

STATEMENT

Illegal immigrants are coming across the country's southern border every month and bringing dangerous drugs like fentanyl into the United States. Yet, Kristen McDonald-Rivet has repeatedly criticized efforts to secure the border, refused to ban sanctuary cities, supported providing taxpayer-funded lawyers for illegal immigrants, and voted against increasing punishments for fentanyl distribution.

Verification

Immigration Crisis

Monthly Migrant Encounters At The U.S.-Mexico Board Have Soared Since 2020

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Deadly Drugs

In 2024, Record Amounts Of Dangerous Drugs Like Methamphetamines And Fentanyl Were Seized By United States Law Enforcement

Seizures Of Fentanyl Are Up 480 Percent At The Southern Border In Fiscal Year 2023 Compared To Fiscal Year 2020. “Data indicates drug seizures at the U.S.-Mexico border, by pounds seized, are trending down. The good news, at closer look, can be misleading. Seizures of heavier, less-potent drugs like marijuana are down while illicit fentanyl, a drug 100 times more potent than morphine, are up significantly: 480 percent higher at the southern border in fiscal year (FY) 2023 compared to FY 2020.” (Christian Penichet-Paul, “Illicit Fentanyl And Drug Smuggling At The U.S.-Mexico Border: An Overview,” [National Immigration Forum](#), 10/25/23)

In February 2024, Customs And Border Protection Seized 6.5 Tons Of Methamphetamines Worth \$117 Million. “U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Field Operations officers seized six and a half tons of methamphetamine valued at more than \$117 million, the largest ever at a port of entry, in a single enforcement action.” (United States Customs And Border Protection, “CBP Officers Seize Six And A Half Tons Of Methamphetamine At Eagle Pass Port Of Entry, Largest Ever At A Port,” [Press Release](#), 2/22/24)

- **“The Largest Ever At A Port Of Entry, In A Single Enforcement Action”** “U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Field Operations officers seized six and a half tons of methamphetamine valued at more than \$117 million, the largest ever at a port of entry, in a single enforcement action.” (United States Customs And Border Protection, “CBP Officers Seize Six And A Half Tons Of Methamphetamine At Eagle Pass Port Of Entry, Largest Ever At A Port,” [Press Release](#), 2/22/24)

Criticized Efforts To Secure The Border

In 2024, McDonald Rivet Claimed That “Immigration Has Been Used As A Political Football, And As A Result, The System Has Become Increasingly Broken.” “What recommendations, if any, would you propose to change US immigration policy?...McDonald Rivet: America is both a nation of immigrants and a nation of laws. Unfortunately, the issue of immigration has been used as a political football, and as a result, the system has become increasingly broken. We need members of Congress to come together and pass the commonsense reforms that broad majorities of Americans support -- smart investments in border security, cracking down on cartels and drug traffickers and modernizing the system to provide humane, legal, and fair pathways for immigrants who want to come to the U.S., as well as providing a pathway to citizenship.” (Ron Fonger, “Meet The Candidates To Replace Dan Kildee In Michigan’s 8th Congressional District,” [Michigan Live](#), 7/23/24)

On May 9, 2024, McDonald Rivet Voted Against Deploying The National Guard To The Southern Border. “Senate Bill No. 762, entitled A bill to make appropriations for the department of military and veterans affairs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025; and to provide for the expenditure of the appropriations. The question being on the passage of the bill, Senator Nesbitt offered the following amendments: 1. Amend page 5, after line 11, by inserting: “National Guard deployment to southern border 8,000,000”. 2. Amend page 5, line 15, by striking out “21,000,000” and inserting “29,000,000.” 3. Amend page 5, line 18, by striking out “21,000,000” and inserting “29,000,000” and adjusting the subtotals, totals, and section 201 accordingly. The question being on the adoption of the amendments, Senator Lauwers requested the yeas and nays. The yeas and nays were ordered, 1/5 of the members present voting therefor. The amendments were not adopted, a majority of the members serving not voting therefor, as follows:” (SB 762, [Roll Call #115](#), Failed: 16-20, Rivet Voting Nay, 5/9/24)

Refused To Ban Sanctuary Cities

On February 28, 2024 McDonald Rivet Voted Against Banning Sanctuary City Policies

On February 28, 2024, McDonald Rivet Failed To Vote For An Amendment To Block The Enforcement Of A Bill Unless Senate Bill 725 Was Enacted Into Law. “Senator Hoytenga offered the following amendment: 1. Amend page 2, following line 25, by inserting: ‘Enacting section 1. This amendatory act does not take effect unless all of the following bills of the 102nd Legislature are enacted into law: (a) Senate Bill No. 724. (b) Senate Bill No. 725.’ The question being on the adoption of the amendment, Senator Lauwers requested the yeas and nays.” (HB 4857, [Roll Call #39](#), Failed: 18 – 20, Rivet Not Voting, 2/28/24)

Roll Call No. 38		Yeas—18	
Albert	Hauck	Lindsey	Runestad
Bellino	Hoytenga	McBroom	Theis
Bumstead	Huizenga	Nesbitt	Victory
Daley	Johnson	Outman	Webber
Damoose	Lauwers		
		Nays—19	
Anthony	Chang	Klinefelt	Santana
Bayer	Cherry	McCann	Shink
Brinks	Geiss	McMorrow	Singh
Camilleri	Hertel	Moss	Wojno
Cavanagh	Irwin	Polehanki	
		Excused—0	
		Not Voting—1	
McDonald Rivet			

(HB 4857, [Roll Call #39](#), Failed: 18 – 20, Rivet Not Voting, 2/28/24)

Senate Bill 725 Would Have Prohibited Counties From Establishing Sanctuary Policies.

“A bill to prohibit municipalities from imposing a ban on the use of natural gas or the installation of natural gas infrastructure; to provide for the powers and duties of certain local governmental officers and entities; and to provide that certain local ordinances, resolutions, or policies are void and unenforceable.” (Senate Bill 725, [Michigan Legislature](#), Accessed 8/6/24)

NOTE: McDonald voted in roll call number 37 and number 40 but skipped roll calls 38-39. (Journal Of The Senate, [State of Michigan](#), 2/28/24)

Supported Providing Taxpayer-Funded Lawyers For Illegal Immigrants

On May 14, 2024, McDonald Rivet Voted Against An Amendment That Would Prohibited Illegal Immigrants From Receiving Taxpayer-Funder Lawyers. “Senator Hauck offered the following amendment: 1. Amend page 27, following line 21, by inserting: ‘Sec. 310. Funds appropriated under part 1 must not be used to provide legal assistance to individuals who do not have a documented legal status.’. The question being on the adoption of the amendment, Senator Lauwers requested the yeas and nays.” (SB 766, [Roll Call #153](#), Failed: 16-20, Rivet Voting Nay, 5/14/24)

Roll Call No. 153		Yeas—16	
Albert	Hauck	Lauwers	Runestad
Bellino	Hoitenga	Lindsey	Theis
Bumstead	Huizenga	Nesbitt	Victory
Daley	Johnson	Outman	Webber
Nays—20			
Anthony	Chang	Klinefelt	Polehanki
Bayer	Cherry	McCann	Santana
Brinks	Geiss	McDonald Rivet	Shink
Camilleri	Hertel	McMorrow	Singh
Cavanagh	Irwin	Moss	Wojno

(SB 766, [Roll Call #153](#), Failed: 16-20, Rivet Voting Nay, 5/14/24)

Voted Against Increasing Punishments For Fentanyl Distribution

On February 28, 2024, McDonald Rivet Failed To Vote For An Amendment To Block The Enforcement Of A Bill Unless Senate Bills 726 And 727 Was Enacted Into Law. “The following bill was read a third time: House Bill No. 4857, entitled A bill to amend 1941 PA 359, entitled “An act for controlling and eradicating certain noxious weeds within the state; to permit townships, villages, and cities to have a lien for expenses incurred in controlling and eradicating such weeds; to permit officials of counties and municipalities to appoint commissioners of noxious weeds; to define the powers, duties, and compensation of commissioners; to provide for sanctions; and to repeal certain acts and parts of acts,” by amending section 2 (MCL 247.62), as amended by 2010 PA 358. The question being on the passage of the bill, Senator Bellino offered the following amendment: 1. Amend page 2, following line 25, by inserting: ‘Enacting section 1. This amendatory act does not take effect unless all of the following bills of the 102nd Legislature are enacted into law: (a) Senate Bill No. 726. (b) Senate Bill No. 727.’ The question being on the adoption of the amendment, Senator Lauwers requested the yeas and nays.” (HB 4857, [Roll Call #38](#), Failed: 18 – 20, Rivet Not Voting, 2/28/24)

Roll Call No. 39		Yeas—18	
Albert	Hauck	Lindsey	Runestad
Bellino	Hoitenga	McBroom	Theis
Bumstead	Huizenga	Nesbitt	Victory
Daley	Johnson	Outman	Webber
Damoose	Lauwers		
Nays—19			
Anthony	Chang	Klinefelt	Santana
Bayer	Cherry	McCann	Shink
Brinks	Geiss	McMorrow	Singh
Camilleri	Hertel	Moss	Wojno
Cavanagh	Irwin	Polehanki	
Excused—0			
Not Voting—1			
McDonald Rivet			

(HB 4857, [Roll Call #38](#), Failed: 18-19, Rivet Not Voting, 2/28/24)

Senate Bill 727 Would Have Increased Penalties For Fentanyl Distribution. (SB 726, [Michigan Legislature](#), Accessed 8/6/24)

NOTE: *McDonald* voted in roll call number 37 and number 40 but skipped roll calls 38-39. (*Journal Of The Senate*, [State of Michigan](#), 2/28/24)