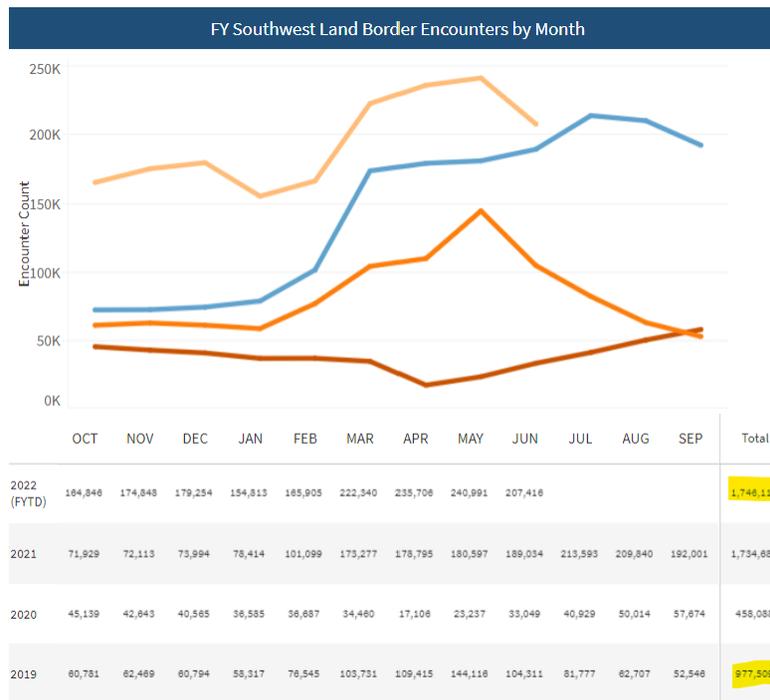


There is a crisis at the southern border and Henry Cuellar furthered this crisis by voting to protect certain illegal immigrants from deportation. Cuellar even voted to give \$1,200 of your tax money to certain illegal immigrants while fighting against funding for the border wall.

**The amount of border encounters CBP has had in FY2022 so far is already more than what it had in the entirety of FY2021 and almost double what it encountered in FY2019, with three months left to go in the fiscal year:**

- **1.74 million migrants had been stopped at the southwest border through the first nine months of FY2022, which is already more than the previous fiscal year’s total, with three more months left to go before the end of this fiscal year.** “More than 1.74 million migrants had been stopped at the southwest border through June, breaking the record set through all of the last fiscal year with three months still to go in this fiscal year. The latest numbers from Customs and Border Protection show that while apprehensions fell sharply from May to June, they were still above 200,000 for a fourth straight month. That pushed encounters in the first nine months of fiscal 2022 past the previous record of 1.73 million apprehensions through all of fiscal 2021.” (Daisy Gonzalez-Perez, “June border encounters top 200,000, set record of 1.74 million for year,” [Cronkite News](#), 7/18/2022)
- **The 1.74 million number is almost double what FY2019 had in its entirety.**



(“Southwest Land Border Encounters,” [U.S. Customs and Border Protection](#), Accessed 7/22/2022)

**In May 2020, Cuellar voted for the HEROES Act, a \$3 trillion wish list that could potentially give up to \$6,000 in stimulus checks to illegal immigrants and protect them from deportation:**

- **The HEROES Act, H.R. 6800, was introduced by Rep. Nita Lowey (D-NY) on May 12, 2020.** (H.R.6800 - HEROES Act, [Library of Congress](#), Introduced 5/12/20)
  - **On May 15, 2020, the HEROES Act was passed 208-199 with 14 Democrats voting against it.** (HEROES Act, [Roll Call 109](#), Passed 208-199, 5/15/20)
    - **The Democrats who voted against the bill were Cindy Axne (IA), Joe Cunningham (SC), Sharice Davids (KS), Abby Finkenauer (IA), Jared Golden (ME), Kendra Horn (OK), Pramila Jayapal (WA), Conor Lamb (PA), Elaine Luria (VA), Ben McAdams (UT), Kurt Schrader (OR), Abigail Spanberger (VA), Xochitl Torres Small (NM), and Susan Wild (PA).** (Marty Johnson, “The 14 Democrats who broke with their party on coronavirus relief vote,” [The Hill](#), 5/16/20)
- **Cuellar voted for the HEROES Act.** (HEROES Act, [Roll Call 109](#), Passed 208-199, Cuellar Voted Yea, 5/15/20)
- **The HEROES Act would cost \$3 trillion and give \$1,200 stimulus checks to illegal immigrants who file taxes with Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers (ITIN), which are mainly used by illegal immigrants to receive tax benefits.** “The Democrats' new \$3 trillion coronavirus relief legislation expands direct payment eligibility to many more people than last time, including undocumented immigrants who pay taxes... Undocumented immigrants without a social security number can still file taxes with an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN). These ITIN filers could receive the full \$1,200 under the Democrats' new plan. ITIN filers are commonly undocumented immigrants. Legal immigrants working in the United States typically need to get Social Security numbers to get paid, just like American citizens. The IRS created the ITIN, a tax processing number, in 1996 as a way for individuals not eligible to receive benefits like Social Security to pay federal taxes on the wages they earn.” (Marisa Schultz, “Democrats' \$3T coronavirus relief bill extends stimulus checks to certain undocumented immigrants,” [Fox News](#), 5/13/20)

*Editor's Note:* The stimulus checks were taxpayer [funded](#).

- **In 2015, 4.4 million people filed taxes using an ITIN.** “According to the IRS, in 2015, 4.4 million people paid \$23.6 billion in total taxes using an ITIN.” (“The Facts About the Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN),” [American Immigration Council](#), 7/1/20)

*Editor's Note:* \$1,200 times 4.4 million is \$5,280,000,000.

*Editor's Note:* The [CARES Act](#) did not give stimulus to taxpayers who file using an ITIN; this is specific to the HEROES Act.

- **The HEROES Act allows each family to receive up to \$6,000 in stimulus money.** “The HEROES Act includes another stimulus check that would benefit individual taxpayers and their families. It would include another one-time \$1,200 payment for individuals who earn

up to \$75,000. Families could also receive \$1,200 for up to three qualified dependents (unlike the \$500 payment under the CARES Act). This means some families could receive up to \$6,000.” (Ryan Guina, HEROES Act Proposal - \$1,200 Stimulus Check For Individuals And Up To \$6,000 For Families,” [Forbes](#), 5/12/20)

- **The HEROES Act would protect illegal immigrants from deportation and allow them to work in the U.S.** “Under the bill, essential workers would be shielded from deportation and offered employment authorization during the pandemic, and employers in critical industries would not be penalized for hiring unauthorized immigrants.” (Nicole Narea, “Immigrants were largely overlooked in the US’s coronavirus response. The latest relief bill aims to fix that,” [Vox](#), 5/15/20)

### Cuellar called the border wall “symbolic” in 2017:

- **In 2017, when President Trump was threatening to shut down the government to secure funding for a border wall, Cuellar called the border wall “symbolic.”** “Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo, issued a statement Monday afternoon in response to threats from President Trump to shut down the government if Congress will not approve funds to build a fence on our southern border. ‘President Trump is threatening to shut down the government if he doesn’t get to build his symbolic border wall,’ Cuellar said in the statement. ‘He wants to cut things like education, transportation, and health care, to fund his pet project...’” (Laredo Morning Times, “Laredo congressman: Trump wants to ‘punish the American people’ with shutdown,” [LMTonline](#), 4/24/2017)
- **Cuellar’s further comments insinuated that the border would not work.** CUELLAR: “Now that he is facing bipartisan opposition to this irresponsible plan, he wants to punish the American people by shutting down the government. President Trump should be leading the nation, and encouraging investment in border security measures that actually work.” (Laredo Morning Times, “Laredo congressman: Trump wants to ‘punish the American people’ with shutdown,” [LMTonline](#), 4/24/2017)

### In February 2019, Cuellar said he opposes the border wall:

- **Appearing on Fox News in Feb. 2019, Cuellar said he opposes the border wall and thinks it is a “14<sup>th</sup> century solution.”** CUELLAR: “First of all, we’re not gonna have a wall. Now, can we look at some sort of enhanced barrier? That’s something we can certainly look at...I don’t believe in the Wall. I think a wall is a 14<sup>th</sup> century solution the way the president is saying. The president is looking at a false premise. He thinks that the only way you secure the border is by having a wall. That is a false premise. There’s other ways of securing the border.” (GOP War Room, “Rep. Cuellar Wants Local Border Patrol Chiefs To Weigh In... Unless They Say They Want More Barriers,” [YouTube](#), 2/3/2019)

### In December 2019, Cuellar voted no on border wall funding in the 2020 spending bill, believing a border wall would be “ineffective:”

- **Cuellar voted no on the border wall funding in the 2020 spending bill in December 2019.** “Today, Congressman Henry Cuellar (TX-28) voted against the final spending bill that includes \$1.375 billion for the construction of a southwest border wall and allows the

Trump Administration to reallocate appropriated funds, such as military construction projects, for the border wall.” (Press Release, “Rep. Cuellar Votes NO on Border Wall Funding in 2020 Spending Bill,” [Office of United States Congressman Henry Cuellar](#), 12/17/2019)

- **Cuellar said at the time that the border wall would be ineffective.** CUELLAR: “I am voting no on this spending bill not to shut down the government, but to continue debate on how to move forward with smart border security, such as utilizing advanced technology and increasing personnel, instead of funding an ineffective border wall...From Day 1, I have made my position very clear: I oppose the wall, the wall is not necessary, and the wall will not work. The Trump Administration’s ineffective and wasteful border wall hurts taxpayers, wildlife, the environment, and my community. The people of my district sent me to the nation’s capital to be good stewards of their taxpayer dollars and to protect their rights, including the right to own private property.” (Press Release, “Rep. Cuellar Votes NO on Border Wall Funding in 2020 Spending Bill,” [Office of United States Congressman Henry Cuellar](#), 12/17/2019)

**In a September 2020 op-ed, Cuellar stated that the border wall “has no home” in his district:**

- In an op-ed from September 2020, Cuellar remarked that the border wall “has no home” in South Texas.

## **Op-Eds**

### **Congressman Henry Cuellar: A Border Wall Has No Home in South Texas**

(Congressman Henry Cuellar, “Congressman Henry Cuellar: A Border Wall Has No Home in South Texas,” [Office of Congressman Henry Cuellar](#), 9/2/2020)