



Senate Republican Conference

CHAIRMAN JOHN BARRASSO

To: Senate Republican Communicators
From: Senate Republican Conference
Subject: Messaging Memorandum // Secretary Mayorkas Impeachment
Date: April 7, 2024

Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas is willfully ignoring U.S. immigration law, threatening America's economic and border security, prohibiting states from providing their citizens with safety, and betraying the trust of the American people.

America is facing the most dangerous and disastrous border crisis in American history. This crisis began when President Joe Biden took office. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas is carrying out the crisis.

Under Secretary Mayorkas, there have been more than [9.2 million illegal crossings](#), cartels have made billions, and states are getting overwhelmed and overrun. Americans are getting hurt.

As DHS Secretary, Alejandro Mayorkas bears responsibility for this massive crisis. For that reason, the House approved [two articles of impeachment](#) against Secretary Mayorkas:

1. Willful and systemic refusal to comply with current U.S. immigration laws.
2. Breach of public trust by falsely testifying to Congress the border is secure.

57% of Americans believe that the Mayorkas DHS is [willfully refusing](#) to enforce border security laws:

- Republicans: 78%
- Democrats: 35%
- Independents: 61%

The Senate must convene a full trial and hold Secretary Mayorkas accountable for his deception of Congress, his deception of the American people, and his willful defiance of U.S. law.

Historical Precedent for Senate Impeachment Trials

Over 200 years of United States history, the U.S. House has sent impeachment articles to the Senate only [21 times](#). The Senate scheduled a trial for each case but only held 17 full trials. That's because four men resigned or were expelled prior to being convicted.

Impeachment is a serious charge. Secretary Mayorkas is the first cabinet secretary to be impeached since 1876. Holding a full trial is about getting the American people transparency and accountability, even if Senator Chuck Schumer wants to ignore the border crisis.

Mayorkas Traded in “Detain and Deport” for “Catch and Release”

Secretary Mayorkas has gone to extraordinary lengths to replace tough border enforcement and secure borders with turnstile policies. For three years, his policies have deliberately incentivized more than 9.2 million people from 160 countries to unlawfully enter the United States.

The policy of the Trump administration was “detain and deport.” The Biden administration’s policy – carried out by Secretary Mayorkas – is mass “catch and release.”

Secretary Mayorkas accomplished this in two ways:

- He refused to faithfully enforce our immigration laws that require DHS to remove illegal immigrants, especially those that commit automatically deportable criminal offenses.
- He openly defied Section 212 of immigration law. Under current U.S. law, immigrant parole must be done on a case-by-case basis. Mayorkas systematically abused this parole power, manufacturing a system of “mass parole.”

Mayorkas is Bankrupting American Communities & Enriching Cartels

With more than [9.2 million illegal border crossings](#) in just three years, every community in America is now a border community. Even Democrat mayors are sounding the alarm about the financial strain on their communities.

American taxpayer dollars are being spent on housing, health care, and other services for illegal immigrants:

- [New York City](#) is expecting to spend \$12 billion between 2022-2025 on taxpayer-funded services for illegal immigrants.
- [Chicago](#) spends more than \$20 million per month to “house and support” illegal aliens.
- Costs for [emergency services for illegal aliens](#) exceeded \$7 billion in 2021 and more than \$5.4 billion in 2022.
- [Denver Health Hospital System](#) is on the brink of collapse because of the mass influx of illegal immigrants seeking free medical care.

While our communities are losing money, cartels are getting richer:

- In 2021, the cartels were reportedly making as much as [\\$13 billion](#) from their human smuggling and trafficking operations.
- Illegal aliens from the Western Hemisphere pay the cartels anywhere from several hundred dollars to [\\$15,000](#) to cross, while Chinese nationals can pay as much as [\\$50,000](#).
- In FY2023, CBP seized an all-time record of [27,000 pounds of fentanyl](#) at the Southern Border – including nearly 2,800 pounds between ports of entry.
- These cartels directly endanger the lives and safety of the Border Patrol officers who serve under Secretary Mayorkas.

Mayorkas is Weakening America's National Security

Open-border policies are making it easier for dangerous criminals and terrorists to enter the United States.

During the Biden administration, Border Patrol has apprehended [336 individuals on the terror watch list](#), up from 14 terror suspects during the Trump administration.

In its 2024 Homeland Threat Assessment, DHS said the nation is in a “[heightened threat environment](#).” The report continued, “Terrorists and criminal actors may exploit the elevated flow and increasingly complex security environment to enter the United States.”

Border security and law enforcement officials are sounding the alarm:

- In a recent interview with CBS News, Border Patrol Chief Jason Owens referred to the situation at the Southwest Border as a “[national security threat](#)”:
 - *“What's keeping me up at night is the 140,000 known got-aways... Why are they risking their lives and crossing in areas where we can't get to? Why are they hiding? What do they have to hide? What are they bringing in? What is their intent? Where are they coming from? We simply don't know the answers to those questions. Those things for us are what represent the threat to our communities.”*
- FBI Director Christopher Wray recently warned that he sees “[blinking lights everywhere](#)” because of the current absence of border security.
- “Federal authorities caught a terrorist at the U.S. southern border and released him into the country, where he roamed freely for nearly a year...The unnamed individual, who the memo only identifies as a member of the Somali terror group al-Shabaab, was released shortly after being caught illegally crossing the southern border near San Ysidro, California on March 13, 2023.” ([Daily Caller, 1/29/2024](#))

- “Federal immigration authorities released for one day a Pakistani man who illegally crossed the southern border into California whose name appeared on the terror watchlist.” ([Daily Caller, 2/9/2024](#))
- “A Lebanese migrant who was caught sneaking over the border admitted he's a member of Hezbollah, he hoped to make a bomb, and his destination was New York... Basel Bassel Ebbadi, 22, was caught by the US Border Patrol on March 9 near El Paso, Texas.” ([New York Post, 3/17/2024](#))
- “A Chinese illegal immigrant was arrested in California on Wednesday after entering a Marine Corps base without authorization and ignoring orders to leave, officials say.” ([Fox News Digital, 3/30/2024](#))

American Communities Are Less Safe

In his September 2021 enforcement priorities memo, Mayorkas told DHS employees not to follow immigration law as written. He refused to remove illegal aliens, including aliens that have committed automatically deportable criminal offenses:

- [57%](#) decrease in arrests of criminal aliens.
- [67%](#) decrease in deportations of criminal aliens.

The deaths of Laken Riley and Ruby Garcia are tragic results of these dangerous policies:

- 70% of Americans say that the [Laken Riley](#) case shows America needs stricter immigration policies:
 - Republicans: 84%
 - Democrats: 62%
 - Independents: 64%

Joe Biden, Alejandro Mayorkas, and Democrat officials reject border security laws in favor of open-border policies. These policies have fueled a record-breaking crisis. As the official charged with securing the homeland, Secretary Mayorkas must be held accountable. The Senate must hold a full trial.