



# COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

Ranking Member Bennie G. Thompson

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Joint Hearing Statement of Counterterrorism, Law Enforcement & Intelligence Subcommittee Ranking Member Seth Magaziner (D-RI)**

### ***Beyond the Border: Terrorism and Homeland Security Consequences of Illegal Immigration***

**September 19, 2024**

We have had repeated hearings this Congress on the southern border, but despite our attention to these problems, my Republican colleagues have shown no interest in real solutions. While the Biden-Harris administration has taken steps to make the border and homeland safer, House Republicans have tried to obstruct them every step of the way.

Republicans, including many of my colleagues across the dais, rejected even the possibility of considering the bipartisan border deal negotiated in the Senate between conservatives and the Biden-Harris administration.

Instead of taking action to move the bipartisan Senate border deal - the toughest border proposal in a generation - my Republican colleagues prioritized former President Trump's demands to sabotage the deal. Former President Trump and Republicans would rather have a problem to campaign on than solve the real issues we face at the border. Republicans chose their loyalty to one man - Donald Trump - over securing our borders.

The bipartisan border deal was a commonsense border security bill, signed off on by both Senate Republican and Democratic leaders, and the White House. When speaking about the bill, the lead Republican negotiator, Senator James Lankford, said it will be "by far, the most conservative border security bill in four decades."

However, Republicans rejected this border security bill that would have made the border more orderly, secure, fair and humane. It contained new presidential emergency authority to shut down the border when it became overwhelmed. It would have raised the standard for migrants to qualify for asylum and empowered border officials to rapidly turn away those who failed to meet that standard.

The bill would have also included funding for the border wall, more than 1,500 new Customs and Border Protection personnel, an additional 4,300 Asylum Officers to make the asylum process faster and fairer, and it would have increased the number of detention beds to alleviate detention facilities that are currently over capacity.

As we hear from the witnesses today, I encourage my colleagues across the aisle to listen thoughtfully to what each person has to say, and to abandon partisanship to actually help fix the situation at our border.

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