

Testimony of Mrs. Marie Vega

Angel Mom – Mother of Slain Border Patrol Officer Javier Vega, Jr.

To the

Committee on the Judiciary

United States Senate

Subcommittee on Border Security and Immigration

For A Hearing Titled:

“Biden’s Border Betrayal: Criminal Aliens in America”

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Room 226, Dirksen Senate Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20515

Open Borders: The Consequences and Pain that Follows

My name is Marie Herrera Vega; I am the mother of two incredible sons.

Javier “Harvey” Vega Jr. my first born, one of my two pride and joys. An amazing grandson, son, brother, husband, father, nephew, friend, classmate, and coworker with a heart of gold, like no one you have ever met. An American with a love for his country, law enforcement, life, and family. Harvey joined the United States Marine Corps 5 months after graduating from High School. Served 4 years, after leaving the Marine Corps, attended college, while working a full-time job. Immediately after graduation he was hired by Christus Spohn Hospital as a bio-med technical engineer. In 2006 he joined the United States Border Patrol until 2014. **Javier “Harvey” Vega Jr., REMEMBER THAT NAME.**

Jordy Vega my second baby, another amazing son, joined the United States Marine Corps as well, same as his big brother. He was deployed to Iraq three times; we nearly lost Jordy when the convoy he was travelling in hit an IED. On his fourth deployment, this time to Afghanistan, he and his men were ambushed and Jordy was shot in the arm. He served 9 years in the military. Jordy now lives in Louisiana and works for a large American company.

Sunday, August 3, 2014, was a day that started off with wonderful memories of our U.S. Marine and Border Patrol Agent son, and his family visiting us. The entire day was planned, good quality family time, a barbeque, shopping, rifle sighting in preparation for hunting season, and some fishing to end the day, before he headed back home. Instead, late that afternoon our beautiful day turned into a nightmare, when two criminal illegal aliens decided to ambush us in attempt to steal both 4-wheel drive trucks. The two illegals jumped out of the stolen vehicle they were driving and without hesitation or a warning they began shooting at us without even asking us to hand over the keys. In the process Harvey was shot in the chest. My husband, Javier was shot in the back and the rest of us which included me, my daughter-in-law, two grandsons and their friend. When I heard the yelling coming from the illegals, while they shot at us, I fell back off the chair I was sitting on and I struggled to get up, but instead had to crawl to my son who had picked up an AR which he had left leaning by the truck. Do you know what it is like to see your son go down after being shot? Do you know what it is like to hear the gun shots, bullets whizzing past you? Do you what its like when your mind is trying to process everything, telling your grandchildren to duck, while thinking your son is on the ground with a bullet in his chest? Do you know what its like to hear your son telling his father, “KEEP SHOOTING DAD”? Do you have any idea what it was like for me to pick up an AR and shoot back to protect my family? The illegals not only possessed a stolen vehicle, the guns they possessed were stolen as well. They each had a long list of crimes, including holding a gun to a toddler’s head if the family did not hand over their phones, keys, and money. They had served time in county jails, been previously deported, fined \$10.00 and ordered to self-deport again. These same illegals had robbed our friend, Douglas Light, on his very own ranch in La Feria, holding a gun to his grandson, Paul’s ribcage and threatening to shoot him if our Doug did not hand over the keys to his truck. Doug did as he was told, and the illegals drove off with the truck, trailer, and lawn equipment. Going back to the nightmare we lived, had my husband and I not returned fire, the illegals would have killed everyone there, leaving no witnesses, and that is including my innocent grandbabies.

Five days from today it will be Harvey’s 11th Angelversary, 11 years is how long I have lived with survivor’s guilt. 11 years I have struggled to survive without my baby. 11 years I have lived with flashbacks during every waking moment. 11 years we have celebrated the boys’ birthdays, graduations, weddings, starting new families, new careers, and amazing accomplishments. 11

years I have witnessed how his killing has impacted the community, our families, his work families, his childhood friends, I have seen the heartbreak in everyone's voice, hearts, and actions.

Illegal aliens have impacted American lives in a very negative way. They have no regard for human life, as I witnessed firsthand. The illegals that killed Harvey, also shot my husband in the back and shot at innocent children, and women. My grandbabies and their friend were only 8 and 11 years old. Take a moment and imagine your child or grandchild witnessing this horror. How does that make you feel? Would you be okay with this? Had our immigration laws been enforced, our son would be here. Barrack Obama failed me, my family, our community, and our nation.

My husband now suffers from P.T.S.D., he is handicapped because of the extent of damage the bullet caused. Nerves and ligaments were severed when that 45-caliber bullet travelled from one side of his waist, narrowly missing his spine before exiting on the other side of his body.

I want you to know that we do not have an issue with people coming to America legally, we do have immigration laws in place for a reason. And they need to be enforced and as politicians you need to allow those in charge to enforce these laws. We are not a lawless nation. I, myself was not born in America. I am the daughter of an American born father and a Mexican born mother. However, my father did not smuggle or sneak us into this country. After marrying my mother, he stayed by her side in Mexico, until he applied to move us back to his Country. He waited patiently, filled out all the necessary documents and paid fees. He never even asked for government assistance, making do with his pay as a farmer and carefully planning for times when the weather did not permit work. He taught me and my siblings to be God fearing, hard-working and law-abiding citizens. My siblings and I are proud Naturalized Citizens.

La Feria, Texas, my little town's population is about 7000, our little community has lost three young lives to illegal alien crime.

- Noemi Dominguez, a 26-year-old teacher, murdered by criminal illegal alien, Angel Maturino Resendiz in 1999. Some of you might remember him as The Railroad Killer. He was a serial killer that murdered so many people throughout America.
- Javier "Harvey" Vega, Jr., 36 years old, father of three boys, a U.S. Marine, and Border Patrol Agent, murdered in cold blood in front of his family, by Gustavo Tijerina Sandoval and Ismael Hernandez Vallejo in 2014. They both had a long list of crimes they committed throughout the Rio Grande Valley.
- Maria Macias, a 37-year-old mother of three beautiful young daughters, killed in a car accident caused by illegal alien, Bedelin Alegria in 2022, who instead of trying to render aid, fled from the scene of the accident.

This is what family separation really looks like. Not one Angel Family will ever see our loved ones again – loved ones whose lives were taken by illegal aliens.

Now that you know a mother that had to shoot back to defend and protect her family, do you still believe we should have OPEN BORDERS? Open Borders have consequences and you can see from what I have experienced, because of the crimes committed by illegals, the PAIN lives with us for the rest of our lives.

You took an oath to work for "WE THE PEOPLE"! That means working with your fellow politicians regardless of which side of the aisle you are on. You are supposed to work together

representing us, ensuring that those coming in are obeying our immigration laws. They need to be properly vetted for their safety, yours, and ours.