

Border Management and Resilience Act, 2023

This legislation would provide immediate assistance to ensure orderly and humane processing after May 11, when Title 42 ends. For the last three years, Title 42 has prevented many asylum seekers from making their claims at our southwest border. At the same time, our nation's infrastructure for humanitarian processing was largely dismantled by the Trump Administration, and the world is in the middle of the worst refugee crisis in history, with 100 million displaced persons around the world.

The Biden Administration is working to humanely and safely process asylum seekers, but these efforts are undermined by our broken immigration system, which has not been reformed in over 35 years. Unfortunately, Republicans have repeatedly obstructed legislation to create new lawful pathways, strengthen border security, and provide federal officials and receiving communities with needed resources.

Our front-line officials and receiving communities need immediate assistance. To meet this urgent need, the sponsors are introducing the Border Management and Resilience Act. This bill is modeled on the 2019 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Humanitarian Assistance and Security at the Southern Border Act, which was overwhelmingly supported by Republicans in 2019. Specifically, the proposal includes the following key elements:

- **Border Management**: This legislation would enhance the operational capacity of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). It provides support to increase personnel and technology to expand capacity and situational awareness at and between ports of entry, helping to reduce the need for temporary duty assignments. The bill also funds essential transportation.
- **Improving Lawful Pathways**: The bill builds upon the initial success of the Biden Administration's Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Venezuela Parole program, which reduced apprehensions of nationals from those four countries by 97 percent. It would allow federal officials to efficiently and humanely process asylum seekers, refugees, and applicants for employment authorization, as well as create better access to lawful pathways in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- **Stopping Drug Trafficking**: According to the Government Accountability Office, 91 percent of Border Patrol drug seizures at ports of entry involve U.S. citizens only. This bill would make significant investments in technologies at the border to improve the detection and seizure of fentanyl and other illicit substances at ports of entry. The bill would also provide resources to increase the number of frontline personnel and increase support to state and local authorities to coordinate with federal officials in combatting transnational criminal organizations.
- **Support for Receiving Communities**: Local communities and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs)—both at the border and in the interior of the United States—have quickly stood up processes to receive newly-arrived asylum seekers. The bill would provide them with additional resources and ensure that such communities and organizations can provide input into the new Shelter and Services Program. It also would fund new Transportation Processing Coordinators who would collaborate with state and local governments and NGOs to facilitate onward transportation for asylum seekers.

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- **Support for Federal Officials**: The bill would provide additional support to frontline officials on the border and those tasked with processing applications for asylum and other immigration benefits. It also would provide border officials with processing coordinators and contract staff to ensure that trained child welfare professionals and medical professionals are on-site to humanely process families and children. In recognition that our frontline personnel are critical to the nation's security, the bill also would provide funding to support employee retention, recruitment, and wellness efforts.
- **Enhancing Consequences**: This bill would provide resources to prosecute smugglers and traffickers who exploit noncitizens and our nation's immigration laws.