing on ranchers' property. (Source: American Agri-Women)

Stephanie Crisp-Canales, a lifelong Texas rancher with her husband Marcus, said earlier this year, “When they drive through our property, that’s fence damage. So, we’re constantly repairing fences, we’re constantly replacing gates that they will blow through on their vehicles when they’re being chased by law enforcement.”²⁰²

According to Charles Maley of the South Texans Property Rights Association, in addition to fence damage, vehicle wrecks can start massive fires that damage thousands of acres.²⁰³ Sometimes aliens intentionally set fires in hopes of being rescued after getting lost on ranchers’ property. Large groups also “literally [walk] the crops flat.”²⁰⁴

Precious water resources are also not safe from those illegally crossing the border and violating ranchers’ property. According to south Texas rancher John Sewell, “Water is the life of south Texas. They’re turning our water off and breaking our water [lines].”²⁰⁵ One rancher recounted that in 2021, “he lost 130,000 gallons of fresh water and endured ‘more property damage than if I were to add 30 years together.’”²⁰⁶ Sean McGoffin, chief patrol agent for the Border Patrol’s Big Bend Sector, told the House Committee on Homeland Security in April 2023 that the biggest concern expressed to his agents is, “Broken fences, sometimes broken fences, broken water lines

²⁰² Kristen Altus, “Texas Rancher Fumes over Biden Admin’s ‘Lies They Spew to the American People’ on the Border,” *Fox Business*, May 3, 2023, <https://www.foxbusiness.com/politics/texas-rancher-border-crisis-rips-biden-lies-spew-american-people>.

²⁰³ Bethany Blankley, “Ranchers Testify to Property Damage, Crime Caused by Illegal Foreign Nationals,” *The Center Square*, March 17, 2023, https://www.thecentersquare.com/texas/article_1755e2b6-c4be-11ed-b10f-a300cefd0853.html.

²⁰⁴ Ibid.

²⁰⁵ Carine Hajjar, “Nightmare on the Border: Locals Left to Fend for Themselves as Migrant Surge Overruns Ranches, Towns,” *National Review*, April 20, 2022, <https://www.nationalreview.com/2022/04/nightmare-on-the-border-locals-left-to-fend-for-themselves-as-migrant-surge-overruns-ranches-towns/>.

²⁰⁶ Ibid.



SECTION 6: THE COST TO PRIVATE PROPERTY AND BORDER LIVELIHOODS

when people are breaking water lines to get access to water. I think those are some of the bigger ones. We've had some were break-ins to houses, things of that nature."²⁰⁷



WATCH: Illegal Aliens Attempt to Break into Home of Texas Rancher Debbie Douglas

Another Texas ranch owner, Debbie Douglas, recounted in March 2023 that she had spent more than \$13,000 installing new security measures at her family's ranch after an increase in break-ins.²⁰⁸ When asked what crossings looked like prior to the last 18 months, Douglas said, "We didn't have them. You knew that occasionally a family would come across, but we did not have anything like this."²⁰⁹

Crisp-Canales said that she and her husband "had to install cameras throughout our property... the cameras allow us to see who's on our property at any given time, so then we can alert the patrol. But it's come at a huge cost to us and it's very, very frustrating. And no, we don't feel safe at all."²¹⁰

Massive amounts of litter and refuse left behind by illegal aliens represent another substantial and expensive challenge for ranchers and farmers. Arthur Uhl, TSCRA first vice president, wrote in May 2021, "Litter is ever-present and must constantly be cleaned up by ranchers, otherwise it could be ingested by livestock and cause injury or death."²¹¹ The rancher Ramirez told Congress in July 2023:

²⁰⁷ Sean McGoffin, Transcribed Interview with the House Committee on Homeland Security, 220, April 25, 2023.

²⁰⁸ "Border Crisis: Texas Ranch Owner Beefs up Security amid Break-Ins | Morning in America," *NewsNation*, 0:41, March 15, 2023, <https://www.newsnationnow.com/video/border-crisis-texas-ranch-owner-beefs-up-security-amid-break-ins-morning-in-america/8473442/>.

²⁰⁹ Ibid, 0:56.

²¹⁰ Kristen Altus, "Texas Rancher Fumes over Biden Admin's 'Lies They Spew to the American People' on the Border," *Fox Business*, May 3, 2023, <https://www.foxbusiness.com/politics/texas-rancher-border-crisis-rips-biden-lies-spew-american-people>.

²¹¹ Arthur Uhl, "Editorial: The Border Crisis Is Real for Texas Ranchers," *Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association*, May 28, 2021, <https://tscra.org/editorial-the-border-crisis-is-real-for-texas-ranchers/>.



SECTION 6: THE COST TO PRIVATE PROPERTY AND BORDER LIVELIHOODS

“Plastic bottles, jugs, cans, backpacks, clothing, shoes, coats, and trash litter our property. I cannot clearly describe the amount of trash that now covers South Texas ranches. These materials will take hundreds of years to decompose and has led to cattle loss, as some items can be consumed and cause digestive failure in cattle. This is a long-term defacement of beautiful South Texas rangelands that will never be the same. Ranchers shoulder the burden of this financial loss.”²¹²



Discarded clothes, personal effects, and trash on ranches represents a major challenge for ranchers. (Source: American Agri-Women)

Outbreaks caused by parasites carried into the country by illegal aliens can also put a strain on ranchers' bank accounts. Ranchers particularly fear fever tick outbreaks, according to Richard Guerra, a rancher in Roma, Texas, in part because the cost to hire helicopters to spray affected areas to eradicate them can be up to \$400 an hour.²¹³ “Some of these migrants also carry the fever tick [as a result of passing through Mexico into the US]. And when they step on your property, chances are they're going to drop the tick,” Guerra told the New York Post in 2021.²¹⁴

²¹² “The Real Cost of an Open Border: How Americans are Paying the Price,” *Homeland Security Committee Events*, YouTube video, 1:12:23, July 26, 2023, <https://www.youtube.com/live/q2n1h6l1bMg?feature=share&t=4343>.

²¹³ Marie Banks, “Farmers Want Biden to Pay for Damage from Illegal Immigration,” *The New York Post*, July 20, 2021, <https://nypost.com/2021/07/20/farmers-want-biden-to-pay-for-damage-from-illegal-immigration/>.

²¹⁴ Ibid.



SECTION 6: THE COST TO PRIVATE PROPERTY AND BORDER LIVELIHOODS

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, these parasites can spread “cattle fever,” which causes cows to lose weight and produce less milk, and can ultimately prove fatal. The tick has been eradicated from the United States, “with the exception of a Permanent Quarantine Zone along the U.S.-Mexico border.”²¹⁵

Make no mistake, this crisis faced by ranchers throughout border states is a new crisis of Mayorkas’ making. Duvall of the American Farm Bureau Federation wrote in 2021, “[N]ever before have the crossings been so destructive.”²¹⁶ According to one South Texas rancher in June 2021, “The situation has changed 100%. We have immigrants coming through the ranch, not three or four a month like in the past. Just yesterday, we had 30 immigrants come through the ranch. The day before that, 40 immigrants came through the ranch. I think we had a total last week of about 140.”²¹⁷ Crisp-Canales said in May of this year, “We have people coming through our property 24 hours a day, seven days a week now.”²¹⁸ Brian King, a rancher in Texas, told the agricultural publication *FarmProgress* in 2021 that he went from experiencing a couple of “bailouts” on his farm in about six years to seeing them on a weekly basis over a period of around four months.²¹⁹

And the ranchers know to whom this crisis can be traced. Texas rancher Sewell, when asked what he thought of Mayorkas’ claims that the border is secure, told one media outlet, “Well, in polite ways, I don’t believe it, but it’s horrible. It’s a never-ending problem here. We are just battling from every direction, south and west.”²²⁰ Jim Volcsko, a rancher and former CBP officer, has said that Mayorkas’ policies are “100 percent” responsible for the chaos ranchers are suffering through—“They’re the ones who changed everything.”²²¹

But perhaps New Mexico Cattle Growers’ Association President Randell Major summed up best how Mayorkas’ politically motivated policies have put ranchers’ livelihoods on the line:

“I just feel that it’s just turned into this big political thing. To be honest, we feel like it’s a Trump versus the new administration, so they’re going to do the opposite of whatever Trump did, and so, unfortunately, that’s the political game that’s going on, but meanwhile the citizens of America and the citizens of New Mexico are caught in the middle.”²²²

²¹⁵ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, *Factsheet: Cattle Fever Ticks – Proper Treatment and Management of Wildlife Species*, September 2019, https://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/animal_health/cattle-fever-tick-wildlife.pdf.

²¹⁶ Zippy Duvall, “The Crisis at Our Border,” *The American Farm Bureau Federation*, June 9, 2021, <https://www.fb.org/the-zipline/the-crisis-at-our-border>.

²¹⁷ Julie Tomascik, “Farmers, Ranchers Impacted by Border Crisis Share Stories Online,” *Texas Farm Bureau*, June 23, 2021, <https://texasfarmbureau.org/farmers-ranchers-impacted-by-border-crisis-share-stories-online/>.

²¹⁸ Olivia Land, “Texas rancher slams Biden’s border ‘lies’: ‘We don’t feel safe at all,’” *The New York Post*, May 5, 2023, <https://nypost.com/2023/05/05/texas-rancher-slams-joe-bidens-us-border-lies/>.

²¹⁹ Jacqui Fatka, “Legislation Reimburses Farmers for Border Damages,” *Farm Progress*, August 4, 2021, <https://www.farmprogress.com/farm-business-planning/legislation-reimburses-farmers-for-border-damages>.

²²⁰ “‘PRAYING’: TX ranchers ‘hands are tied’ on border crisis, imploring Biden to act,” *Fox News*, YouTube video, 0:56, April 29, 2023, <https://youtu.be/c4VocXHYvqo>.

²²¹ Carine Hajjar, “Nightmare on the Border: Locals Left to Fend for Themselves as Migrant Surge Overruns Ranches, Towns,” *National Review*, April 20, 2022, <https://www.nationalreview.com/2022/04/nightmare-on-the-border-locals-left-to-fend-for-themselves-as-migrant-surge-overruns-ranches-towns/>.

²²² Elyse Kelly, “Border Crisis Causing Some New Mexico Ranchers to Live in Fear,” *Aberdeen News*, April 28, 2021, <https://www.aberdeennews.com/story/news/2021/04/28/border-crisis-causing-some-new-mexico-ranchers-to-live-in-fear/43781519/>.



SECTION 6: THE COST TO PRIVATE PROPERTY AND BORDER LIVELIHOODS

Consequences for Local Businesses and Economies

Mayorkas' open-borders policies have not just affected private ranchers and farmers, however. Large agricultural outfits have also been caught in the crosshairs, as the historic number of illegal aliens crossing the Southwest border causes irresolvable damage to resources like crops on which those businesses—and the local economy—rely.

According to Yuma County's Lines:

"[A]griculture is the number one industry in Yuma and our farms produce many of the fruits and vegetables that are distributed throughout North America. In fact, 91 percent of the leafy greens, romaine lettuce, and spinach consumed in the United States and Canada from Thanksgiving through Easter are grown, processed, and shipped from farms in the Yuma growing region. This industry ultimately brings in more than \$4 billion to the community each year.

"The surge in illegal immigration has had a devastating effect on this critical industry in Arizona. People crossing illegally travel on foot, urinate and defecate in fields and irrigation canals on the farms after they cross the border, which ruins whatever crop is growing in that particular farm.

"Farmers must abide by stringent food safety rules and this trespass and the defecating in production areas renders these crops grown completely unmarketable, thus the crop is destroyed and farmers must bear this staggering loss. As a result, farmers in Yuma have had to invest millions since this administration took office in crop loss to hire security and build fences around their farms to protect our nation's food supply."²²³

Yuma County Sheriff Wilmot wrote in testimony to the House Judiciary Committee earlier this year that the county has had to spend \$70,000 on portable toilets to place in agricultural fields throughout the county to keep illegal aliens from relieving themselves in those fields and contaminating crops.²²⁴

Simultaneously, these illegal aliens are failing to provide substantial economic benefit to the communities into which they travel. According to Borelli, "We've certainly seen some businesses complain and have problems. ... There doesn't seem to be at this point any vibrant economic activity coming from this population."²²⁵

²²³ "The Financial Costs of Mayorkas' Open Border," *Homeland Security Committee Events*, YouTube video, 28:57, September 20, 2023, <https://www.youtube.com/live/49LVY4FL2xk?si=y8idWIk5iowHisKN&t=1737>. Dustin Caudle, deputy chief patrol agent for the Border Patrol's Yuma Sector, told the House Committee on Homeland Security in a transcribed interview September 28, 2023, "if you've had a salad in Washington, D.C. here in the winter, chances are it was grown in Yuma."

²²⁴ U.S. Congress, House of Representatives, Judiciary Committee, *Prepared Testimony of Leon N. Wilmot for The Biden Border Crisis: Part II*, 118th Cong., 1st sess., February 23, 2023, 2, <https://judiciary.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/republicans-judiciary.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/WilmotTestimony.pdf>.

²²⁵ "The Financial Costs of Mayorkas' Open Border," *Homeland Security Committee Events*, YouTube video, 1:29:41, September 20, 2023, <https://www.youtube.com/live/49LVY4FL2xk?si=qXF7wl8fi3369JWo&t=5381>.



SECTION 7: PUTTING ILLEGAL ALIENS ABOVE AMERICAN CITIZENS

Section 7: Putting Illegal Aliens Above American Citizens

Mayorkas' open-borders policies have had the perverse effect of encouraging state and local governments to prioritize housing and other services for illegal aliens over American citizens, all at significant cost to taxpayers.

San Diego in April 2022 launched a multi-million-dollar program to provide taxpayer-funded legal services to illegal aliens, becoming “the first along the southern border to commit to paying legal fees incurred by immigrants facing deportation proceedings.”²²⁶ Just a few weeks earlier, the Oregon legislature passed a law appropriating around \$10.5 million “to a newly created Universal Representation Fund to provide a statewide, integrated, universal legal navigation and representation system for immigration matters...,” and another \$4.5 million “for the Oregon State Bar’s Legal Services Program to provide legal services to individuals on immigration matters”—primarily for illegal aliens facing deportation.²²⁷

In New York City, just days after Title 42 expired, city officials announced that hundreds of illegal aliens would be housed in middle and elementary school gyms in Brooklyn, prompting a massive outcry from parents. According to one parent, students in one location would not be able to access outdoor spaces because the area where aliens would be housed was adjacent to the outdoor playground.²²⁸

Damaris Fernandez, whose children attend two different schools that would house illegal aliens, told the New York Post, “Schools are kept secure for a reason. Parents have to sign in and provide ID when they go into school — now there’s migrants in the playground. My phone has been going crazy with angry parents. Nobody agrees with what’s happened.”²²⁹ The city has since backed away from the controversial plans.

²²⁶ Salvador Rivera, “County of San Diego first to pay for migrants’ attorney fees,” *Border Report*, April 28, 2022, <https://www.wavy.com/news/world/county-of-san-diego-first-to-pay-for-migrants-attorney-fees/>.

²²⁷ State Senator Kayse Jama, *Oregon Senate Approves the Establishment of Universal Legal Representation in Immigration Proceedings*, February 28, 2022, [https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/Jama/Documents/\[SB%201543\]%20PRESS%20RELEASE_%20Oregon%20Senate%20Votes%20to%20Establish%20Universal%20Legal%20Representation%20in%20Immigration%20Proceedings.pdf](https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/Jama/Documents/[SB%201543]%20PRESS%20RELEASE_%20Oregon%20Senate%20Votes%20to%20Establish%20Universal%20Legal%20Representation%20in%20Immigration%20Proceedings.pdf).

²²⁸ Bernadette Hogan et al., “Migrants to be housed in 6 more NYC school gyms — outraged parents say plan is ‘just insane,’” *The New York Post*, May 15, 2023, <https://nypost.com/2023/05/15/parents-outraged-as-6-more-nyc-schools-to-house-migrants-in-gyms/>.

²²⁹ Ibid.



SECTION 7: PUTTING ILLEGAL ALIENS ABOVE AMERICAN CITIZENS

82% of NYers call migrant influx a serious problem, 58% want to stop the flow: poll

By Carl Campanile

August 22, 2023 | 5:30am | Updated

In the Boston area in October 2023, “scores of military veterans, service academy graduates and families are scrambling to find hotel rooms” for the annual Army-Navy football game after one hotel management company effectively canceled reservations for at least 70 rooms at three hotels to house illegal aliens instead.²³⁰ Per one source: “I have enough rooms to cover some of the people. Some people are looking around but pricing is very high. For many, the issue is safety...they are questioning the safety of remaining hotels located near those that are now filled with migrants. Lots of questions by my clients and most hotels are scrambling to come up with safety protocols.”²³¹

Several hundred miles away in Chicago, lawmakers had planned to house more than 650 illegal aliens in a shuttered K-Mart facility,²³² then announced plans in May 2023 to move hundreds into a former high school in the city’s South Shore neighborhood.²³³ Residents of the neighborhood have vocally pushed back against plans to bring hundreds of illegal aliens into their community. Resident Craig Carrington said at a public gathering this spring that illegal aliens were being prioritized over Chicagoans on waitlists for housing.”²³⁴ J. Darnell Jones, another South Shore resident, told Fox News in May 2023:

“We’ve had a problem with police response in our neighborhood in the past, so to bring someone in, say they’re going to have police presence for 24 hours a day, does a couple of things. First of all, it’s slap in the face to those of us who have not had a police presence when we needed it. Secondly, it provides a resource to someone who does not pay taxes in our community when we have been starving for those resources ourselves.”²³⁵

²³⁰ Joe Battenfeld, “Battenfeld: Army-Navy game at Gillette has turned into ‘cluster’ because migrants have taken up hotel rooms,” *The Boston Herald*, October 4, 2023, <https://www.bostonherald.com/2023/10/04/battenfeld-army-navy-game-at-gillette-has-turned-into-cluster-because-migrants-have-taken-up-hotel-rooms/>.

²³¹ Ibid.

²³² Paris Schutz, “State Scraps Plans to Move Migrants to Shuttered Kmart on Chicago’s Southwest Side,” *WTTW News*, March 14, 2023, <https://news.wttw.com/2023/03/14/state-scraps-plans-move-migrants-shuttered-kmart-chicago-s-southwest-side>.

²³³ Joanna Hernandez, “South Shore Residents Push Back on City’s Plan to Convert Former High School Into Migrant Respite Center,” *WTTW News*, May 5, 2023, <https://news.wttw.com/2023/05/05/south-shore-residents-push-back-city-s-plan-convert-former-high-school-migrant-shelter>.

²³⁴ Adriana Pérez, “South Shore residents file lawsuit against city over plans to use high school as migrant shelter: ‘We will fight as long as we need to,’ one says,” *Chicago Tribune*, May 11, 2023, <https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/breaking/ct-south-shore-migrants-shelter-lawsuit-20230512-mrrmkk24vid2xp4c2q7ntgsz2u-story.html>.

²³⁵ “Chicago Residents Take Legal Action over Migrant Housing Plan,” *Fox News*, Fox News video, 04:49, May 16, 2023, <https://www.foxnews.com/video/6327603413112>.



SECTION 7: PUTTING ILLEGAL ALIENS ABOVE AMERICAN CITIZENS

Meanwhile, under the Biden administration, a record number of Americans are becoming victims of homelessness, according to reporting by the Wall Street Journal.²³⁶ The Journal found that even with the COVID-19 pandemic fading, the number of homeless Americans jumped around 11 percent from 2022, to at least 577,000 Americans, “by far the biggest recorded increase since the government started tracking comparable numbers in 2007.”²³⁷ Americans experiencing homelessness in New York City are now competing for shelter with illegal aliens, per Borelli’s testimony to the Committee:

“We have a homeless shelter, for example, that was approved for the north shore of Staten Island, which was intended on serving a specific population of presumably US citizens who are experiencing homelessness. That shelter is now under consideration for the migrant crisis. We’ve seen that happen in numerous locations. ... We’ve never leased hotels en masse to address homelessness in New York. ... We had about 60,000 people in our homeless shelters prior to the migrant crisis. Now when you add the migrants and the New York City homeless, it’s somewhere around 100,000.”²³⁸

According to Borelli, the city in September 2023 was operating more than 200 shelters to house illegal aliens—“But we have never had a crisis where 206 shelters are being placed willy-nilly in neighborhoods far and wide. We’ve simply never had that. ... Now, seemingly overnight, in one year’s time, we’ve placed 206 shelters.”²³⁹

Adding insult to injury, four days prior to the Journal’s report, the Biden administration sent a supplemental funding request to Congress, asking for billions of dollars in new spending.²⁴⁰ Among the administration’s numerous requests were \$600 million to be transferred to FEMA’s Shelter and Services Program (SSP),²⁴¹ which as covered in Phase 1 report of this investigation, is used to reimburse state and local governments and NGOs for services provided to illegal aliens, including housing.²⁴²

The administration also asked for more than \$750 million for Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s (ICE) Operations and Support budget.²⁴³

²³⁶ Jon Kamp and Shannon Najmabadi, “More Americans Are Ending Up Homeless—at a Record Rate,” *The Wall Street Journal*, August 14, 2023, <https://www.wsj.com/articles/homelessness-increasing-united-states-housing-costs-e1990ac7>.

²³⁷ Ibid.

²³⁸ “The Financial Costs of Mayorkas’ Open Border,” *Homeland Security Committee Events*, YouTube video, 1:25:29, September 20, 2023, https://www.youtube.com/live/49LVY4FL2xk?si=6nCZLOBpJytUlqG_&t=5129.

²³⁹ “The Financial Costs of Mayorkas’ Open Border,” *Homeland Security Committee Events*, YouTube video, 1:01:12, September 20, 2023, <https://www.youtube.com/live/49LVY4FL2xk?si=cUn3vuiXRnCT8GTH&t=3672>.

²⁴⁰ Shalanda D. Young, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, *Letter regarding critical funding needs for FY 2024*, August 10, 2023, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Final-Supplemental-Funding-Request-Letter-and-Technical-Materials.pdf>.

²⁴¹ Ibid, 51.

²⁴² U.S. Congress, House of Representatives, Committee on Homeland Security, Majority, *DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas’ Dereliction of Duty, Phase 1 Interim Report*, 118th Cong., 1st sess., July 19, 2023, 56-57, <https://homeland.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Phase-One-Report.pdf>.

²⁴³ Shalanda D. Young, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, *Letter regarding critical funding needs for FY 2024*, August 10, 2023, 53, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Final-Supplemental-Funding-Request-Letter-and-Technical-Materials.pdf>.



SECTION 7: PUTTING ILLEGAL ALIENS ABOVE AMERICAN CITIZENS

In a classic bait-and-switch, however, two pages later in a section entitled, “Reprogramming Authority for Facilities and Support Services,” Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Director Shalanda Young wrote:

“This request would authorize the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to use appropriated funding to allow for refugees, asylum seekers, or other migrants to be housed in community-based residential facilities, depart unsupervised during certain hours, and be provided medical care, legal programming, and other services through contracts, grants, or cooperative agreements with non-governmental organizations.”²⁴⁴

In other words, money that Americans would understandably think was going to enforcing immigration law would actually be used to reward breaking those laws. While an ever-increasing number—hundreds of thousands—of Americans are living on the streets, Biden and Mayorkas are asking for more than \$1 billion just this year in taxpayer dollars to provide housing and other benefits for illegal aliens—and disguising it as spending on “immigration enforcement” to do so.

“THE AMERICAN
PEOPLE HAVE BEEN
FORCED TO PAY
A BILL THEY NEVER
ASKED FOR.

- COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
CHAIRMAN MARK E. GREEN, MD



²⁴⁴ Ibid, 55.



SECTION 8: THE COST OF CARING FOR UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN

Section 8: The Cost of Caring for Unaccompanied Alien Children

As covered in the Phase 3 report of this Committee’s oversight investigation, Mayorkas’ open-borders policies have led to a massive surge of unaccompanied alien children (UACs) across the border—more than 400,000 since he took office. These individuals require unique care and processing, and are almost never returned to their home countries. Smugglers know this, and have taken advantage by embedding these minors in “family” groups in order to gain access to the country for the entire group.²⁴⁵ Once processed by DHS, these minors are placed in the care of HHS, and provide a foothold for other “family members” to arrive in the United States later.

In the early days of the crisis, the Washington Post reported that the Biden administration was spending \$60 million per week to provide care to around “just” 16,000 minors in HHS facilities,²⁴⁶ not counting the cost of new soft-sided shelters in locations like Donna, Texas. Existing HHS beds quickly filled up, leading the administration to devote substantial resources to “emergency facilities” that could house additional minors. These new facilities often cost more than twice what HHS beds in permanent shelters cost, per the Post’s reporting.²⁴⁷

Over the course of just a year, this would account for more than \$3 billion alone, and is almost certainly higher today given the increased number of minors coming across the border. In FY22, HHS reported it cost \$8 billion to care for UACs, with HHS requesting another \$4.9 billion for FY23.²⁴⁸

Additionally, as documented in the Committee’s third interim report pursuant to this investigation, Biden and Mayorkas’ policies have led to a historic number of UACs crossing the border, and ultimately being transferred to HHS’ Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR).²⁴⁹ Many of these children are ultimately placed with “sponsors,” though the process has been shown to be ripe for exploitation and abuse.²⁵⁰ One investigation found around \$2.7 billion in 2022 was spent on the troubled sponsorship process alone.²⁵¹

²⁴⁵ U.S. Congress, House of Representatives, Committee on Homeland Security, Majority, *The Devastating Human Costs of DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas’ Open-Borders Policies, Phase 3 Interim Report*, 118th Cong., 1st sess., October 10, 2023, 66-67, <https://homeland.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Phase-3-Report.pdf>.

²⁴⁶ Nick Miroff, “Biden Administration Spending \$60 Million per Week to Shelter Unaccompanied Minors,” *The Washington Post*, April 8, 2021, https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/border-shelters-cost/2021/04/08/c54eec3a-97bd-11eb-8e42-3906c09073f9_story.html.

²⁴⁷ Ibid.

²⁴⁸ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Assistant Secretary for Financial Resources, *Fiscal Year 2023 Budget in Brief*, March 28, 2022, 121, <https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/fy-2023-budget-in-brief.pdf>.

²⁴⁹ U.S. Congress, House of Representatives, Committee on Homeland Security, Majority, *The Devastating Human Costs of DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas’ Open-Borders Policies, Phase 3 Interim Report*, 118th Cong., 1st sess., October 10, 2023, 66-69, <https://homeland.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Phase-3-Report.pdf>.

²⁵⁰ Ibid., 69-75.

²⁵¹ Adam Andrzejewski, “U.S. Spent \$13 Billion Sponsoring Unaccompanied Minor Children At The Border Since 2012,” *OpenTheBooks Substack*, May 25, 2023, <https://openthebooks.substack.com/p/us-spent-13-billion-sponsoring-unaccompanied>.



SECTION 9: THE COSTS OF TRANSPORTING ILLEGAL ALIENS

Section 9: The Costs of Transporting Illegal Aliens

In the wake of daily surges of illegal aliens across the border and the limited capacity to handle them, several states—led by Texas, Arizona, and Florida—have chosen to transport those aliens out of their states to other locales, particularly sanctuary states and cities. This costs states even more money, in addition to the costs they have already assumed in responding to the crisis Mayorkas has thrust upon them.

Tens of thousands of illegal aliens have been bussed and flown out of these states. For example, throughout 2023, El Paso’s “Migrant Situational Awareness Dashboard” showed the city had sent at least 13,972 illegal aliens to New York City and Chicago alone.²⁵² Prior to the publication of this report, however, the dashboard was updated and this information removed. The city is also sending thousands of illegal aliens on buses to other Texas cities like Houston and Dallas.²⁵³

Texas:

- Between April 2022-early October 2023, the state had sent more than 51,800 illegal aliens to major cities around the country, including Washington D.C., Chicago, Philadelphia, and New York City.²⁵⁴ Figures published in October 2023 showed that Texas had to pay more than \$75 million in order for the company to bus illegal aliens out of the state.²⁵⁵

Arizona:

- Between May-August 2022, 43 buses departed from Arizona to Washington, D.C., bringing almost 1,600 illegal aliens to the east coast.²⁵⁶
- Each bus cost roughly \$83,000, bringing the total to around \$3.5 million.²⁵⁷

Florida:

- State lawmakers allocated \$12 million to the Florida Department of Transportation for illegal alien relocation purposes, which DeSantis made clear would be spent.²⁵⁸

²⁵² City of El Paso, *Migrant Crisis*, accessed on July 27, 2023, <https://www.elpasotexas.gov/Migrant-Crisis#:~:text=The%20number%20of%20people%20released,the%20month%20of%20September%202022>.

²⁵³ Leloba Seitshiro, “El Paso Chartering Long-Haul Bus Rides for Migrants,” *KVIA 7 News*, May 25, 2023, <https://kvia.com/news/2023/05/25/el-paso-chartering-long-haul-bus-rides-for-migrants/>.

²⁵⁴ Stef Kight, “Texas surpasses 50,000 migrants bused to major cities,” *Axios*, October 10, 2023, <https://www.axios.com/2023/10/10/texas-migrant-buses-major-cities-numbers>.

²⁵⁵ Kevin Ozebek and Sarah Rafique, “Texas private company paid \$75 million in 1 year to bus migrants out of state, report shows,” *ABC 13 Eyewitness News*, October 11, 2023, <https://abc13.com/texas-bus-migrants-bussing-to-other-cities-wynne-transportation-sanctuary/13889625/>.

²⁵⁶ Polo Sandoval and Andy Rose, “Texas Spends More than \$12 Million to Bus Migrants to Washington, DC, and New York,” *CNN*, August 31, 2022, <https://www.cnn.com/2022/08/30/politics/texas-migrant-busing-cost-abbott-washington-dc-new-york/index.html>.

²⁵⁷ *Ibid*.

²⁵⁸ Douglas Soule, “As Legal Bills Mount, Florida Paid about \$35,000 for Each Migrant in Martha’s Vineyard Flights,” *The Tallahassee Democrat*, January 9, 2023, <https://www.tallahassee.com/story/news/politics/2023/01/09/marthas-vineyard-migrant-flight-lawsuit-could-cost-florida-1-million/69782146007/>.



SECTION 9: THE COSTS OF TRANSPORTING ILLEGAL ALIENS

Data acquired from DHS by then-Alabama Rep. Mo Brooks shows the massive cost to the American taxpayer because of the influx of illegal immigration, and the federal cost of transporting illegal aliens further into the United States:

- From January-September 2021, the Biden administration spent at least \$340 million transporting illegal aliens into the interior.²⁵⁹ Note: this potentially did not include money used to transport federal contractors and NGOs facilitating the arrival process.²⁶⁰

In 2021, Mayorkas' DHS also deepened the federal government's involvement with a private security and intelligence firm, MVM Inc., to transport alien family units and UACs, more than doubling the size of its contract to \$128 million in March 2021, "with the possibility for further expansions."²⁶¹ By September 2023, DHS had incurred around \$660 million in obligated costs for these services.²⁶² Relatedly, HHS also struck a new deal with the company for transportation and logistics services the same month.²⁶³ The initial \$20 million was expanded by \$52 million barely a month later as a result of "additional work."²⁶⁴ Review of this contract showed approximately \$370 million in obligated funds for MVM between March-November 2021.²⁶⁵



²⁵⁹ John Binder, "Biden's Flights of Illegals into U.S. Cost Taxpayers \$340M in 9 Months," *Breitbart*, February 1, 2022, <https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2022/02/01/bidens-flights-of-illegal-aliens-into-u-s-cost-taxpayers-340m-in-9-months/>.

²⁶⁰ *Ibid.*

²⁶¹ See Felipe De La Hoz and William Bredderman, "Biden Showers Cash on Ex-CIA Contractor MVM Inc. to Transfer Migrants," *The Daily Beast*, May 3, 2021, [https://www.thedailybeast.com/biden-showers-cash-on-ex-cia-contractor-mvm-inc-to-transfer-migrants?source=articles&via=rss](https://www.thedailybeast.com/biden-showers-cash-on-ex-cia-contractor-mvm-inc-to-transfer-migrants?source=articles&via=rss;); and U.S. Department of the Treasury, Bureau of the Fiscal Service, Office of the Chief Data Officer, *Definitive Contract: PIID 70CDCR20C00000001*, accessed on October 26, 2023, https://www.usaspending.gov/award/CONT_AWD_70CDCR20C00000001_7012_-NONE_-NONE-.

²⁶² U.S. Department of the Treasury, Bureau of the Fiscal Service, Office of the Chief Data Officer, *Definitive Contract: PIID 70CDCR20C00000001*, accessed on October 26, 2023, https://www.usaspending.gov/award/CONT_AWD_70CDCR20C00000001_7012_-NONE_-NONE-.

²⁶³ Felipe De La Hoz and William Bredderman, "Biden Showers Cash on Ex-CIA Contractor MVM Inc. to Transfer Migrants," *The Daily Beast*, May 3, 2021, <https://www.thedailybeast.com/biden-showers-cash-on-ex-cia-contractor-mvm-inc-to-transfer-migrants?source=articles&via=rss>.

²⁶⁴ *Ibid.*

²⁶⁵ U.S. Department of the Treasury, Bureau of the Fiscal Service, Office of the Chief Data Officer, *Definitive Contract: PIID 75ACF121C00023*, accessed on October 26, 2023, https://www.usaspending.gov/award/CONT_AWD_75ACF121C00023_7590_-NONE_-NONE-.



CONCLUSION

Conclusion: Mayorkas' Open-Borders Policies Have Wasted, Abused Hundreds of Billions of Taxpayer Dollars

As the plaintiffs in *Texas v. Department of Homeland Security* noted in their complaint, Mayorkas' open-borders policies have caused every state in this country to "face substantial, irreparable harms...which allow potentially hundreds of thousands of additional aliens to enter each of their already overwhelmed territories."²⁶⁶ Biden and Mayorkas' policies have forced unforeseen and unnecessary costs on state and local governments across the country, putting cash-strapped jurisdictions already struggling with limited resources in an even tighter bind.

Federal, state, and local costs to provide services to a historic number of illegal aliens being released into the interior have skyrocketed on Mayorkas' watch. These are resources that should have been used to improve the quality of life for American citizens—if those dollars were even to be spent at all. Instead, Mayorkas' policies have had the perverse effect of rewarding lawbreaking by providing a seemingly inexhaustible supply of benefits to those who have refused to abide by America's immigration laws. In addition to these governmental costs are the untold millions, perhaps billions, of dollars that have been lost by private citizens and businesses who will never be made whole.

It is morally unacceptable that American taxpayer dollars should be funneled to those who violate our laws and demand expansive, taxpayer-funded benefits like education, health care, housing, and more. Many of these individuals will likely represent a drain on American society for the remainder of their days in the United States, constantly absorbing more benefits from the state than they ever contribute—to say nothing of the fact that they have no lawful basis to remain in the country to begin with.

Mayorkas' policies have enabled this mass waste and abuse of taxpayer resources. His policies and actions have encouraged millions of people to cross our borders illegally. His department has released millions of illegal aliens into the United States rather than detaining or removing them, as required by law. And there is no end in sight.

As long as Mayorkas insists on these failed policies, Americans will be the ones on the hook for the bill incurred by the millions of lawbreakers demanding benefits from Uncle Sam.

²⁶⁶ See Complaint in *State of Texas v. U.S. Department of Homeland Security*, No. 6:23-cv-00007, 3, (S.D. Tex. 2023).