

DISCUSSION DRAFT
Sanctuary Committee - Elevator Talking Points

What is it about illegal that they don't understand?

- The Trump Administration is violating the law by not allowing migrants to apply for asylum at the border.
- The Trump Administration is violating the law by making arrests of local residents without judicial warrants.
- The Trump Administration is violating international law by not taking its share of refugees.

Build that wall, good fences make good neighbors.

- Without wasting money (it would cost over \$66 billion) on a wall, border enforcement has been able to prevent the entry of terrorists, gangs, and support our trade laws. The number of undocumented residents has been declining without a wall.
- Wall funding is an attempt to distract attention from collusion with Russia and presidential corruption.
- Over 40 percent of undocumented residents are here after overstaying visas.
- A wall won't stop entry due to corruption of among border agents.

Why Don't They Just Wait in Line?

- In 2016, the wait for a visa for married children of US citizens from Mexico had reached 20 years.
- Some undocumented residents were not eligible in any category.
- The US is not accepting an appropriate share of refugees.

You people just want open borders, but all countries need borders.

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- The Trump Administration is violating the law by not allowing migrants to apply for asylum at the border
- The Trump Administration is violating international law by not taking its share of refugees
- We should honor the Spirit of the Statue of Liberty, by accepting an appropriate share of the poor and refugees

Immigration should be based on merit only.

- We should honor the Spirit of the Statue of Liberty, by accepting an appropriate share of poor immigrants and refugees
- Low-income immigrants have always been high achievers, contributing more to US economy than those who enter based on privilege
- The US is sufficiently wealthy to take in its share of low-income immigrants and refugees

Immigration increases crime and gang violence.

- The crime rate for immigrants is lower than that of native-born Americans
- White Americans with assault weapons are a much greater threat to public safety than immigrants
- This claim is an attempt to use racial fear to distract attention from collusion with Russia and presidential corruption

Immigrants will take jobs away from Americans

- Immigrant entrepreneurs create jobs, and help diversify the economy
- Immigrants contribute to the economy with local spending. They pay more in taxes than they receive in public benefits: they pay payroll taxes, property taxes, sales taxes, and do not receive the Earned Income Tax Credit, thus paying more relative to income in income taxes
- Moving jobs to even lower wages abroad is a greater risk to the local job market

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Support homeless veterans, not illegal immigrants

- We should support homeless veterans. Immigrants did not cause their situation.
- Immigrant entrepreneurs create jobs, and help diversify the economy
- Money spent unnecessarily at the border would be better spent on housing