

As the crisis of drug smuggling and human trafficking grows worse in Arizona, Jevin Hodge is weak on the border. Hodge said he supports our “undocumented brothers and sisters” and supported legislation that would grant amnesty to millions of illegal immigrants.

BACKUP:

Drug seizures continue to grow at the Arizona border, and human smuggling has become an “every day occurrence” in parts of Arizona:

- **The Port of Entry in Nogales, Arizona has seen a big spike in drugs crossing the border in August 2022; the Nogales Port Director said the quantity of drugs seized in August 2022 was not typical.** “The Port of Entry in Nogales has seen a big spike in drugs crossing the border in August - including meth, heroin and, in particular, fentanyl pills. They've been concealed in hidden car compartments, stashed in spare tires and even found in the frame of a medical walker. Nogales Port Director Michael Humphries said Customs and Border Protection officers have seen especially big busts in recent days. ‘There was one seizure that had approximately 391,000 fentanyl pills,’ Humphries recounted. ‘Another had approximately 420,000.’ These busts, plus other smaller ones, totaled up to more than 1.1 million fentanyl pills seized at the Nogales Port of Entry in a seven-day period. Humphries stressed these numbers aren't typical, even though rates of fentanyl smuggling are up.” (Luke Forstner, “August a big month for drugs seized on Arizona’s southern border so far,” [KTAR](#), 8/10/22)
- **Arizona ports of entry saw the highest amount of fentanyl seized in August 2022, an amount more than twice as high as in most previous months.** “Arizona ports of entry saw the highest amount of fentanyl seized in August – and more than at the rest of the U.S. border with Mexico plus the border with Canada. Customs officers at Arizona ports seized more than 1,300 pounds of fentanyl in August, according to Customs and Border Protection data released Monday. The August amount was more than twice as high as July’s, which was also a record-setter and more than twice as high as in most previous months.” (Danyelle Khmara, “Arizona fentanyl seizures reach all-time high,” [Tucson.com](#), 9/20/22)
  - **Pinal County Sheriff Mark Lamb said that despite the quantity of drugs seized, it is “probable” that cartels “brought in millions of pills that we did not catch, that we did not see, that are now circulating amongst American communities.”** “I’d like to tell you it’s a good thing that we’re catching all these drugs, and it is. It’s a good thing. But it’s only because the cartel is pushing even more drugs into this country,’ Lamb said. ‘It’s probable that they brought in millions of pills that we did not catch, that we did not see, that are now circulating amongst American communities.’” (Devan Markham, “Border Patrol sees jump in fentanyl trafficking,” [NewsNation](#), 8/30/22)
- **According to reporting from August 2022, fentanyl seizures continue to grow at the Arizona border.** “Fentanyl seizures continue to grow at the Arizona border, and a state port director says suspects are using new means to get them across. U.S. Customs and Border Protection Director Michael Humphries for the Port of Nogales says smugglers are getting creative when it comes to sneaking drugs into Arizona.” (Chase Golightly, “Anything you can imagine: Border Patrol officers discover new methods of drug smuggling,” [12 News](#), 8/28/22)

- **Migrant smuggling along the southern border has evolved from a scattered network of freelance “coyotes” into a multi-billion-dollar international business controlled by organized crime.** “But if it was one of the first such cases, it was not the last. Migrant smuggling on the U.S. southern border has evolved over the past 10 years from a scattered network of freelance ‘coyotes’ into a multi-billion-dollar international business controlled by organized crime, including some of Mexico’s most violent drug cartels.” (Miriam Jordan, “Smuggling Migrants at the Border Now a Billion-Dollar Business,” [The New York Times](#), 7/25/22)
- **In August 2022, a national human trafficking investigation led to the identification of 17 adult victims of human trafficking in Phoenix.** “A national human trafficking investigation has led to the identification of 17 adult victims of human trafficking in Phoenix. The FBI says agents and victim specialists in Phoenix have identified 17 adult victims of human trafficking during "Operation Cross Country," which ran locally in Arizona from Aug. 9-12 in collaboration with Phoenix Police Department's Human Exploitation and Trafficking unit.” (Haleigh Kochanski, “FBI locates 17 adult victims of human trafficking in Phoenix,” [Arizona Republic](#), 8/16/22)
- **Human smuggling has become an “every day occurrence” in parts of Arizona.** “Human smuggling issues is now an every day occurrence in Cochise County, mainly in the Sierra Vista area, however, Tombstone is starting to see its fair share of human smuggling activity. During the May Board of Police Commissioners Meeting, Marshal Jim Adams reported on the happenings of the month of April. ‘Two illegal immigrants were found on the 5th. On the 7th, a load vehicle coming towards Tombstone pulled over, emptied everyone out and the truck was found abandoned. Six more were located and turned over to Border Patrol the next day. Seven more were found in a car behind Ike’s gas station on the 12th. In that case, the suspect was a 16-year-old U.S. Citizen who was letting one of the immigrants drive her parent’s car, since she didn’t have a license,’ said Adams.” (Samantha Nicholas, “Marshals Office Sees Increase in Human Smuggling,” [The Tombstone News](#), 5/13/22)

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(Jevin D. Hodge for Congress, [Twitter](#), 11/6/18)

Days after the House passed the Build Back Better Act, Jevin Hodge said that “Building Back Better” is not just a slogan, but is also a promise for policies including paid leave, climate action, and early childhood education:

- On November 23, 2021, Hodge said that “Building Back Better” is not just a slogan, but is also a promise for policies including paid leave, climate action, and early childhood education.



(Jevin D. Hodge for Congress, [Twitter](#), 11/23/21)

- **On November 19, 2021, the House passed H.R. 5376, the Build Back Better Act.** (H.R. 5376, [Roll Call 385](#), Passed 220-213: R 0-212, D 220-1, 11/19/21)
  - **The House-passed version of Build Back Better addressed climate change, paid leave, and funding for universal pre-K.** “In addition to addressing climate change and expanding Medicare coverage, the Build Back Better Act, recently passed by the House and now under consideration by Senate Democrats, would also be a game-changer for many parents, advocates say. The act includes provisions, ranging from paid leave to funding for universal pre-K, that would be especially beneficial to low- and middle-income households, says Kris Cox, deputy director of federal tax policy at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP). But higher-income families would also benefit from the “historic investments,” she says.” (Alicia Adamczyk, “From the enhanced child tax credit to universal pre-K, Build Back Better makes ‘historic investments’ to help parents,” [CNBC](#), 11/23/21)

**The House-passed version of the Build Back Better Act has been called the “largest mass-legalization program for undocumented immigrants in U.S. history” and would grant amnesty to millions of illegal immigrants:**

- **“If passed into law, President Biden’s Build Back Better bill would create the largest mass-legalization program for undocumented immigrants in U.S. history.”** “If passed into law, President Biden’s Build Back Better bill would create the largest mass-legalization program for undocumented immigrants in U.S. history. Roughly 7 million of the 11 million unauthorized immigrants currently in the U.S. – including “Dreamers,” coronavirus-era essential workers and farmworkers – would be eligible for the new would be eligible for the new immigration protections.” (Carmen Valencia, “Immigration protections in Build Back Better bill bring hope to DACA recipients,” [Yahoo! News](#), 12/3/21)
  - **“The reconciliation bill would create the largest mass-legalization program for undocumented immigrants in U.S. history.”** (Maria Sacchetti, “How the House spending bill sets a path to legalization for undocumented immigrants,” [The Washington Post](#), 11/19/21)
- **The CBO has determined that the Build Back Better Act would grant temporary amnesty to “an estimated 6.5 million non-U.S. nationals.”** “Under President Joe Biden’s current Build Back Better Act (H.R. 5376), an estimated 6.5 million non-U.S. nationals, many of whom are already in the U.S. illegally, would be granted temporary amnesty, according to a report from the Congressional Budget Office (CBO).” (Alek Schemmel, “Build Back Better Act would grant amnesty to millions of people, CBO says,” [KATV](#), 11/29/21)
- **The Build Back Better Act would provide provisions for roughly “seven million undocumented immigrants currently in the United States” which would “offer a ‘parole’ process that would waive immigration requirements for five years” and up to ten years.** “House Democrats’ Plan C immigration provisions do not contain a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants and instead offer a ‘parole’ process that would waive immigration requirements for five years with the chance to extend for another five years for those who immigrated before January 2011. This set of provisions would target roughly seven million undocumented immigrants currently in the United States, including the Dreamers and certain classes of essential workers during the pandemic.” (Isabel Soto, Whitney Appel, Maya Shanahan, “Immigration Provisions in Build Back Better,” [American Action Forum](#), 11/10/21)