



*Ranking Member John Katko*

## **BORDER SECURITY for AMERICA ACT of 2021 FACT SHEET**

In FY 2021, southwest border encounters reached the **highest level in 21 years** and the numbers continue to rise. The Biden Administration continues to break records with its reckless and dangerous border security policies. Illegal crossings along the southwest border have reached **over 1.1 million** this year – up 362% from the same time frame last year. The Biden Border Crisis is not improving and is **only getting worse** as the illegal flow of drugs, weapons, and people are wreaking havoc on American communities.

The **Border Security for America Act of 2021** (the Act), introduced by the House Committee on Homeland Security, would require that the federal government secure our nation's international borders through the renewal of **border wall** construction contracts, investments in **advanced technologies**, and bolstering **support for federal law enforcement officers** and specialists.

### **BUILDING THE BORDER WALL**

#### ***Bringing Back Effective Trump Administration Policies***

- The Act would require the Secretary of Homeland Security to **immediately resume all activities** related to the construction of the border wall system, while prohibiting the Biden Administration from cancelling border wall construction contracts and diverting funds appropriated by Congress for wall construction.
- Securing our southern border is vital to national security and **physical infrastructure** is needed to meet the challenges of a dynamic border threat environment. A robust border wall system allows our frontline law enforcement officers within Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) **full operational control** of the border.
- Effective physical barriers combined with **modern technologies** authorized in this bill serve as a **significant deterrent** to those who engage in illicit activity such as drug, human, and weapon smuggling and provide a conservative contrast to the reckless policies of the Biden Administration.

## MODERNIZING AND ENHANCING TECHNOLOGY

*Technology plays an important role in limiting the entry of illegal migration, and the interdiction of illicit contraband*

- To protect the nearly 2,000 miles of the southern border, as well as our northern and maritime borders, CBP and Border Patrol would benefit from integrating **new, advanced and improved technologies** into their operations.
- The Act directs the Secretary of DHS to deploy the most **practical and effective technology** available, such as Advanced Unattended Surveillance Sensors, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, and upgraded license plate readers (LPRs).
- It would also establish a **biometric exit data system**, which is critical for achieving situational awareness and operational control of the border.

## BOLSTER BORDER STAFFING

*Putting Boots on the Ground and Supporting Law Enforcement*

- Law enforcement personnel lead the important mission of safeguarding our Nation's borders while facilitating lawful trade and travel. CBP officers and agents are also responsible for preventing terrorists from entering the United States, as well as the illegal trafficking of illicit narcotics, humans, and weapons.
- However, **critical law enforcement positions remain vacant** and CBP has been unable to meet their minimum staffing levels for Officers, Border Patrol Agents, or other important law enforcement positions.
- The Act would require the Commissioner of CBP to **hire and train** additional CBP officers and agents to maintain an active-duty presence at all ports of entry in the United States including fully staffing Air and Marine Operations (AMO).
- It would also require increasing the number of officers for **tunnel detection** and remediation, increasing the number of **agricultural specialists**, and increasing the number of **K-9 units** and supporting officers.