



OPPOSE H.R. 7909, THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN BY ILLEGAL ALIENS ACT

Once again, Republicans are looking to score cheap political points on a bill that has no chance to become law while trying to target and scapegoat migrants as criminals. This overly broad legislation is as well researched as Donald Trump's crazy, racist ramblings about cats and dogs. The bill would result in harsh consequences for *victims* of domestic violence, while pretending to protect them. Like every Republican effort since Trump killed the bipartisan border deal, this bill does not actually solve any problems with the immigration system or the border.

WHAT THE BILL DOES

- This bill adds new, redundant grounds of inadmissibility and deportability for “sexual offenses,” adds a new ground of inadmissibility for domestic violence, and expands the current deportability ground for domestic violence. Although the title of this bill implies it is targeting undocumented immigrants, its impact is far wider. This bill will sweep in green card holders, those seeking to come to U.S. lawfully, and DACA and TPS recipients, as well as those who are undocumented.
- No one condones domestic violence or sexual offenses. People who commit those heinous crimes have no place in our society. That is why people who commit such crimes are already inadmissible and removable.
- Right now, people who commit or are convicted of the “sexual offenses” discussed in this bill are not admissible to the country and are subject to deportation. Those sections of the bill are almost entirely redundant to current law.
- Likewise, people can be deportable if they are convicted of domestic violence and can be deemed inadmissible if they are convicted of or admit to committing a crime that includes the intent to cause bodily harm. The crime of domestic violence is well covered by current law.
- However, this bill attempts to significantly expand the definition of domestic violence to include the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) definition, which is used for grants and funding. This is a much broader definition that was meant to be used in criminal law. We know that because the definition explicitly says it covers conduct “that may or may not constitute criminal behavior.”
- The definition for domestic violence under federal criminal law focuses on physical force. This broader, VAWA-based definition sweeps in a wider range of behaviors that domestic violence organizations say will implicate survivors who have used violence in self-defense, or who were accused by their abusers and were either unable to defend themselves or pled guilty to avoid having to go through the court process.
- The bill also creates a new specific ground of inadmissibility (for those seeking to enter the country) for domestic violence which does not require a conviction and does not have any of the current exceptions that exist in the deportability grounds.
- This bill will punish victims of domestic violence. **That is why over 200 National and Local groups as part of the National Task Force to End Sexual and Domestic Violence echo these same concerns in their letter opposing this legislation.**
- Democrats would be happy to work with Republicans if this bill actually addressed a loophole in current law. But it does not. This bill is just another excuse to fearmonger about immigrants and immigration.



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON THE
JUDICIARY
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REPUBLICANS REFUSE TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM

- Time and again, Republicans have refused to take yes for an answer. At the behest of Donald Trump, Republicans dismissed out of hand a bipartisan senate border bill that Senate Minority Leader McConnell called the strongest border bill in 30 years.
- Republicans have refused to support additional resources and personnel for the border. In 2021, all but six current House Republicans voted *against* the Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal, which provided additional funding to ports of entry to combat smuggling of people and drugs.
- All but two current House Republicans voted *against* providing robust funding for border security operations in the FY2023 appropriations omnibus legislation. That bill provided more than \$17 billion to Customs and Border Protection (CBP), including funding for an additional 300 Border Patrol agents. The omnibus also included \$60 million to hire 125 CBP officers and \$70 million for nonintrusive inspection technology to detect narcotics and firearms at ports of entry.
- In October of 2023, the Biden administration sent Congress a supplemental funding request, which included an additional \$13.6 billion for border security. House Republicans refuse to schedule a vote on this funding request, which would provide the Biden administration the resources it needs to secure the border and provide additional support for communities receiving migrants.
- More specifically, this supplemental funding would pay for an additional 1,300 Border Patrol agents; 375 immigration judges and 1,600 asylum officers to speed up processing of asylum claims; 1,000 CBP officers with a focus on countering fentanyl; new detection technology for ports of entry; additional investigative capabilities to combat fentanyl trafficking; and \$1.4 billion more in grants to help communities receiving migrants, among other investments.
- By forcing a vote on this bill, Republicans are showing they have no real solutions to address the border. Members should not take the bait.

IMMIGRANTS COMMIT CRIMES AT LOWER RATES THAN NATIVE BORN INDIVIDUALS

- There are currently 45 million foreign-born people in the United States. In any large group, there are going to be some people who do bad things. These people do not represent the group as a whole.
- Unfortunately, Republicans and Fox News want to use any crime committed by an immigrant to fearmonger and scapegoat migrants for everything that is wrong in the country.
- But here are the facts: Higher immigration is associated with lower crime rates.
 - According to a 2015 study by the American Immigration Council, between 1990 and 2013, the foreign-born share of the U.S. population grew from 7.9 percent to 13.1 percent and the number of unauthorized immigrants more than tripled from 3.5 million to 11.2 million.
 - During the same period, FBI data indicates that the violent crime rate declined 48 percent—which included falling rates of aggravated assault, robbery, rape, and murder.
 - Likewise, the property crime rate fell 41 percent, including declining rates of motor vehicle theft, larceny/robbery, and burglary.
- An NBC News review of available 2024 crime data from the cities targeted by Texas’s “Operation Lone Star,” which buses or flies migrants from the border to major cities in the interior — shows overall crime levels dropping in those cities that have received the most migrants. Overall crime is down year over year in Philadelphia, Chicago, Denver, New York, and Los Angeles.