

U.S. Rep. Fitzgerald: House Republicans pass historic border security reform

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WASHINGTON, DC – Today, House Republicans passed H.R. 2, the *Secure the Border Act*, the most significant immigration and border security legislation passed in the House in over a decade.

Since President Biden took office, U.S. Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) have estimated over 5 million individuals have been apprehended at our southern border, with an additional 1.3 million known successful “gotaways.” On top of this, a record amount of illicit drugs, like fentanyl, have been seized by Border Patrol. Unfortunately, what CBP has intercepted represents only a fraction of what is successfully smuggled into our country. This administration’s open-border policies are to blame for this historic crisis.

The *Secure the Border Act* will address the border crisis and reform our immigration process in the following ways:

- Force the Biden administration to restart construction of the border wall.
- Deploy technology to the southern and northern border.
- Increase the number of Border Patrol agents by 22,000 and provide bonus pay.
- Require transparency regarding illegal crossings from the Dept. of Homeland Security.
- Strengthen current law to protect unaccompanied children from human trafficking.
- End the “catch and release” policy.
- End abuse of parole authority.
- Strengthen and streamline the asylum process.

*“The crisis at our border has gone on for far too long without remedy, **said Congressman Scott Fitzgerald.** House Republicans understand the consequences of President Biden’s open-border policies and have delivered a comprehensive solution that will effectively address the issue. As a member of the Judiciary Committee, I have been engaged in the process of drafting this legislation from the beginning and I’m proud to have supported its passage today.”*