



Type of vet	Immigration Policy Memo
Name	Ron DeSantis

### Summary Of Key Findings

*The following memo summarizes Ron DeSantis’s positions on immigration throughout his career. Our research, which included a review of news articles, Google results, social media posts, speeches, press releases, campaign websites and legislative records, identified a number of harmful policies supported by DeSantis during his time in the U.S. House of Representatives and as governor of Florida. A summary of our findings is shown below in chronological order; more detailed findings as well as a complete appendix are included at the end of the memo. This report was compiled under specific time constraints and, as a result, may not be fully comprehensive. Information should be reviewed for accuracy and completeness before being used in public communications.*

**Personal**

- *DeSantis’s great-great-grandmother, Luigia Colucci, immigrated to the United States in 1917. While she was in transit across the Atlantic Ocean, the Immigration Act of 1917 passed, barring illiterate people and other “undesirable” immigrants from entering the United States. Colucci, who was illiterate, was allowed in only because the restrictive immigration law did not take effect until a few months after her arrival.*

**U.S. House of Representatives**

- *As a congressman, DeSantis supported a range of extreme immigration policies, including many that did not even receive a vote in the Republican-controlled House of Representatives:*
  - *DeSantis cosponsored H.R. 486, Grant’s Law, which would have required the mandatory detention of “any alien who is unlawfully present in the United States and arrested for inadmissible or deportable crimes.” The bill did not receive a vote.*
  - *DeSantis cosponsored H.R. 1178, the SAFE for America Act, which would have eliminated the Diversity Immigrant Visa Program. The diversity program made thousands of immigrant visas available via lottery to individuals from countries with low rates of immigration to the United States. The bill did not receive a vote.*
  - *DeSantis cosponsored H.R. 6318, the Zero Tolerance for Illegal Entry Act, which would have increased a first-time illegal entry into the United States from a misdemeanor to a felony. The bill also sought to withhold federal aid from “sanctuary jurisdictions” and to make the E-Verify program mandatory and permanent. The bill did not receive a vote.*
  - *DeSantis cosponsored H.R. 5619, Sarah’s Law, which would have required the detention of an undocumented immigrant who was charged with a crime that resulted in death or serious bodily injury. The bill did not receive a vote.*
  - *DeSantis cosponsored H.R. 3151, the Arrest Statistics Reporting Act of 2015, which would have required U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to publish an annual report on the nationality, immigration status and offenses of each person arrested that year. The bill did not receive a vote.*

- *DeSantis cosponsored and voted for Kate’s Law (H.R. 3011 in 2015 and H.R. 3004 in 2017), which he said would “mandate prison time for illegal immigrants who reenter” the U.S. after being deported. The 2017 bill passed the House but did not become law.*
- *DeSantis cosponsored H.R. 4962, the National Border and Homeland Security Act, to give State Criminal Alien Assistance Program funding priority to border states and states “having one of the four largest populations of unlawfully present aliens.” The bill would also require the Department of Homeland Security to complete a 700-mile border fence and increase the number of border patrol agents, among other changes. The bill did not receive a vote.*
- *DeSantis cosponsored H.R. 5053, the Expedited Family Reunification Act of 2014. The law was designed to authorize immigration officials to quickly remove unaccompanied minors. The bill did not receive a vote.*
- *DeSantis cosponsored H.R. 2278, the SAFE Act, which aimed to allow local law enforcement personnel to investigate and arrest undocumented immigrants “for immigration enforcement purposes.” The bill would have also required local and state jurisdictions to notify the federal government of “removable aliens” and to comply with federal law enforcement requests. Furthermore, the SAFE Act would have made aggravated felons ineligible for refugee status, made a second DUI conviction qualify as an aggravated felony, made belonging to a “criminal gang” a deportable offense and prescribed criminal penalties for encouraging a person to enter the United States illegally. The bill did not receive a vote.*
- *DeSantis voted for H.R. 3009, the Enforce the Law for Sanctuary Cities Act, which would have made a state or local jurisdiction ineligible for certain federal funding if it restricted communication with the federal government regarding an individual’s citizenship or immigration status. The bill passed the House but did not become law.*
- *DeSantis voted for H.R. 4760, the Securing America’s Future Act of 2018, which would have eliminated the diversity visa program, increased the limit on employment-based immigration and authorized DNA testing to establish family relationships. The bill also stipulated that “No federal, state, or local government entity or individual may prohibit or restrict a federal, state, or local government entity or official from complying with the immigration laws or assisting related federal law enforcement activities.” The bill failed in the House.*
- *DeSantis voted for H.R. 3003, the No Sanctuary for Criminals Act, which would have prohibited state and local governments from barring compliance with federal immigration enforcement and would have made any non-compliant jurisdictions ineligible for some federal grants. The bill passed the House but did not become law.*
- *DeSantis voted for H.R. 3697, the Criminal Alien Gang Member Removal Act, which would have made an immigrant inadmissible or deportable if they were a member of a “criminal gang.” The bill passed the House but did not become law.*
- *DeSantis repeatedly opposed allowing Syrian refugees into the United States. In November 2015, DeSantis wrote that he “opposed the Obama policy of bringing into our country thousands of Syrians, the vast majority of whom are military-age males,” adding, “We have to err on the side of protecting the American people and we cannot run the risk of bringing terrorists into the United States.” In February 2016, DeSantis declared that “Without a proper vetting process, we should not allow any Syrian refugees into the US.” He maintained his view into 2017, when he stated that the U.S. needed time to develop “adequate vetting,” adding, “President Trump is right to be concerned about this and I hope that ... the administration develops policies that will better protect the American people from this potent threat.” DeSantis also supported legislation to restrict refugee resettlement:*

- *DeSantis cosponsored H.R. 3314, the Resettlement Accountability National Security Act of 2015, which would have prohibited the admission of refugees into the United States until approved by Congress. The bill did not receive a vote.*
- *DeSantis voted for H.R. 4038, the American Security Against Foreign Enemies Act of 2015. The bill ordered the Federal Bureau of Investigation to ensure that refugees from Iraq and Syria received a background investigation before being admitted to the United States. The bill passed the House but did not become law.*
- *In December 2015, DeSantis introduced the Terrorist Refugee Infiltration Prevention Act, which would have prohibited refugees from “countries that have significant territory controlled by an organization designated by the State Department to be a Foreign Terrorist Organization,” including Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Syria and Yemen. Announcing the bill, DeSantis stated, “Congress must take action to secure any vulnerabilities within our refugee resettlement program that terrorists could exploit to harm the American people.” The bill did not receive a vote.*
- *DeSantis cosponsored H.R. 4247, the Cuban Immigrant Work Opportunity Act of 2015, to stop treating all Cuban arrivals as refugees or political asylees. Instead, the bill would treat Cubans like all other immigrants, who were required to file a refugee or asylee claim. The bill did not receive a vote.*
- *DeSantis repeatedly opposed and sought to block implementation of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program and other attempts by President Obama to prevent the deportation of some undocumented immigrants through executive orders. He called Obama’s 2014 program to offer reprieve to the undocumented parents of U.S. citizens “unconstitutional executive amnesty,” and he warned that Obama’s actions would “fuel more illegal immigration” while putting “downward pressure” on the wages of blue-collar workers. He also supported legislation to stop Obama’s orders:*
  - *In August 2014, DeSantis voted in favor of H.R. 5272, which would have prohibited a federal agency from using federal funding to consider an application for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals.*
  - *In December 2014, DeSantis voted in favor of H.R. 5759, the “Preventing Executive Overreach on Immigration Act of 2014,” which would have prohibited the president from exempting or deferring undocumented immigrants from removal.*
- *DeSantis sought to prevent undocumented immigrants from obtaining drivers’ licenses, in-state tuition and tax credits:*
  - *In August 2012, DeSantis stated that undocumented immigrants should not receive “special benefits” such as in-state tuition rates, saying, “This approach is best for American citizens and is fair to those who have taken the time and effort to go through the legal immigration process.”*
  - *In January 2014, DeSantis proposed requiring a social security number for tax refunds under the child tax credits, saying, “This loophole allows individuals, some of whom are in the country illegally, to fraudulently claim child tax credits.”*
  - *In June 2017, DeSantis voted in favor of H.R. 2581, the “Verify First Act,” which would have prohibited advance payments of the premium assistance tax credit from being made to undocumented immigrants.*
  - *DeSantis said he would have opposed a 2013 Florida bill to grant drivers’ licenses to Dreamers. The bill was supported by most Florida House Republicans at the time.*
- *DeSantis sponsored H.R. 1337, the Palestinian Accountability Act, which would have suspended funding to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). DeSantis called*

*for withholding funds from UNRWA, which provided services to Palestinians who lost their homes following the establishment of the State of Israel, after rockets were discovered in an UNRWA-run school.*

- *DeSantis cosponsored H.R. 3296, the “Restore the Oath of Allegiance Act,” to prevent changes to the naturalization oath of allegiance. The bill came in response to guidance issued by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services that allowed a candidate for citizenship to exclude clauses in the oath of allegiance related to military service.*
- *DeSantis supported Trump’s border wall and even backed shutting down the government to ensure funding for the wall, saying, “Congress keeps doing the same stuff over and over again and I think if [Trump] says, ‘I’m willing to veto something,’ that actually would light a fire under someone’s rear end.”*
- *In October 2018, DeSantis called for ending birthright citizenship, saying, “As a matter of policy I don’t think the Constitution intended that people could come illegally in order to get citizenship. [...] That being said, there’s been a long list of out decisions that I think you’d have to reckon with.” Robert Tracinski, a senior writer at the Federalist, said trying to end birthright citizenship – which was guaranteed by the 14<sup>th</sup> amendment of the Constitution – would make Republicans “the party of Dred Scott” and the “party of white people.”*
- *DeSantis vowed to stand with President Trump amid bipartisan criticism of Trump’s family separation policy, though DeSantis said he would personally “keep the family together and repatriate them back as a family unit.” He added, “For the asylum claims I think that you want a speedy adjudication of these claims within two weeks and if they’re valid fine and if they’re not then you keep the family together during that review and then just return them where they came.”*
- *DeSantis said he “absolutely” supported Trump’s decision to deploy thousands of U.S. troops to intercept migrants at the southern border, saying, “We’re either a sovereign country or we’re not, and the president needs to step up and support national sovereignty.”*

### **Governor of Florida**

- *In June 2019, DeSantis signed SB 168, which banned sanctuary cities in Florida and required local law enforcement to honor federal “immigration detainer” requests – even though Florida did not have any sanctuary cities. At the bill signing, DeSantis described sanctuary cities as “law free zones” where undocumented immigrants could commit crimes “and then just walk out the door and continue to do it.” The bill was written in part by the Federation for American Immigration Reform, an organization labeled a “hate group” by the Southern Poverty Law Center for its ties to white supremacists. In September 2019, a judge overturned part of the law, ruling that local police could not cross state lines.*
- *Following Hurricane Dorian in September 2019, DeSantis refused to join Senators Rubio and Scott in requesting that displaced Bahamians be allowed to seek temporary refuge in Florida, noting, “When you’re foreign nationals, that has to be done consistent with whatever the federal policy is... Those are not my decisions to make.”*
- *DeSantis blamed immigrants and migrant farmworkers for Florida’s COVID-19 surge in June 2020, even though other state officials said the rise in new cases occurred in counties with little agriculture. In addition, public health experts said the state had only recently started to ramp up testing and education campaigns in agricultural communities. DeSantis also accused Biden of “helping facilitate” COVID-19 by not securing the border with Mexico – an assertion that the Tampa Bay Times rated as “false,” with one public health expert suggesting that the immigration contribution to COVID-19 case rates was “akin to pouring a bucket of water into a swimming pool.”*
- *DeSantis promoted E-Verify proposals throughout his time as governor, arguing they would benefit blue-collar workers. Critics, however, raised concerns that E-Verify legislation could harm Florida’s agricultural, tourism and construction industries. In June 2020, DeSantis signed a compromise bill that required all public*

employers and private employers with public contracts or incentives to use E-Verify. In February 2023, he declared that the bill had not “been effective enough,” and he stressed the need to expand the law to include all private employers in Florida.

- DeSantis’s support for E-Verify laws came despite his own administration’s payments to Archer Western-De Moya Joint Venture, a construction contractor with a history of hiring undocumented workers. Payments to the company did not stop even after two undocumented men hired by the company were charged in connection with the death of a county deputy.
- In September 2020, the Florida Department of Corrections entered into a formal partnership with ICE, allowing officers to interrogate and process any detainee they believed was in the country illegally. DeSantis said the program was intended to “enhance public safety by identifying criminal aliens received into a correctional facility.” The ACLU of Florida criticized the program, saying, “In a state where 1 in 5 people are immigrants... we should be taking steps to protect our communities and not furthering our role in the federal deportation agenda leading to the separation of families.”
- In April 2021, DeSantis sent a letter directing the Florida Department of Corrections secretary to:
  - Identify Florida inmates with detainer agreements and pursue means to transfer them to ICE.
  - Provide monthly updates on undocumented inmates released at the direction of ICE and notify local law enforcement when undocumented individuals were released in their communities.
  - Cross-check released “criminal aliens” against statewide reports of new crimes.
  - Submit requests to ICE to confirm the citizenship status of all inmates.
- In June 2021, DeSantis sent dozens of Florida law enforcement officers to the southern border to assist with border control at a cost of over \$1.6 million. In July 2021, DeSantis claimed that the officers had apprehended more than 2,800 “aliens” in less than a month and that “more than 70%” of migrants intercepted by Florida law enforcement had identified Florida as their ultimate destination.
- DeSantis supported Trump’s Remain in Mexico policy, tweeting in August 2021, “Reinstating the Remain in Mexico policy that Biden unlawfully rescinded will protect our communities and slow the influx of illegal aliens and illicit drugs at the southern border.” In 2022, he supported lawsuits to reinstate the policy and called it a “solution” to the border crisis.
- In September 2021, DeSantis’s administration sued the Biden administration over its “catch and release” practices. The state alleged that Biden’s policies harmed Florida because undocumented immigrants raised the cost of state services. In March 2023, a federal judge sided with DeSantis and ruled that the Biden administration’s handling of immigrants violated federal law.
- In September 2021, DeSantis issued Executive Order 21-233, a broad immigration-related directive. Among its provisions, Executive Order 21-233:
  - Encouraged state law enforcement officers to pull over drivers who were transporting migrants into the state if there was “reasonable” suspicion of a crime.
  - Prohibited state agencies from cooperating with the federal government to transport migrants to Florida.
  - Required state agencies to gather information on the scope and costs of “illegal immigration” in Florida, including by tracking the number and identities of undocumented immigrants.

- *Directed state agencies to issue a monthly report on the number of “illegal aliens” who had been criminally charged.*
- *Directed the Florida Department of Children and Families to determine if licenses for facilities that housed unaccompanied minors should be renewed.*
- *Called on state law enforcement to review companies’ compliance with E-Verify requirements.*
- *As governor, DeSantis repeatedly tied undocumented immigrants to crime. He stated that crimes committed by undocumented immigrants were worse than crimes committed by U.S. citizens “in terms of the anguish that families face.” In November 2021, he blamed federal immigration policies for a murder committed by an undocumented immigrant in Florida, saying, “That individual who died would be alive had Biden not been doing this.” In 2022, he announced the creation of a “strike force” to target drug smugglers and migrants and soon celebrated the arrest of seven undocumented immigrants; although DeSantis implied the immigrants were involved in drug crimes, the immigrants had only committed traffic violations.*
- *DeSantis appeared to oppose payments to families impacted by the Trump administration’s family separation policy. The policy led thousands of children to be separated from their parents at the southern border, causing both physical and mental harm, and the Justice Department sought to settle the resulting lawsuits by potentially offering \$450,000 payouts to families. Yet in 2021, DeSantis tweeted that “Paying illegal immigrants hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars for ‘damages’ is a slap in the face to hardworking Americans and individuals who legally immigrated to our country.”*
- *In December 2021, DeSantis suggested that not all “unaccompanied minors” should be treated equally, saying, “When I was serving in Iraq, we considered like a 16- or 17-year-old Iraqi to be a military-age male. [...] They’re technically minors in that respect, but you have people that are more advanced.”*
- *In December 2021, Florida childcare regulators adopted an emergency rule to stop issuing licenses to facilities that housed unaccompanied immigrant children on behalf of the federal government. In February 2022, DeSantis’s administration proposed making the rule permanent, denying licenses to shelters while also requiring providers to conduct costly twice-a-year welfare checks on the children they placed with sponsors. The Biden administration pushed back against the rule, emphasizing that state licenses were not a requirement to receive money from the federal government and that Florida could not penalize service providers for operating through federal contracts. In addition, faith groups such as the Florida Council of Churches spoke out against the rule, which they referred to as “religious persecution and restriction on our freedom to worship.” Business groups and prominent Democrats also opposed the rule, calling it “immoral” and “needlessly cruel.”*
- *In January 2022, under DeSantis, Florida joined other states in filing suit against the Biden administration for reinstating the Central American Minors Program. The program, which was open to children from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, allowed parents who were lawfully present in the United States to request refugee status and resettlement in the United States for their children.*
- *In February 2022, DeSantis signed SB 1808, which prohibited government contracts with companies that transported undocumented immigrants into Florida. In addition, the bill expanded a 2019 law that barred sanctuary cities, prohibited local measures that restricted the sharing of information about an individual’s immigration status and ordered many law enforcement officials to participate in ICE’s 287(g) immigration program, which was designed to identify and catch undocumented immigrants in county jails. Florida Democrats and faith leaders worried the bill could complicate the resettlement of unaccompanied minors who came to Florida to be reunited with their families, and the ACLU of Florida described the legislation as “an anti-immigrant bill that insidiously encourages racial profiling.”*

- *In April 2022, DeSantis argued that the Biden administration’s attempt to revoke Title 42 was a “dereliction of duty,” tweeting, “Revoking Title 42 will supercharge the skyrocketing flow of illegal aliens, increasing drug, human and sex trafficking.”*
- *DeSantis’s 2018 gubernatorial campaign received \$100,000 from GEO Group, a private prison operator that profited off immigration detention contracts. Then, in 2022, DeSantis signed HB 7071, which gave GEO Group a contract to operate a \$645 million prison in Florida. DeSantis accepted support from GEO Group – at that point the largest recipient of ICE contracts – even though the company was plagued by repeated accusations of neglect and abuse in its prisons. GEO Group was subject to numerous lawsuits for dangerous conditions at its facilities, including physical and sexual abuse, insufficient food, poor health care and unsanitary conditions. The company had also been repeatedly sued for forcing inmates to work against their will for as little as \$1 per day.*
- *In May 2022, DeSantis’s administration sought information on how much money state hospitals had spent on caring for undocumented immigrants. Democratic State Rep. Nick Duran responded by noting, “This is really just red-meat politics. Our hospitals have been serving undocumented individuals for years. [...] This isn’t some new trend. And it feels like (DeSantis) is going to try to weaponize the data to show that undocumented (immigrants) are pouring into our health care system.”*
- *In June 2022, DeSantis requested that the Florida Supreme Court impanel a grand jury to investigate if governments, organizations and criminals were conspiring to bring migrants to Florida illegally. In March 2023, Florida’s statewide prosecutor issued a grand jury report that denounced the federal Department of Homeland Security for engaging in “human trafficking” and covering up its “misdeeds” of leaving migrant children with unvetted caregivers. The report recommended oversight measures such as requiring shelters to report unaccompanied children to welfare authorities and requiring that a “purported biological parent” be confirmed with a birth certificate or DNA testing.*
- *DeSantis oversaw a controversial program to transport undocumented immigrants from Florida to “sanctuary” jurisdictions. He proposed the program as early as December 2021 but took significant action in September 2022, when the state spent more than \$1.56 million to send two planes of migrants to Martha’s Vineyard, Massachusetts. DeSantis celebrated the program, saying, “If you have folks that are inclined to think Florida is a good place, our message to them is we are not a sanctuary state, and it’s better to be able to go into a sanctuary jurisdiction. [...] And yes, we will help facilitate that transport for you, to be able to go to greener pastures.” The scheme immediately became the subject of immense controversy:*
  - *A Venezuelan migrant who was unable to work legally in the United States had been paid to recruit passengers for the program, despite the fact that Florida state law required all government contractors to use the federal E-Verify system.*
  - *The planes initially picked up migrants in Texas. The flights then made a 30-minute pit stop in Florida to allow the travelers to be treated as Florida-based migrants who were eligible for the flight program.*
  - *The migrants were given consent forms that lacked complete Spanish translations and were falsely told that they would receive housing and jobs in Martha’s Vineyard.*
  - *The migrant relocation program seemed likely to create additional challenges for people to comply with legal responsibilities, as the transported migrants could be unable to receive critical documents and could miss federal court hearings.*
  - *DeSantis faced significant criticism for his stunt. Venezuelan American Caucus Director Ade Ferro, for example, said, “The governor’s attitude does not surprise us, but the cruelty, inhumanity and lack of empathy with Venezuelan brothers and sisters, immigrants who are arriving in this country, fleeing in terror from a cruel and criminal dictatorship... never ceases to impact us.” A statement from the Lawyers for Civil Rights said, “It is unconscionable to treat human beings—especially members of such a*

vulnerable population—like pawns to make a political point.” The Fort Worth Star-Telegram Editorial Board also criticized the program, saying, “It’s not enough to troll or try to express moral superiority when confronted with a tiny fraction of a problem the whole nation should be addressing as the crisis that it is.”

- DeSantis was also accused of violating the law. A Texas sheriff announced his office was investigating whether the migrants were the victims of a crime, and the League of United Latin American Citizens filed a complaint with the Department of Justice. Democratic politicians suggested the trip violated Department of Transportation rules and improperly used COVID-19 relief funds. In addition, three of the migrants flown to Martha’s Vineyard sued DeSantis, alleging that they were tricked into leaving Texas. Florida State Senator Jason Pizzo also filed a lawsuit arguing that the flights violated state law, and another group of organizations filed a lawsuit claiming that DeSantis usurped “the federal government’s sole role in regulating and enforcing immigration law.”
- Despite the criticism and legal challenges, DeSantis said he was “proud” of focusing the nation’s attention on immigration policy, noting, “we have elites in this country that want to impose policies on you but they don’t want to suffer the same consequences that you have to in your communities.”
- In February 2023, DeSantis signed legislation to establish an “Unauthorized Alien Transport Program,” expanding his authority to access millions of dollars to transport migrants around the United States.
- In January 2023, DeSantis activated Florida’s National Guard in response to Cuban migrants arriving in Florida. He declared a state of emergency and warned the surge was “likely to constitute a major disaster.” The White House rebuked DeSantis’s actions, accusing him of “creating a problem” and making a “mockery ... of a process that the president is trying to fix.”
- In February 2023, DeSantis proposed sweeping legislation “to take action against the increasing threats posed by illegal immigration as a result of the Biden administration’s failure to secure our nation’s borders.” Critics accused DeSantis of xenophobia and racism, with a Southern Poverty Law Center attorney saying, “DeSantis’ political posturing will have a chilling effect on cooperation between law enforcement and immigrant communities, resulting in serious consequences for immigrant families, children and persons of color across the state.” DeSantis’s initial plans would have stripped out-of-state tuition fee waivers from undocumented students, but education and business leaders criticized the measure, and it was left out of the final bill. DeSantis ultimately signed SB 1718 into law in May 2023. Among its proposals, the bill:
  - Increased criminal penalties for human smuggling by imposing second-degree or third-degree felony charges on anyone who “knowingly” and “willingly” transported undocumented immigrants across state lines into Florida.
  - Expanded E-Verify requirements to all businesses with 25 or more employees in Florida and made it a felony to use false identification to obtain work eligibility.
  - Prohibited local governments from issuing ID cards to undocumented immigrants and invalidated out-of-state licenses granted to undocumented immigrants.
  - Required hospitals to collect and report data on the immigration status of patients.
  - Repealed a law that allowed undocumented immigrants to practice law in Florida.



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### Key Findings: Personal

#### **DeSantis's Great-Great-Grandmother Was Nearly Barred From The U.S. Due To Restrictions On Immigration**

**1917: The Immigration Act Of 1917, Which Prohibited “Undesirable” Illiterate Immigrants From Entering The U.S., Passed While DeSantis’s Illiterate Great-Great-Grandmother Luigia Colucci Was In Transit Across The Atlantic Ocean; The Law Took Effect Only Three Months After Her Arrival.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “A century ago, the door was almost closed on his great-great-grandmother from his mother’s side of the family. Luigia Colucci left Italy in early 1917 and arrived at Ellis Island on Feb. 21. While Colucci crossed the Atlantic Ocean, the U.S. Congress passed the Immigration Act of 1917. Among other restrictions on ‘undesirable’ immigrants, it barred illiterate people from entering the United States. Colucci couldn’t read or write, according to immigration documents. But she was spared; the law didn’t go into effect until May. She was allowed in. The details of Luigia Colucci’s journey were unearthed by Megan Smolenyak, a professional genealogist, and recently published on Medium. A former chief historian for Ancestry.com, Smolenyak has consulted for the U.S. Army to locate family members of more than 1,200 unaccounted for soldiers of foreign conflicts and has also worked on television shows, like the NBC series, Who Do You Think You Are?, where celebrities trace their heritage.” [Tampa Bay Times, 8/21/18]

### Key Findings: House Of Representatives

#### **Rep. DeSantis Supported A Range Of Extreme Immigration Policies, Including Many That Did Not Even Receive A Vote In The Republican-Controlled House Of Representatives**

##### ***DeSantis Cosponsored H.R. 486, Grant’s Law***

**January 2017: DeSantis Cosponsored H.R. 486, “Grant’s Law,” Which “Amends The Immigration And Nationality Act To Require Mandatory Detention Of Any Alien Who Is Unlawfully Present In The United States And Arrested For Inadmissible Or Deportable Crimes.”** According to Congress.gov, DeSantis cosponsored H.R. 486, Grant’s Law, which “amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to require mandatory detention of any alien who is unlawfully present in the United States and arrested for inadmissible or deportable crimes. The bill transfers release authority from the Department of Justice to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). DHS may release the alien to an appropriate authority for proceedings related to the arrest, but DHS must resume custody for any period that the alien is not in custody of the appropriate authority. If the alien is not convicted of crimes for which the alien was arrested, DHS must continue to detain the alien until removal proceedings are completed. DHS must complete the removal proceedings within 90 days.” The bill did not receive a vote. [Congress.gov, H.R. 486, introduced [1/12/17](#)]

- **H.R. 486 Stipulated That “If The Alien Is Not Convicted Of Crimes For Which The Alien Was Arrested, DHS Must Continue To Detain The Alien Until Removal Proceedings Are Completed.”** According to Congress.gov, “Cosponsor [...] Rep. DeSantis, Ron [R-FL-6] [...] Introduced in House (01/12/2017) Grant’s Law This bill amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to require mandatory detention of any alien who is unlawfully present in the United States and arrested for inadmissible or deportable crimes. The bill transfers release authority from the Department of Justice to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). DHS may release the alien to an appropriate authority for proceedings related to the arrest, but DHS must resume custody for any period that the alien is not in custody of the appropriate authority. If the alien is not convicted of crimes for which the alien was arrested, DHS must continue to detain the alien until removal proceedings are

completed. DHS must complete the removal proceedings within 90 days.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 486, introduced [1/12/17](#)]

## ***DeSantis Cosponsored H.R. 1178, The SAFE For America Act***

**February 2017: DeSantis Cosponsored, H.R. 1178, The “SAFE For America Act,” Which “Amends The Immigration And Nationality Act To Eliminate The Diversity Immigrant Program.”** According to Congress.gov, DeSantis cosponsored H.R. 1178, the SAFE for America Act, which “amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to eliminate the diversity immigrant program.” The bill did not receive a vote. [Congress.gov, H.R. 1178, introduced [2/16/17](#)]

**U.S. Citizenship And Immigration Services: “The Diversity Immigrant Visa Program (DV Program) Makes Up To 50,000 Immigrant Visas Available Annually, Drawn From Random Selection Among All Entries To Individuals Who Are From Countries With Low Rates Of Immigration To The United States.”** According to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, “The Diversity Immigrant Visa Program (DV Program) makes up to 50,000 immigrant visas available annually, drawn from random selection among all entries to individuals who are from countries with low rates of immigration to the United States. The DV Program is administered by the U.S. Department of State (DOS). Most lottery winners reside outside the United States and immigrate through consular processing and issuance of an immigrant visa.” [U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, accessed [4/19/23](#)]

## ***DeSantis Cosponsored H.R. 6318, The Zero Tolerance For Illegal Entry Act***

**July 2018: DeSantis Cosponsored H.R. 6318, The “Zero Tolerance For Illegal Entry Act,” Which “Amends The Immigration And Nationality Act To Increase From A Misdemeanor To A Felony A First-Time Illegal Entry Into The United States.”** According to Congress.gov, DeSantis cosponsored H.R. 6318, the Zero Tolerance for Illegal Entry Act, which “amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to increase from a misdemeanor to a felony a first-time illegal entry into the United States. It also withholds federal assistance from sanctuary jurisdictions and transfers amounts appropriated for public works and housing programs for those jurisdictions to the Department of Homeland Security for border control and the enforcement of the immigration laws. Accountability Through Electronic Verification Act The bill makes the E-Verify program permanent. It requires mandatory participation in the program by federal agencies, critical employers, and contractors and imposes increased fines for failure to participate. It also expands E-Verify to confirm the employment eligibility of existing employees not previously verified and to require employers to terminate an employee following the receipt of a final E-Verify nonconfirmation. The bill amends the federal criminal code to impose enhanced criminal penalties and fines for facilitating or assisting in harboring or hiring unauthorized workers in violation of the immigration laws.” The bill did not receive a vote. [Congress.gov, H.R. 6318, introduced [7/10/18](#)]

- **H.R. 6318 “Withholds Federal Assistance From Sanctuary Jurisdictions And Transfers Amounts Appropriated For Public Works And Housing Programs For Those Jurisdictions To The Department Of Homeland Security For Border Control And The Enforcement Of The Immigration Laws.”** According to Congress.gov, “Cosponsor [...] Rep. DeSantis, Ron [R-FL-6] [...] Introduced in House (07/10/2018) Zero Tolerance for Illegal Entry Act This bill amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to increase from a misdemeanor to a felony a first-time illegal entry into the United States. It also withholds federal assistance from sanctuary jurisdictions and transfers amounts appropriated for public works and housing programs for those jurisdictions to the Department of Homeland Security for border control and the enforcement of the immigration laws. Accountability Through Electronic Verification Act The bill makes the E-Verify program permanent. It requires mandatory participation in the program by federal agencies, critical employers, and contractors and imposes increased fines for failure to participate. It also expands E-Verify to confirm the employment eligibility of existing employees not previously verified and to require employers to terminate an employee following the receipt of a final E-Verify nonconfirmation. The bill amends the federal criminal code to impose enhanced criminal penalties and fines for facilitating or assisting in harboring or hiring unauthorized workers in violation of the immigration laws.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 6318, introduced [7/10/18](#)]

- **H.R. 6318 Additionally Contained The “Accountability Through Electronic Verification Act,” Which Made The E-Verify Program Permanent.** According to Congress.gov, “Cosponsor [...] Rep. DeSantis, Ron [R-FL-6] [...] Introduced in House (07/10/2018) Zero Tolerance for Illegal Entry Act This bill amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to increase from a misdemeanor to a felony a first-time illegal entry into the United States. It also withholds federal assistance from sanctuary jurisdictions and transfers amounts appropriated for public works and housing programs for those jurisdictions to the Department of Homeland Security for border control and the enforcement of the immigration laws. Accountability Through Electronic Verification Act The bill makes the E-Verify program permanent. It requires mandatory participation in the program by federal agencies, critical employers, and contractors and imposes increased fines for failure to participate. It also expands E-Verify to confirm the employment eligibility of existing employees not previously verified and to require employers to terminate an employee following the receipt of a final E-Verify nonconfirmation. The bill amends the federal criminal code to impose enhanced criminal penalties and fines for facilitating or assisting in harboring or hiring unauthorized workers in violation of the immigration laws.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 6318, introduced [7/10/18](#)]
- **The “Accountability Through Electronic Verification Act” Required Mandatory Participation In The E-Verify Program “By Federal Agencies, Critical Employers, And Contractors And Imposes Increased Fines For Failure To Participate.”** According to Congress.gov, “Cosponsor [...] Rep. DeSantis, Ron [R-FL-6] [...] Introduced in House (07/10/2018) Zero Tolerance for Illegal Entry Act This bill amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to increase from a misdemeanor to a felony a first-time illegal entry into the United States. It also withholds federal assistance from sanctuary jurisdictions and transfers amounts appropriated for public works and housing programs for those jurisdictions to the Department of Homeland Security for border control and the enforcement of the immigration laws. Accountability Through Electronic Verification Act The bill makes the E-Verify program permanent. It requires mandatory participation in the program by federal agencies, critical employers, and contractors and imposes increased fines for failure to participate. It also expands E-Verify to confirm the employment eligibility of existing employees not previously verified and to require employers to terminate an employee following the receipt of a final E-Verify nonconfirmation. The bill amends the federal criminal code to impose enhanced criminal penalties and fines for facilitating or assisting in harboring or hiring unauthorized workers in violation of the immigration laws.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 6318, introduced [7/10/18](#)]
- **H.R. 6318 “Amends The Federal Criminal Code To Impose Enhanced Criminal Penalties And Fines For Facilitating Or Assisting In Harboring Or Hiring Unauthorized Workers In Violation Of The Immigration Laws.”** According to Congress.gov, “Cosponsor [...] Rep. DeSantis, Ron [R-FL-6] [...] Introduced in House (07/10/2018) Zero Tolerance for Illegal Entry Act This bill amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to increase from a misdemeanor to a felony a first-time illegal entry into the United States. It also withholds federal assistance from sanctuary jurisdictions and transfers amounts appropriated for public works and housing programs for those jurisdictions to the Department of Homeland Security for border control and the enforcement of the immigration laws. Accountability Through Electronic Verification Act The bill makes the E-Verify program permanent. It requires mandatory participation in the program by federal agencies, critical employers, and contractors and imposes increased fines for failure to participate. It also expands E-Verify to confirm the employment eligibility of existing employees not previously verified and to require employers to terminate an employee following the receipt of a final E-Verify nonconfirmation. The bill amends the federal criminal code to impose enhanced criminal penalties and fines for facilitating or assisting in harboring or hiring unauthorized workers in violation of the immigration laws.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 6318, introduced [7/10/18](#)]

### ***DeSantis Cosponsored H.R. 5619, Sarah’s Law***

**July 2016: DeSantis Cosponsored H.R. 5619, “Sarah’s Law,” Which Amended The Immigration And Nationality Act To Require The Detention Of An Alien Who “Was Not Inspected And Admitted Into The United States” Or “Who Held A Revoked Nonimmigrant Visa” And “Who Has Been Charged In The United States With A Crime That Resulted In The Death Or Serious Bodily Injury Of Another Person.”** Which According to Congress.gov, DeSantis cosponsored H.R. 5619, Sarah’s Law, which “amends the Immigration and

Nationality Act to require the detention of an alien: (1) who was not inspected and admitted into the United States, who held a revoked nonimmigrant visa (or other nonimmigrant admission document), or who is deportable for failing to maintain nonimmigrant status; and (2) who has been charged in the United States with a crime that resulted in the death or serious bodily injury of another person. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement shall make reasonable efforts to: obtain information about the identity of any victims of the crimes for which such alien was charged or convicted; and provide the victim, or a parent, guardian, spouse, or closest living relative of a deceased victim, with information about such alien, including name, date of birth, nationality, immigration status, criminal history, and a description of any related removal efforts.” The bill did not receive a vote. [Congress.gov, H.R. 5619, introduced [7/5/16](#)]

- **H.R. 5619 Asked U.S. Immigration And Customs Enforcement To Provide The Victim Or The Victim’s Family Member With Information About The Detained Alien.** Which According to Congress.gov, “Cosponsor [...] Rep. DeSantis, Ron [R-FL-6] [...] Introduced in House (07/05/2016) Sarah’s Law This bill amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to require the detention of an alien: (1) who was not inspected and admitted into the United States, who held a revoked nonimmigrant visa (or other nonimmigrant admission document), or who is deportable for failing to maintain nonimmigrant status; and (2) who has been charged in the United States with a crime that resulted in the death or serious bodily injury of another person. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement shall make reasonable efforts to: obtain information about the identity of any victims of the crimes for which such alien was charged or convicted; and provide the victim, or a parent, guardian, spouse, or closest living relative of a deceased victim, with information about such alien, including name, date of birth, nationality, immigration status, criminal history, and a description of any related removal efforts.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 5619, introduced [7/5/16](#)]

### ***DeSantis Cosponsored H.R. 3151, The Arrest Statistics Reporting Act Of 2015***

**July 2015: DeSantis Cosponsored H.R. 3151, The “Arrest Statistics Reporting Act Of 2015,” To Require U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement To Publish A Report On The Nationality, Immigration Status And Offenses Of Each Person Arrested During The Preceding Year.** According Congress.gov, DeSantis cosponsored H.R. 3151, the Arrest Statistics Reporting Act of 2015, which “requires U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to publish annually and make publicly available a report that includes for each person arrested during the preceding year, and for whom a request was submitted to the Law Enforcement Support Center or any potential matches forwarded under the information sharing program between the Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security, the following information: the person’s nationality and immigration status, and the offense for which the person was arrested. The Federal Bureau of Investigation shall: revise the Uniform Crime Reports to require that each arrest report shall include such published arrest information, and publish a summary of the data which shall include a table containing the National Crime Information Center offense codes and the corresponding occurrences for each nationality and immigration status category.” The bill did not receive a vote. [Congress.gov, H.R. 3151, introduced [7/22/15](#)]

### ***DeSantis Cosponsored And Voted For “Kate’s Law,” Which He Said Would “Mandate Prison Time For Illegal Immigrants Who Reenter US After Deportation”***

**July 2015: DeSantis Cosponsored H.R. 3011, “Kate’s Law,” Which “Amends The Immigration And Nationality Act To Increase Penalties Applicable To Aliens Who Unlawfully Reenter The United States After Being Removed.”** According to Congress.gov, DeSantis cosponsored H.R. 3011, Kate’s Law, which “amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to increase penalties applicable to aliens who unlawfully reenter the United States after being removed.” The bill did not receive a vote. [Congress.gov, H.R. 3011, introduced [7/9/15](#)]

**July 2015: DeSantis Tweeted That He Had Cosponsored “Kate’s Law,” Which Would “Mandate Prison Time For Illegal Immigrants Who Reenter US After Deportation.”** According to a Twitter post from Ron DeSantis, “I’ve cosponsored #KatesLaw which would mandate prison time for illegal immigrants who reenter US after deportation: <http://bit.ly/1CGfbd>.” [Twitter, @GovRonDeSantis, [6/16/15](#)]



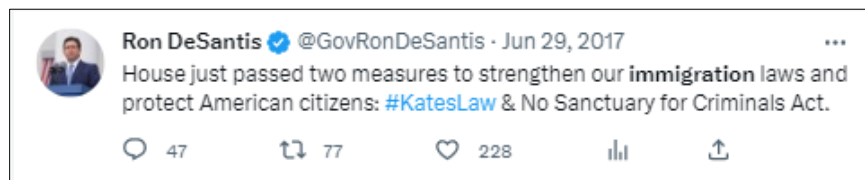
[Twitter, @GovRonDeSantis, [6/16/15](#)]

**June 2017: DeSantis Voted In Favor Of H.R. 3004, “Kate’s Law,” Which Provided That “An Alien Who Has Been Excluded, Deported, Removed, Or Denied Admission ... And Who Subsequently Crosses Or Attempts To Cross The Border Into The United States, Shall Be Fined” Or “Imprisoned Not More Than Two Years.”**

According to Congress.gov, DeSantis voted in favor of H.R. 3004, “Kate’s Law,” which “amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to revise provisions relating to the reentry of removed aliens. The bill provides that an alien who has been excluded, deported, removed, or denied admission, or who has departed the United States while under an outstanding order of exclusion, deportation, or removal, and who subsequently crosses or attempts to cross the border into the United States, shall be fined, imprisoned not more than two years, or both. (‘Crosses the border’ refers to the physical act of crossing the border, regardless of whether the alien is free from official restraint.) The bill revises reentry of criminal offender provisions to provide that an alien who was convicted before such removal or departure of: three or more misdemeanors or for a felony shall be fined, imprisoned up to 10 years, or both; a felony for which the alien was sentenced to not less than 30 months in prison shall be fined, imprisoned up to 15 years, or both; a felony for which the alien was sentenced to not less than 60 months shall be fined, imprisoned up to 20 years, or both; or murder, rape, kidnapping, or a felony offense relating to peonage and slavery or terrorism, or of three or more felonies of any kind, shall be fined, imprisoned up to 25 years, or both. An alien who has been excluded, deported, removed, or denied admission three or more times and thereafter enters, attempts to enter, or crosses or attempts to cross the border to, or is at any time found in, the United States shall be fined, imprisoned not more than 10 years, or both.” The bill passed the House on a vote of 257-167. It did not become law. [H.R. 3004, Vote #344, [6/29/17](#); Congress.gov, accessed [4/21/23](#)]

**June 2017: DeSantis Praised The Passage Of “Kate’s Law” And “No Sanctuary For Criminals Act.”**

According to a Twitter post from Ron DeSantis, “House just passed two measures to strengthen our immigration laws and protect American citizens: #KatesLaw & No Sanctuary for Criminals Act.” [Twitter, @GovRonDeSantis, [6/29/17](#)]



[Twitter, @GovRonDeSantis, [6/29/17](#)]

***DeSantis Cosponsored H.R. 4962, The National Border And Homeland Security Act***

**June 2014: DeSantis Cosponsored H.R. 4962, The “National Border And Homeland Security Act,” To Give State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) Funding Priority To Border States And States “Having**

### **One Of The Four Largest Populations Of Unlawfully Present Aliens For The Preceding Fiscal Year.”**

According to Congress.gov, DeSantis cosponsored H.R. 4962, the National Border and Homeland Security Act, which “Amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to give state criminal alien assistance program (SCAAP) funding priority to: (1) northern or southern border states, or (2) state political subdivisions having one of the four largest populations of unlawfully present aliens for the preceding fiscal year. Amends the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security (DHS) (Secretary) to complete the required 700 mile southwest border fencing and priority-area fencing by December 31, 2015. [...] Prohibits the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture (USDA) from impeding border security-related activities by the Secretary on U.S. public lands. Amends the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to direct the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office (of DHS), in protecting the United States from a nuclear, fissile material, or radiological attack, to consider potential smuggling routes in land border areas between ports of entry, railcars entering the United States from Canada or Mexico, and private aircraft or small vessels. Directs the Secretary to procure within one year the number of next generation portable radiation detectors (PRDs) and radioactive isotope identification devices (RIIDs) required by the Border Patrol along the southern and northern U.S. borders. Directs the Secretary to develop within one year, and implement within two years of development, a strategic plan to detect and interdict biological and chemical weapons entering the United States.” The bill did not receive a vote. [Congress.gov, H.R. 4962, introduced [6/25/14](#)]

- **H.R. 4962 “Amends The Illegal Immigration Reform And Immigrant Responsibility Act Of 1996 To Direct The Secretary Of Homeland Security ... To Complete The Required 700 Mile Southwest Border Fencing And Priority-Area Fencing By December 31, 2015.”** According to Congress.gov, “Cosponsor [...] Rep. DeSantis, Ron [R-FL-6] [...] Introduced in House (06/25/2014) National Border and Homeland Security Act - Amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to give state criminal alien assistance program (SCAAP) funding priority to: (1) northern or southern border states, or (2) state political subdivisions having one of the four largest populations of unlawfully present aliens for the preceding fiscal year. Amends the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security (DHS) (Secretary) to complete the required 700 mile southwest border fencing and priority-area fencing by December 31, 2015. Amends the Secure Fence Act of 2006 to direct the Secretary, in consultation with state and local officials along the U.S.-Mexico border, to achieve operational control over U.S. international land and maritime borders by December 31, 2015. Directs the Secretary to: increase the number of full-time, active-duty Border Patrol agents through FY2018; increase the number of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers at U.S. ports of entry through FY2018; and establish within 18 months the biometric entry and exit data system required by the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004. [...] Directs the Secretary to develop within one year, and implement within two years of development, a strategic plan to detect and interdict biological and chemical weapons entering the United States.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 4962, introduced [6/25/14](#)]
- **H.R. 4962 “Directs The Secretary To: Increase The Number Of Full-Time, Active-Duty Border Patrol Agents Through FY2018.”** According to Congress.gov, “Cosponsor [...] Rep. DeSantis, Ron [R-FL-6] [...] Introduced in House (06/25/2014) National Border and Homeland Security Act - Amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to give state criminal alien assistance program (SCAAP) funding priority to: (1) northern or southern border states, or (2) state political subdivisions having one of the four largest populations of unlawfully present aliens for the preceding fiscal year. Amends the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security (DHS) (Secretary) to complete the required 700 mile southwest border fencing and priority-area fencing by December 31, 2015. Amends the Secure Fence Act of 2006 to direct the Secretary, in consultation with state and local officials along the U.S.-Mexico border, to achieve operational control over U.S. international land and maritime borders by December 31, 2015. Directs the Secretary to: increase the number of full-time, active-duty Border Patrol agents through FY2018; increase the number of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers at U.S. ports of entry through FY2018; and establish within 18 months the biometric entry and exit data system required by the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004. [...] Directs the Secretary to develop within one year, and implement within two years of development, a strategic plan to detect and interdict biological and chemical weapons entering the United States.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 4962, introduced [6/25/14](#)]



## ***DeSantis Cosponsored H.R. 5053, The Expedited Family Reunification Act Of 2014***

**July 2014: DeSantis Cosponsored H.R. 5053, The “Expedited Family Reunification Act Of 2014.”** According to Congress.gov, DeSantis cosponsored H.R. 5053, the Expedited Family Reunification Act of 2014, which “Amends the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 to provide that any unaccompanied alien child (UAC) who has not been a victim of a severe form of trafficking in persons or does not have a credible fear of persecution on returning to his or her country of nationality or of last habitual residence shall be: (1) placed in removal proceedings, (2) eligible for voluntary departure at no cost to the child, and (3) provided with access to counsel. (Currently such expedited removal requirements apply to unaccompanied children from countries that are contiguous to the United States.) Directs the Secretary of State to negotiate agreements, in addition to countries contiguous to the United States, between the United States and Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, and any other appropriate country regarding the repatriation of children. Applies the requirements of this Act to any UAC apprehended on or after June 15, 2012.” The bill did not receive a vote. [Congress.gov, H.R. 5053, introduced [7/10/14](#)]

- **H.R. 5053 Provided That “Any Unaccompanied Alien Child Who Has Not Been A Victim Of A Severe Form Of Trafficking ... Shall Be: (1) Placed In Removal Proceedings, (2) Eligible For Voluntary Departure At No Cost To The Child, And (3) Provided With Access To Counsel.”** According to Congress.gov, “Cosponsor [...] Rep. DeSantis, Ron [R-FL-6] [...] Introduced in House (07/10/2014) Expedited Family Reunification Act of 2014 - Amends the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 to provide that any unaccompanied alien child (UAC) who has not been a victim of a severe form of trafficking in persons or does not have a credible fear of persecution on returning to his or her country of nationality or of last habitual residence shall be: (1) placed in removal proceedings, (2) eligible for voluntary departure at no cost to the child, and (3) provided with access to counsel. (Currently such expedited removal requirements apply to unaccompanied children from countries that are contiguous to the United States.) Directs the Secretary of State to negotiate agreements, in addition to countries contiguous to the United States, between the United States and Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, and any other appropriate country regarding the repatriation of children. Applies the requirements of this Act to any UAC apprehended on or after June 15, 2012.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 5053, introduced [7/10/14](#)]

**The Expedited Family Reunification Act Of 2014 Would Authorize Immigration Officials To Quickly Remove Unaccompanied Minors.** PennLive reported, “Rep. Lou Barletta, who a few weeks ago traveled to Texas to assess the situation for himself, is cosponsoring a bill that would make it easier to repatriate the unaccompanied minors. Barletta represents the 11<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, which includes parts of Perry, Dauphin and Cumberland Counties. The bill backed by Barletta - the Expedited Family Reunification Act of 2014 - would authorize immigration officials to quickly remove unaccompanied minors. The legislation is authored by Arizona Rep. Matt Salmon.” [PennLive, [7/21/14](#)]

## ***DeSantis Cosponsored H.R. 2278, The SAFE Act***

**June 2013: DeSantis Cosponsored H.R. 2278, The “SAFE Act,” Which Allowed “State Or Local Law Enforcement Personnel To Investigate, Apprehend, Arrest, Or Transfer To Federal Custody Aliens For Immigration Enforcement Purposes To The Same Extent As Federal Law Enforcement Personnel.”** According to Congress.gov, DeSantis cosponsored H.R. 2278, the Strengthen and Fortify Enforcement Act or the SAFE Act, which “Authorizes: (1) states or their political subdivisions to enact and enforce immigration criminal penalties as long as they do not exceed relevant federal criminal penalties; and (2) state or local law enforcement personnel to investigate, apprehend, arrest, or transfer to federal custody aliens for immigration enforcement purposes to the same extent as federal law enforcement personnel. (Sec. 103) Directs the Secretary of Homeland Security (DHS) (Secretary) to provide the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) of the Department of Justice (DOJ) with all information that the Secretary has regarding any alien: against whom a final order of removal has been issued, who has entered into a voluntary departure agreement, who has overstayed his or her authorized period of stay, or whose visa has been revoked. Requires NCIC to enter such information into its Immigration Violators

File. (Sec. 104) Requires states to have access to federal programs or technology directed at identifying inadmissible or deportable aliens. (Sec. 105) Requires states and their political subdivisions to provide DHS with specified identifying information about each apprehended alien who is believed to be inadmissible or deportable. (Sec. 106) Directs the Secretary to make grants to eligible states and their political subdivisions for procurement of equipment, technology, and facilities related to investigating, apprehending, arresting, or transporting inadmissible or deportable aliens. Authorizes appropriations. (Sec. 107) Directs the Secretary to construct or acquire additional domestic detention facilities for aliens detained pending removal.” The bill did not receive a vote. [Congress.gov, H.R. 2278, introduced [6/6/13](#)]

- **H.R. 2278 “Requires States And Their Political Subdivisions To Provide DHS With Specified Identifying Information About Each Apprehended Alien Who Is Believed To Be Inadmissible Or Deportable.”** According to Congress.gov, “Cosponsor [...] Rep. Pompeo, Mike [R-KS-4] [...] Strengthen and Fortify Enforcement Act or the SAFE Act - Title I: Immigration Law Enforcement by States and Localities - (Sec. 102) Authorizes: (1) states or their political subdivisions to enact and enforce immigration criminal penalties as long as they do not exceed relevant federal criminal penalties; and (2) state or local law enforcement personnel to investigate, apprehend, arrest, or transfer to federal custody aliens for immigration enforcement purposes to the same extent as federal law enforcement personnel. (Sec. 103) Directs the Secretary of Homeland Security (DHS) (Secretary) to provide the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) of the Department of Justice (DOJ) with all information that the Secretary has regarding any alien: against whom a final order of removal has been issued, who has entered into a voluntary departure agreement, who has overstayed his or her authorized period of stay, or whose visa has been revoked. Requires NCIC to enter such information into its Immigration Violators File. (Sec. 104) Requires states to have access to federal programs or technology directed at identifying inadmissible or deportable aliens. (Sec. 105) Requires states and their political subdivisions to provide DHS with specified identifying information about each apprehended alien who is believed to be inadmissible or deportable. (Sec. 106) Directs the Secretary to make grants to eligible states and their political subdivisions for procurement of equipment, technology, and facilities related to investigating, apprehending, arresting, or transporting inadmissible or deportable aliens. Authorizes appropriations. (Sec. 107) Directs the Secretary to construct or acquire additional domestic detention facilities for aliens detained pending removal.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 2278, introduced [6/6/13](#)]
- **H.R. 2278 “Requires States And Localities To... Notify The Federal Government Of Inadmissible Or Removable Aliens Who Are Encountered By Law Enforcement Personnel.”** According to Congress.gov, “Cosponsor [...] Rep. Pompeo, Mike [R-KS-4] [...] (Sec. 114) Requires states and localities to: (1) notify the federal government of inadmissible or removable aliens who are encountered by law enforcement personnel, (2) comply with federal law enforcement information requests and with DHS detainers. Denies specified federal law enforcement assistance to a state or a political subdivision that prohibits law enforcement officers from cooperating with federal immigration law enforcement. (Sec. 115) Directs the Secretary to execute all lawful writs, process, and orders issued under the authority of the United States. Title II: National Security - (Sec. 201) Revises and expands certain terrorism-related provisions and bans with respect to naturalization, asylum, good moral character, voluntary departure, and cancellation of removal. (Sec. 202) Prohibits an alien who was inadmissible or deportable on security and related grounds from being regarded as a person of good moral character under INA. Applies the good moral character bar regardless of when a crime was classified as an aggravated felony. (Sec. 203) Prohibits: naturalization of an alien who was inadmissible or deportable on security grounds and related grounds; and DHS or a court from considering a naturalization application while any proceeding to determine inadmissibility, deportability, or eligibility for lawful permanent residence is pending. Requires a conditional lawful permanent resident to have the condition removed before applying for naturalization.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 2278, introduced [6/6/13](#)]
- **H.R. 2278 “Denies Specified Federal Law Enforcement Assistance To A State Or A Political Subdivision That Prohibits Law Enforcement Officers From Cooperating With Federal Immigration Law Enforcement.”** According to Congress.gov, “Cosponsor [...] Rep. Pompeo, Mike [R-KS-4] [...] (Sec. 114) Requires states and localities to: (1) notify the federal government of inadmissible or removable aliens who are encountered by law enforcement personnel, (2) comply with federal law enforcement information requests and with DHS detainers. Denies specified federal law enforcement assistance to a state or a political subdivision

that prohibits law enforcement officers from cooperating with federal immigration law enforcement. (Sec. 115) Directs the Secretary to execute all lawful writs, process, and orders issued under the authority of the United States. Title II: National Security - (Sec. 201) Revises and expands certain terrorism-related provisions and bans with respect to naturalization, asylum, good moral character, voluntary departure, and cancellation of removal. (Sec. 202) Prohibits an alien who was inadmissible or deportable on security and related grounds from being regarded as a person of good moral character under INA. Applies the good moral character bar regardless of when a crime was classified as an aggravated felony. (Sec. 203) Prohibits: naturalization of an alien who was inadmissible or deportable on security grounds and related grounds; and DHS or a court from considering a naturalization application while any proceeding to determine inadmissibility, deportability, or eligibility for lawful permanent residence is pending. Requires a conditional lawful permanent resident to have the condition removed before applying for naturalization.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 2278, introduced [6/6/13](#)]

- **H.R. 2278 “Prohibits An Alien Who Was Inadmissible Or Deportable On Security And Related Grounds From Being Regarded As A Person Of Good Moral Character Under INA.”** According to Congress.gov, “Cosponsor [...] Rep. Pompeo, Mike [R-KS-4] [...] (Sec. 114) Requires states and localities to: (1) notify the federal government of inadmissible or removable aliens who are encountered by law enforcement personnel, (2) comply with federal law enforcement information requests and with DHS detainers. Denies specified federal law enforcement assistance to a state or a political subdivision that prohibits law enforcement officers from cooperating with federal immigration law enforcement. (Sec. 115) Directs the Secretary to execute all lawful writs, process, and orders issued under the authority of the United States. Title II: National Security - (Sec. 201) Revises and expands certain terrorism-related provisions and bans with respect to naturalization, asylum, good moral character, voluntary departure, and cancellation of removal. (Sec. 202) Prohibits an alien who was inadmissible or deportable on security and related grounds from being regarded as a person of good moral character under INA. Applies the good moral character bar regardless of when a crime was classified as an aggravated felony. (Sec. 203) Prohibits: naturalization of an alien who was inadmissible or deportable on security grounds and related grounds; and DHS or a court from considering a naturalization application while any proceeding to determine inadmissibility, deportability, or eligibility for lawful permanent residence is pending. Requires a conditional lawful permanent resident to have the condition removed before applying for naturalization.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 2278, introduced [6/6/13](#)]
- **H.R. 2278 “Makes Aggravated Felons Ineligible For Refugee Or Asylee Adjustment Of Status” And “Makes A Second DUI Conviction An Aggravated Felony Under INA.”** According to Congress.gov, “Cosponsor [...] Rep. Pompeo, Mike [R-KS-4] [...] Title III: Removal of Criminal Aliens - (Sec. 301) Revises and expands the definition of ‘aggravated felony’ under INA. Makes such changes retroactive. (Sec. 302) Adds new grounds of inadmissibility for: (1) identity fraud or Social Security number misuse; (2) unlawful procurement of citizenship or naturalization; (3) specified firearm offenses; (4) conviction of an aggravated felony; and (5) crimes of domestic violence, stalking, or child abuse. Makes such additions retroactive. Adds new grounds of deportability for: (1) identity fraud or Social Security number misuse, and (2) unlawful procurement of citizenship or naturalization. Makes such additions retroactive. (Sec. 303) Makes inadmissible an alien who plans to or has engaged in espionage, prohibited export, or other unlawful activities, including activities aimed at the violent overthrow of the U.S. government. (Sec. 304) Prohibits the sale of or possession of firearms by any alien who is not lawfully admitted for permanent residence. (Secs. 305-307) Amends the federal criminal code to: place a 10-year statute of limitations on most criminal violations of INA; make all passport and visa fraud a racketeering activity; and expand the definition of aggravated felony to include all penalties for passport, visa, and immigration fraud (under chapter 75 of title 18). (Sec. 308) Makes aggravated felons ineligible for refugee or asylee adjustment of status. (Sec. 309) Makes a second DUI conviction an aggravated felony under INA. Requires the detention of an unlawfully present alien who has been convicted of driving while intoxicated without regard to whether the conviction is classified as a misdemeanor or felony under state law.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 2278, introduced [6/6/13](#)]
- **H.R. 2278 “Requires The Detention Of An Unlawfully Present Alien Who Has Been Convicted Of Driving While Intoxicated Without Regard To Whether The Conviction Is Classified As A Misdemeanor Or Felony Under State Law.”** According to Congress.gov, “Cosponsor [...] Rep. Pompeo, Mike [R-KS-4] [...] Title III: Removal of Criminal Aliens - (Sec. 301) Revises and expands the definition of ‘aggravated

felony’ under INA. Makes such changes retroactive. (Sec. 302) Adds new grounds of inadmissibility for: (1) identity fraud or Social Security number misuse; (2) unlawful procurement of citizenship or naturalization; (3) specified firearm offenses; (4) conviction of an aggravated felony; and (5) crimes of domestic violence, stalking, or child abuse. Makes such additions retroactive. Adds new grounds of deportability for: (1) identity fraud or Social Security number misuse, and (2) unlawful procurement of citizenship or naturalization. Makes such additions retroactive. (Sec. 303) Makes inadmissible an alien who plans to or has engaged in espionage, prohibited export, or other unlawful activities, including activities aimed at the violent overthrow of the U.S. government. (Sec. 304) Prohibits the sale of or possession of firearms by any alien who is not lawfully admitted for permanent residence. (Secs. 305-307) Amends the federal criminal code to: place a 10-year statute of limitations on most criminal violations of INA; make all passport and visa fraud a racketeering activity; and expand the definition of aggravated felony to include all penalties for passport, visa, and immigration fraud (under chapter 75 of title 18). (Sec. 308) Makes aggravated felons ineligible for refugee or asylee adjustment of status. (Sec. 309) Makes a second DUI conviction an aggravated felony under INA. Requires the detention of an unlawfully present alien who has been convicted of driving while intoxicated without regard to whether the conviction is classified as a misdemeanor or felony under state law.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 2278, introduced [6/6/13](#)]

- **H.R. 2278 “Authorizes The Secretary To Designate Groups As Criminal Street Gangs” And “Makes An Alien Who Is, Or Was, A Member Of A Criminal Gang Inadmissible And Deportable.”** According to Congress.gov, “Cosponsor [...] Rep. Pompeo, Mike [R-KS-4] [...] (Sec. 311) Authorizes the Secretary to designate groups as criminal street gangs. Makes an alien who is, or was, a member of a criminal gang inadmissible and deportable. Requires detention for anyone found inadmissible or deportable for criminal street gang membership. Bars individuals found inadmissible or deportable for criminal gang membership from asylum, withholding of removal, and temporary protected status. (Secs. 312-313) Amends federal criminal law with respect to identity theft and money laundering under INA.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 2278, introduced [6/6/13](#)]
- **H.R. 2278 “Requires Detention For Anyone Found Inadmissible Or Deportable For Criminal Street Gang Membership.”** According to Congress.gov, “Cosponsor [...] Rep. Pompeo, Mike [R-KS-4] [...] (Sec. 311) Authorizes the Secretary to designate groups as criminal street gangs. Makes an alien who is, or was, a member of a criminal gang inadmissible and deportable. Requires detention for anyone found inadmissible or deportable for criminal street gang membership. Bars individuals found inadmissible or deportable for criminal gang membership from asylum, withholding of removal, and temporary protected status. (Secs. 312-313) Amends federal criminal law with respect to identity theft and money laundering under INA.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 2278, introduced [6/6/13](#)]
- **H.R. 2278 “Prescribes Criminal Penalties For Any Person Who: Facilitates, Encourages, Or Directs A Person To Come To Or Enter The United States, Or To Cross The U.S. Border, Knowing Or In Reckless Disregard Of The Fact That Such Person Is An Alien Who Lacks Lawful Authority To Do So.”** According to Congress.gov, “Cosponsor [...] Rep. Pompeo, Mike [R-KS-4] [...] (Sec. 314) Revises prohibitions and requirements regarding alien smuggling and harboring. Prescribes criminal penalties for any person who: facilitates, encourages, or directs a person to come to or enter the United States, or to cross the U.S. border, knowing or in reckless disregard of the fact that such person is an alien who lacks lawful authority to do so; facilitates, encourages, or directs a person to come to or enter the United States, or to cross the U.S. border, at a place other than a designated port of entry or a place designated by DHS, knowing or in reckless disregard of the fact that such person is an alien and regardless of whether such alien has official permission or lawful authority to be in the United States; transports, moves, harbors, or shields from detection a person outside of the United States knowing or in reckless disregard of the fact that such person is an alien seeking to enter the United States without lawful authority; encourages or induces a person to reside in the United States, knowing or in reckless disregard of the fact that such person is an alien who lacks lawful authority to reside in the United States; transports or moves a person in the United States, knowing or in reckless disregard of the fact that such person is an alien who lacks lawful authority to enter or be in the United States, if the transportation or movement will further the alien’s illegal entry into or illegal presence in the United States; harbors, conceals, or shields from detection a person in the United States, knowing or in reckless disregard of the fact that such

person is an alien who lacks lawful authority to be in the United States; or conspires or attempts to commit any of such acts. Provides extraterritorial federal jurisdiction over such offenses. Revises related criminal penalties. Subjects to forfeiture real or personal property used to commit or facilitate a violation under this section.”  
[Congress.gov, H.R. 2278, introduced [6/6/13](#)]

- **H.R. 2278 “Subjects To Forfeiture Real Or Personal Property Used To Commit Or Facilitate A Violation” Of Assisting In Helping An Individually To Illegally Cross The Border.** According to Congress.gov, “Cosponsor [...] Rep. Pompeo, Mike [R-KS-4] [...] (Sec. 314) Revises prohibitions and requirements regarding alien smuggling and harboring. Prescribes criminal penalties for any person who: facilitates, encourages, or directs a person to come to or enter the United States, or to cross the U.S. border, knowing or in reckless disregard of the fact that such person is an alien who lacks lawful authority to do so; facilitates, encourages, or directs a person to come to or enter the United States, or to cross the U.S. border, at a place other than a designated port of entry or a place designated by DHS, knowing or in reckless disregard of the fact that such person is an alien and regardless of whether such alien has official permission or lawful authority to be in the United States; transports, moves, harbors, or shields from detection a person outside of the United States knowing or in reckless disregard of the fact that such person is an alien seeking to enter the United States without lawful authority; encourages or induces a person to reside in the United States, knowing or in reckless disregard of the fact that such person is an alien who lacks lawful authority to reside in the United States; transports or moves a person in the United States, knowing or in reckless disregard of the fact that such person is an alien who lacks lawful authority to enter or be in the United States, if the transportation or movement will further the alien’s illegal entry into or illegal presence in the United States; harbors, conceals, or shields from detection a person in the United States, knowing or in reckless disregard of the fact that such person is an alien who lacks lawful authority to be in the United States; or conspires or attempts to commit any of such acts. Provides extraterritorial federal jurisdiction over such offenses. Revises related criminal penalties. Subjects to forfeiture real or personal property used to commit or facilitate a violation under this section.”  
[Congress.gov, H.R. 2278, introduced [6/6/13](#)]
- **H.R. 2278 Authorized Immigration And Customs Enforcement Officers (ICE) To “Make Arrests For Offenses Against The United States, For Certain Felonies, And For Bringing In, Transporting, Or Harboring Certain Aliens.”** According to Congress.gov, “Cosponsor [...] Rep. Pompeo, Mike [R-KS-4] [...] Title V: Aid to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Officers - (Sec. 501) Authorizes all DHS immigration enforcement agents and deportation officers who have successfully completed basic immigration law enforcement training to: (1) make arrests for offenses against the United States, for certain felonies, and for bringing in, transporting, or harboring certain aliens; (2) execute warrants of arrest for administrative immigration violations; and (3) carry firearms. (Sec. 502) Authorizes the Secretary to hire additional Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention enforcement officers. (Sec. 503) Directs the Secretary to ensure that ICE immigration enforcement agents and deportation officers are issued body armor and weapons. (Sec. 504) Establishes an ICE Advisory Council. (Sec. 505) Establishes a pilot program in at least 5 of the 10 busiest ICE offices to process electronically and serve charging documents, and process and place detainees while in the field. (Secs. 506-507) Directs the Secretary to increase the number of ICE deportation officers, support staff, and prosecutors.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 2278, introduced [6/6/13](#)]
- **H.R. 2278 Authorized ICE Officer To Carry Firearms.** According to Congress.gov, “Cosponsor [...] Rep. Pompeo, Mike [R-KS-4] [...] Title V: Aid to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Officers - (Sec. 501) Authorizes all DHS immigration enforcement agents and deportation officers who have successfully completed basic immigration law enforcement training to: (1) make arrests for offenses against the United States, for certain felonies, and for bringing in, transporting, or harboring certain aliens; (2) execute warrants of arrest for administrative immigration violations; and (3) carry firearms. (Sec. 502) Authorizes the Secretary to hire additional Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention enforcement officers. (Sec. 503) Directs the Secretary to ensure that ICE immigration enforcement agents and deportation officers are issued body armor and weapons. (Sec. 504) Establishes an ICE Advisory Council. (Sec. 505) Establishes a pilot program in at least 5 of the 10 busiest ICE offices to process electronically and serve charging documents, and process and place detainees while in the field. (Secs. 506-507) Directs the Secretary to increase the number of ICE deportation officers, support staff, and prosecutors.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 2278, introduced [6/6/13](#)]

## ***DeSantis Voted For H.R. 3009, The Enforce The Law For Sanctuary Cities Act***

**July 2015: DeSantis Voted In Favor Of The “Enforce The Law For Sanctuary Cities Act,” Which “Amends The Immigration And Nationality Act To Make A State Or Local Subdivision Ineligible For State Criminal Alien Assistance Program Funding” Under Certain Circumstances.** According to Congress.gov, DeSantis voted in favor of H.R. 3009, the “Enforce the Law for Sanctuary Cities Act,” which “Amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to make a state or local subdivision ineligible for state criminal alien assistance program funding if it: (1) has in effect any law, policy, or procedure prohibiting or restricting communication with the Immigration and Naturalization Service or other government entity regarding an individual’s citizenship or immigration status; or (2) prohibits state or local law enforcement officials from gathering information regarding an individual’s citizenship or immigration status. (Sec. 3) Withholds specified Department of Justice funds (for the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program, the Community-Oriented Policing Services program, and the Byrne JAG program) under parts Q and E of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 from such states or local subdivisions.” The bill passed the House on a vote of 241-179. It did not become law. [H.R. 3009, Vote #466, [7/23/14](#); Congress.gov, accessed [4/21/23](#)]

- **H.R. 3009 Made A State Ineligible For Criminal Alien Assistance Program Funding If It Had “Any Law, Policy, Or Procedure Prohibiting Or Restricting Communication With The Immigration And Naturalization Service ... Regarding An Individual’s Citizenship Or Immigration Status.”** According to Congress.gov, DeSantis voted in favor of H.R. 3009, the “Enforce the Law for Sanctuary Cities Act,” which “Amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to make a state or local subdivision ineligible for state criminal alien assistance program funding if it: (1) has in effect any law, policy, or procedure prohibiting or restricting communication with the Immigration and Naturalization Service or other government entity regarding an individual’s citizenship or immigration status; or (2) prohibits state or local law enforcement officials from gathering information regarding an individual’s citizenship or immigration status. (Sec. 3) Withholds specified Department of Justice funds (for the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program, the Community-Oriented Policing Services program, and the Byrne JAG program) under parts Q and E of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 from such states or local subdivisions.” The bill passed the House on a vote of 241-179. It did not become law. [H.R. 3009, Vote #466, [7/23/14](#); Congress.gov, accessed [4/21/23](#)]
- **H.R. 3009 Made A State Ineligible For Criminal Alien Assistance Program Funding If It “Prohibits State Or Local Law Enforcement Officials From Gathering Information Regarding An Individual’s Citizenship Or Immigration Status.”** According to Congress.gov, DeSantis voted in favor of H.R. 3009, the “Enforce the Law for Sanctuary Cities Act,” which “Amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to make a state or local subdivision ineligible for state criminal alien assistance program funding if it: (1) has in effect any law, policy, or procedure prohibiting or restricting communication with the Immigration and Naturalization Service or other government entity regarding an individual’s citizenship or immigration status; or (2) prohibits state or local law enforcement officials from gathering information regarding an individual’s citizenship or immigration status. (Sec. 3) Withholds specified Department of Justice funds (for the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program, the Community-Oriented Policing Services program, and the Byrne JAG program) under parts Q and E of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 from such states or local subdivisions.” The bill passed the House on a vote of 241-179. It did not become law. [H.R. 3009, Vote #466, [7/23/14](#); Congress.gov, accessed [4/21/23](#)]

## ***DeSantis Voted For H.R. 4760, The Securing America’s Future Act Of 2018***

**June 2018: DeSantis Voted In Favor Of H.R. 4760, The “Securing America’s Future Act Of 2018,” Which Would Eliminate The Diversity Visa Program And Revise Annual Immigration Levels.** According to Congress.gov, DeSantis voted in favor of H.R. 4760, the “Securing America’s Future Act of 2018.” The bill “amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to revise immigrant visa allocation provisions, including family-related visas. A nonimmigrant classification for parents of adult U.S. citizens is created. The diversity visa program is eliminated. Annual immigration levels are revised. The limit on the worldwide level of employment-based

immigrants is increased. [...] The bill: (1) transfers authority for strengthening the southern border from the Department of Justice to DHS; (2) revises border security provisions; (3) provides for additional border security personnel; (4) authorizes new ports of entry along the northern border and southern borders; (5) authorizes National Guard border security activities; (6) provides contingent nonimmigrant status for certain aliens who entered the United States as minors; (7) authorizes appropriations for specified border barriers and infrastructure; and (8) establishes Operation Stonegarden to make border security grants to law enforcement agencies. DHS shall: (1) submit a southern border threat analysis, (2) establish the Integrated Border Enforcement Team program, (3) implement the Border Security Deployment Program, (4) review social media activities of visa applicants, and (5) establish a biometric exit data system.” The bill failed in the House on a vote of 193-231. [H.R. 4760, Vote #282, [6/21/18](#); Congress.gov, accessed [4/21/23](#)]

- **H.R. 4760 Authorized “DNA Testing To Establish Family Relationships.”** According to Congress.gov, DeSantis voted in favor of H.R. 4760, the “Securing America’s Future Act of 2018.” The bill “amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to revise immigrant visa allocation provisions, including family-related visas. A nonimmigrant classification for parents of adult U.S. citizens is created. The diversity visa program is eliminated. Annual immigration levels are revised. The limit on the worldwide level of employment-based immigrants is increased. The H-2C visa temporary agricultural worker program is revised. A trust fund is established to provide incentives for such workers to return to their country of origin. DNA testing to establish family relationships is authorized. [...] The bill: (1) transfers authority for strengthening the southern border from the Department of Justice to DHS; (2) revises border security provisions; (3) provides for additional border security personnel; (4) authorizes new ports of entry along the northern border and southern borders; (5) authorizes National Guard border security activities; (6) provides contingent nonimmigrant status for certain aliens who entered the United States as minors; (7) authorizes appropriations for specified border barriers and infrastructure; and (8) establishes Operation Stonegarden to make border security grants to law enforcement agencies. DHS shall: (1) submit a southern border threat analysis, (2) establish the Integrated Border Enforcement Team program, (3) implement the Border Security Deployment Program, (4) review social media activities of visa applicants, and (5) establish a biometric exit data system.” [H.R. 4760, Vote #282, [6/21/18](#); Congress.gov, accessed [4/21/23](#)]
- **H.R. 4760 Stipulated That “No Federal, State, Or Local Government Entity Or Individual May Prohibit Or Restrict A Federal, State, Or Local Government Entity Or Official From Complying With The Immigration Laws Or Assisting Related Federal Law Enforcement Activities.”** According to Congress.gov, DeSantis voted in favor of H.R. 4760, the “Securing America’s Future Act of 2018.” The bill “amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to revise immigrant visa allocation provisions, including family-related visas [...] No federal, state, or local government entity or individual may prohibit or restrict a federal, state, or local government entity or official from complying with the immigration laws or assisting related federal law enforcement activities. The bill revises provisions regarding: (1) detention of aliens in removal proceedings; (2) illegal entry and reentry; (3) inadmissibility and deportability of criminal aliens, gang members, drunk drivers, and sex offenders; (4) repatriation; (5) asylum and asylum fraud; (6) unaccompanied alien children; (7) foreign students; and (8) visa fraud. The bill: (1) transfers authority for strengthening the southern border from the Department of Justice to DHS; (2) revises border security provisions; (3) provides for additional border security personnel; (4) authorizes new ports of entry along the northern border and southern borders; (5) authorizes National Guard border security activities; (6) provides contingent nonimmigrant status for certain aliens who entered the United States as minors; (7) authorizes appropriations for specified border barriers and infrastructure; and (8) establishes Operation Stonegarden to make border security grants to law enforcement agencies. DHS shall: (1) submit a southern border threat analysis, (2) establish the Integrated Border Enforcement Team program, (3) implement the Border Security Deployment Program, (4) review social media activities of visa applicants, and (5) establish a biometric exit data system.” [H.R. 4760, Vote #282, [6/21/18](#); Congress.gov, accessed [4/21/23](#)]
- **H.R. 4760 Transferred “Authority For Strengthening The Southern Border From The Department Of Justice To DHS” And Authorized “Appropriations For Specified Border Barriers And Infrastructure.”** According to Congress.gov, DeSantis voted in favor of H.R. 4760, the “Securing America’s Future Act of 2018.” The bill “amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to revise immigrant visa allocation provisions,

including family-related visas. A nonimmigrant classification for parents of adult U.S. citizens is created. The diversity visa program is eliminated. Annual immigration levels are revised. [...] The bill revises provisions regarding: (1) detention of aliens in removal proceedings; (2) illegal entry and reentry; (3) inadmissibility and deportability of criminal aliens, gang members, drunk drivers, and sex offenders; (4) repatriation; (5) asylum and asylum fraud; (6) unaccompanied alien children; (7) foreign students; and (8) visa fraud. The bill: (1) transfers authority for strengthening the southern border from the Department of Justice to DHS; (2) revises border security provisions; (3) provides for additional border security personnel; (4) authorizes new ports of entry along the northern border and southern borders; (5) authorizes National Guard border security activities; (6) provides contingent nonimmigrant status for certain aliens who entered the United States as minors; (7) authorizes appropriations for specified border barriers and infrastructure; and (8) establishes Operation Stonegarden to make border security grants to law enforcement agencies. DHS shall: (1) submit a southern border threat analysis, (2) establish the Integrated Border Enforcement Team program, (3) implement the Border Security Deployment Program, (4) review social media activities of visa applicants, and (5) establish a biometric exit data system.” [H.R. 4760, Vote #282, [6/21/18](#); Congress.gov, accessed [4/21/23](#)]

- **H.R. 4760 Established “Operation Stonegarden To Make Border Security Grants To Law Enforcement Agencies.”** According to Congress.gov, DeSantis voted in favor of H.R. 4760, the “Securing America’s Future Act of 2018.” The bill “amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to revise immigrant visa allocation provisions, including family-related visas. [...] The bill: (1) transfers authority for strengthening the southern border from the Department of Justice to DHS; (2) revises border security provisions; (3) provides for additional border security personnel; (4) authorizes new ports of entry along the northern border and southern borders; (5) authorizes National Guard border security activities; (6) provides contingent nonimmigrant status for certain aliens who entered the United States as minors; (7) authorizes appropriations for specified border barriers and infrastructure; and (8) establishes Operation Stonegarden to make border security grants to law enforcement agencies. DHS shall: (1) submit a southern border threat analysis, (2) establish the Integrated Border Enforcement Team program, (3) implement the Border Security Deployment Program, (4) review social media activities of visa applicants, and (5) establish a biometric exit data system.” [H.R. 4760, Vote #282, [6/21/18](#); Congress.gov, accessed [4/21/23](#)]
- **H.R. 4760 Gave The Department Of Homeland Security The Authority To “Review Social Media Activities Of Visa Applicants.”** According to Congress.gov, DeSantis voted in favor of H.R. 4760, the “Securing America’s Future Act of 2018.” The bill “amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to revise immigrant visa allocation provisions, including family-related visas. A nonimmigrant classification for parents of adult U.S. citizens is created. [...] The bill: (1) transfers authority for strengthening the southern border from the Department of Justice to DHS; (2) revises border security provisions; (3) provides for additional border security personnel; (4) authorizes new ports of entry along the northern border and southern borders; (5) authorizes National Guard border security activities; (6) provides contingent nonimmigrant status for certain aliens who entered the United States as minors; (7) authorizes appropriations for specified border barriers and infrastructure; and (8) establishes Operation Stonegarden to make border security grants to law enforcement agencies. DHS shall: (1) submit a southern border threat analysis, (2) establish the Integrated Border Enforcement Team program, (3) implement the Border Security Deployment Program, (4) review social media activities of visa applicants, and (5) establish a biometric exit data system.” [H.R. 4760, Vote #282, [6/21/18](#); Congress.gov, accessed [4/21/23](#)]

## ***DeSantis Voted For H.R. 3003, The No Sanctuary For Criminals Act***

**June 2017: DeSantis Voted In Favor Of H.R. 3003, The “No Sanctuary For Criminals Act,” Which Would “Prohibit Any Federal, State, Or Local Government Or Any Individual” From Prohibiting Compliance With Immigration Laws Or Their Federal Enforcement.** According to Congress.gov, DeSantis voted in favor of H.R. 3003, the “No Sanctuary for Criminals Act,” which “amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to prohibit any federal, state, or local government or any individual from prohibiting any government entity, official, or employee from complying with the immigration laws or cooperating with federal law enforcement of such laws. The bill expands the scope of law enforcement activities relating to immigration-related information that a federal, state, or local government may not restrict or prohibit to include: (1) making inquiries to an individual in order to



obtain immigration-related information regarding any individual, (2) notifying the federal government regarding the presence of individuals who are encountered by law enforcement officials or other state or local personnel, or (3) complying with federal law enforcement requests for such information. A state or political subdivision not in compliance with such immigration enforcement provisions shall be ineligible to receive grants or assistance for: (1) incarceration of undocumented aliens; (2) the Cops on the Beat program; (3) the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice program; or (4) any Department of Justice (DOJ) or Department of Homeland Security (DHS) grant substantially related to law enforcement, terrorism, national security, immigration, or naturalization.” The bill passed the House on a vote of 228-195. It did not become law. [H.R. 3003, Vote #342, [6/29/17](#); Congress.gov, accessed [4/21/23](#)]

- **H.R. 3003 Prohibited Restrictions On “Making Inquiries To An Individual In Order To Obtain Immigration-Related Information,” “Notifying The Federal Government Regarding The Presence Of Individuals Who Are Encountered By Law Enforcement Officials” Or “Complying With Federal Law Enforcement Requests For Such Information.”** According to Congress.gov, DeSantis voted in favor of H.R. 3003, the “No Sanctuary for Criminals Act,” which “amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to prohibit any federal, state, or local government or any individual from prohibiting any government entity, official, or employee from complying with the immigration laws or cooperating with federal law enforcement of such laws. The bill expands the scope of law enforcement activities relating to immigration-related information that a federal, state, or local government may not restrict or prohibit to include: (1) making inquiries to an individual in order to obtain immigration-related information regarding any individual, (2) notifying the federal government regarding the presence of individuals who are encountered by law enforcement officials or other state or local personnel, or (3) complying with federal law enforcement requests for such information. A state or political subdivision not in compliance with such immigration enforcement provisions shall be ineligible to receive grants or assistance for: (1) incarceration of undocumented aliens; (2) the Cops on the Beat program; (3) the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice program; or (4) any Department of Justice (DOJ) or Department of Homeland Security (DHS) grant substantially related to law enforcement, terrorism, national security, immigration, or naturalization.” [H.R. 3003, Vote #342, [6/29/17](#); Congress.gov, accessed [4/21/23](#)]
- **H.R. 3003 Stipulated That Non-Compliant Jurisdictions Would Be Ineligible For “Any Department Of Justice (DOJ) Or Department Of Homeland Security (DHS) Grant Substantially Related To Law Enforcement, Terrorism, National Security, Immigration, Or Naturalization.”** According to Congress.gov, DeSantis voted in favor of H.R. 3003, the “No Sanctuary for Criminals Act,” which “amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to prohibit any federal, state, or local government or any individual from prohibiting any government entity, official, or employee from complying with the immigration laws or cooperating with federal law enforcement of such laws. The bill expands the scope of law enforcement activities relating to immigration-related information that a federal, state, or local government may not restrict or prohibit to include: (1) making inquiries to an individual in order to obtain immigration-related information regarding any individual, (2) notifying the federal government regarding the presence of individuals who are encountered by law enforcement officials or other state or local personnel, or (3) complying with federal law enforcement requests for such information. A state or political subdivision not in compliance with such immigration enforcement provisions shall be ineligible to receive grants or assistance for: (1) incarceration of undocumented aliens; (2) the Cops on the Beat program; (3) the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice program; or (4) any Department of Justice (DOJ) or Department of Homeland Security (DHS) grant substantially related to law enforcement, terrorism, national security, immigration, or naturalization.” [H.R. 3003, Vote #342, [6/29/17](#); Congress.gov, accessed [4/21/23](#)]
- **H.R. 3003 Required Mandatory Detention During Removal Proceedings For Aliens “Driving While Intoxicated, Under The Influence, Or Impaired By Alcohol Or Drugs, Without Regard To Whether The Conviction Is Classified As A Misdemeanor Or Felony Under State Law.”** According to Congress.gov, DeSantis voted in favor of H.R. 3003, the “No Sanctuary for Criminals Act,” which “expands the categories of offenses requiring mandatory detention during the pendency of removal proceedings to include an alien who: (1) is unlawfully present in the United States and has been convicted for driving while intoxicated, under the influence, or impaired by alcohol or drugs, without regard to whether the conviction is classified as a misdemeanor or felony under state law; and (2) is inadmissible for illegal entry or deportable by reason of visa revocation or violation of nonimmigrant status and who has been arrested or charged with a particularly serious

crime or a crime resulting in the death or serious bodily injury of another person. An alien subject to mandatory detention may not be released on bond. The bill limits DOJ's review of DHS custody determinations for aliens who are in exclusion hearings, or who are excludable or deportable on security grounds or other specified grounds, to issues of whether such aliens may be detained or released with or without bond." [H.R. 3003, Vote #342, [6/29/17](#); Congress.gov, accessed [4/21/23](#)]

- **H.R. 3003 Required Mandatory Detention During Removal Proceedings For Aliens “Inadmissible For Illegal Entry Or Deportable By Reason Of Visa Revocation Or Violation Of Nonimmigrant Status And Who Has Been Arrested Or Charged With A Particularly Serious Crime.”** According to Congress.gov, DeSantis voted in favor of H.R. 3003, the “No Sanctuary for Criminals Act,” which “expands the categories of offenses requiring mandatory detention during the pendency of removal proceedings to include an alien who: (1) is unlawfully present in the United States and has been convicted for driving while intoxicated, under the influence, or impaired by alcohol or drugs, without regard to whether the conviction is classified as a misdemeanor or felony under state law; and (2) is inadmissible for illegal entry or deportable by reason of visa revocation or violation of nonimmigrant status and who has been arrested or charged with a particularly serious crime or a crime resulting in the death or serious bodily injury of another person. An alien subject to mandatory detention may not be released on bond. The bill limits DOJ's review of DHS custody determinations for aliens who are in exclusion hearings, or who are excludable or deportable on security grounds or other specified grounds, to issues of whether such aliens may be detained or released with or without bond.” [H.R. 3003, Vote #342, [6/29/17](#); Congress.gov, accessed [4/21/23](#)]

### ***DeSantis Voted For H.R. 3697, The Criminal Alien Gang Member Removal Act***

**September 2017: DeSantis Voted In Favor OF H.R. 3697, The “Criminal Alien Gang Member Removal Act,” Which Made An Alien Inadmissible If A Consular Officer, DHS, Or The DOJ Had Reason To Believe The Alien “Has Been A Member Of A Criminal Gang Or Has Participated In Criminal Gang Activities.”** According to Congress.gov, DeSantis voted in favor of H.R. 3697, the “Criminal Alien Gang Member Removal Act,” which “amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to make an alien: (1) inadmissible if a consular officer, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), or the Department of Justice (DOJ) knows or has reason to believe that such person is or has been a member of a criminal gang or has participated in criminal gang activities; and (2) deportable if such person is or has been a member of a criminal gang, or has participated in criminal gang activities knowing that such activities will promote illegal activity. A ‘criminal gang’ is defined as an ongoing group, club, organization, or association of five or more persons: (1) one of the primary purposes of which is the commission of specified criminal offenses and the members of which engage, or have engaged within the past five years, in a continuing series of such offenses; or (2) that has been designated as a criminal gang by DHS. Such offenses include: (1) felony drug offenses, (2) bringing in and harboring certain aliens, (3) assisting certain aliens to enter the United States, (4) importing aliens for immoral purposes, (5) crimes of violence, (6) obstruction of justice or witness tampering, (7) identification document fraud, (8) slavery and trafficking in persons, (9) money laundering, and (10) interstate or foreign travel in connection with a racketeering enterprise.” The bill passed the House on a vote of 233-175. It did not become law. [H.R. 3697, Vote #517, [9/14/17](#); Congress.gov, accessed [4/21/23](#)]

- **H.R. 3697 Would Make An “Alien” Deportable “If Such Person Is Or Has Been A Member Of A Criminal Gang, Or Has Participated In Criminal Gang Activities Knowing That Such Activities Will Promote Illegal Activity.”** According to Congress.gov, DeSantis voted in favor of H.R. 3697, the “Criminal Alien Gang Member Removal Act,” which “amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to make an alien: (1) inadmissible if a consular officer, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), or the Department of Justice (DOJ) knows or has reason to believe that such person is or has been a member of a criminal gang or has participated in criminal gang activities; and (2) deportable if such person is or has been a member of a criminal gang, or has participated in criminal gang activities knowing that such activities will promote illegal activity.” The bill passed the House on a vote of 233-175. It did not become law. [H.R. 3697, Vote #517, [9/14/17](#); Congress.gov, accessed [4/21/23](#)]

## **Rep. DeSantis Supported Legislation To Restrict Refugee Resettlement**

### ***DeSantis Cosponsored H.R. 3314, The Resettlement Accountability National Security Act Of 2015***

**July 2015: DeSantis Cosponsored H.R. 3314, The “Resettlement Accountability National Security Act Of 2015,” Which “Prohibits The Admission Of Refugees Into The United States Until Congress Passes A Joint Resolution Giving The Department Of Homeland Security Authority To Resume Admitting Refugees.”**

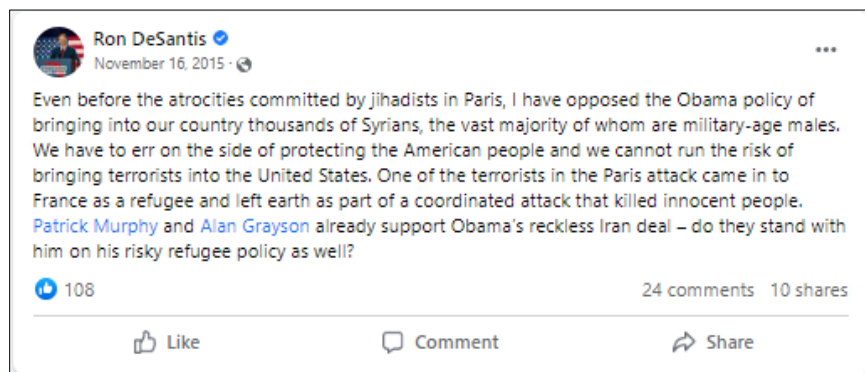
According to Congress.gov, DeSantis cosponsored H.R. 3314, the Resettlement Accountability National Security Act of 2015, which “prohibits the admission of refugees into the United States until Congress passes a joint resolution giving the Department of Homeland Security authority to resume admitting refugees. Requires the Government Accountability Office to report to Congress on refugees who received benefits under any of the following programs: Medicare, Medicaid, disability insurance under title II of the Social Security Act, the supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP, formerly the food stamp program), and section 8 rental assistance.” The bill did not receive a vote. [Congress.gov, H.R. 3314, introduced [7/29/15](#)]

- **H.R. 3314 “Requires The Government Accountability Office To Report To Congress On Refugees Who Received Benefits” Including Medicare, Medicaid, Disability Insurance, SNAP And Section 8 Rental Assistance.** According to Congress.gov, “Cosponsor [...] Rep. DeSantis, Ron [R-FL-6] [...] Introduced in House (07/29/2015) Resettlement Accountability National Security Act of 2015 This bill prohibits the admission of refugees into the United States until Congress passes a joint resolution giving the Department of Homeland Security authority to resume admitting refugees. Requires the Government Accountability Office to report to Congress on refugees who received benefits under any of the following programs: Medicare, Medicaid, disability insurance under title II of the Social Security Act, the supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP, formerly the food stamp program), and section 8 rental assistance.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 3314, introduced [7/29/15](#)]

### ***November 2015: DeSantis Expressed Opposition To “The Obama Policy Of Bringing Into Our Country Thousands Of Syrians, The Vast Majority Of Whom Are Military-Age Males”***

**November 2015: DeSantis Posted, “Even Before The Atrocities Committed By Jihadists In Paris, I Have Opposed The Obama Policy Of Bringing Into Our Country Thousands Of Syrians, The Vast Majority Of Whom Are Military-Age Males.”** According to a Facebook post from Ron DeSantis, “Even before the atrocities committed by jihadists in Paris, I have opposed the Obama policy of bringing into our country thousands of Syrians, the vast majority of whom are military-age males. We have to err on the side of protecting the American people and we cannot run the risk of bringing terrorists into the United States. One of the terrorists in the Paris attack came in to France as a refugee and left earth as part of a coordinated attack that killed innocent people. Patrick Murphy and Alan Grayson already support Obama’s reckless Iran deal – do they stand with him on his risky refugee policy as well?” [Facebook, Ron DeSantis, [11/16/15](#)]

- **We Have To Err On The Side Of Protecting The American People And We Cannot Run The Risk Of Bringing Terrorists Into The United States.** According to a Facebook post from Ron DeSantis, “Even before the atrocities committed by jihadists in Paris, I have opposed the Obama policy of bringing into our country thousands of Syrians, the vast majority of whom are military-age males. We have to err on the side of protecting the American people and we cannot run the risk of bringing terrorists into the United States. One of the terrorists in the Paris attack came in to France as a refugee and left earth as part of a coordinated attack that killed innocent people. Patrick Murphy and Alan Grayson already support Obama’s reckless Iran deal – do they stand with him on his risky refugee policy as well?” [Facebook, Ron DeSantis, [11/16/15](#)]



[Facebook, Ron DeSantis, [11/16/15](#)]

**November 2015: DeSantis Tweeted, “Do You Trust President Obama To Vet The Syrian Refugees He Wants To Bring To Florida?”** According to a Twitter post from Ron DeSantis, “Do you trust President Obama to vet the Syrian refugees he wants to bring to Florida? <http://bit.ly/1SqjyV>” [Twitter, @RonDeSantisFL, [11/21/15](#)]



[Twitter, @RonDeSantisFL, [11/21/15](#)]

### ***DeSantis Voted For H.R. 4038, The American Security Against Foreign Enemies Act Of 2015***

**November 2015: DeSantis Voted In Favor Of H.R. 4038, The “American Security Against Foreign Enemies Act Of 2015.”** According to Congress.gov, DeSantis voted in favor of H.R. 4038, the “American Security Against Foreign Enemies Act of 2015,” which “requires that, in addition to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) screening, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) shall take all actions necessary to ensure that each covered alien receives a background investigation before U.S. refugee admission.” A “covered alien” was defined as “any alien applying for U.S. refugee admission who: is a national or resident of Iraq or Syria, has no nationality and whose last habitual residence was in Iraq or Syria, or has been present in Iraq or Syria at any time on or after March 1, 2011.” The bill passed the House on a vote of 289-137. It did not become law. [H.R. 4038, Vote #643, [11/19/15](#); Congress.gov, accessed [4/20/23](#)]

- **H.R. 4038 Ordered That “The Federal Bureau Of Investigation (FBI) Shall Take All Actions Necessary To Ensure That Each Covered Alien Receives A Background Investigation Before U.S. Refugee**

**Admission.”** According to Congress.gov, DeSantis voted in favor of H.R. 4038, the “American Security Against Foreign Enemies Act of 2015 or the American SAFE Act of 2015 (Sec. 2) This bill requires that, in addition to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) screening, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) shall take all actions necessary to ensure that each covered alien receives a background investigation before U.S. refugee admission. A ‘covered alien’ is any alien applying for U.S. refugee admission who: is a national or resident of Iraq or Syria, has no nationality and whose last habitual residence was in Iraq or Syria, or has been present in Iraq or Syria at any time on or after March 1, 2011. A covered alien: may not be admitted as a refugee until the FBI certifies to DHS and the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) that he or she has received a background investigation sufficient to determine whether the alien is a U.S. security threat; and may only be admitted to the United States after DHS, with the unanimous concurrence of the FBI and the DNI, certifies to Congress that he or she is not such a threat.” [H.R. 4038, Vote #643, [11/19/15](#); Congress.gov, accessed [4/20/23](#)]

- **H.R. 4038 Defined A “Covered Alien” As An Individual Who Was “A National Or Resident Of Iraq Or Syria, Has No Nationality And Whose Last Habitual Residence Was In Iraq Or Syria, Or Has Been Present In Iraq Or Syria At Any Time On Or After March 1, 2011.”** According to Congress.gov, DeSantis voted in favor of H.R. 4038, the “American Security Against Foreign Enemies Act of 2015 or the American SAFE Act of 2015 (Sec. 2) This bill requires that, in addition to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) screening, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) shall take all actions necessary to ensure that each covered alien receives a background investigation before U.S. refugee admission. A ‘covered alien’ is any alien applying for U.S. refugee admission who: is a national or resident of Iraq or Syria, has no nationality and whose last habitual residence was in Iraq or Syria, or has been present in Iraq or Syria at any time on or after March 1, 2011. A covered alien: may not be admitted as a refugee until the FBI certifies to DHS and the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) that he or she has received a background investigation sufficient to determine whether the alien is a U.S. security threat; and may only be admitted to the United States after DHS, with the unanimous concurrence of the FBI and the DNI, certifies to Congress that he or she is not such a threat.” [H.R. 4038, Vote #643, [11/19/15](#); Congress.gov, accessed [4/20/23](#)]
- **H.R. 4038 Stipulated That A Covered Alien “May Not Be Admitted As A Refugee Until The FBI Certifies To DHS And The Director Of National Intelligence (DNI) That He Or She Has Received A Background Investigation Sufficient To Determine Whether The Alien Is A U.S. Security Threat.”** According to Congress.gov, DeSantis voted in favor of H.R. 4038, the “American Security Against Foreign Enemies Act of 2015 or the American SAFE Act of 2015 (Sec. 2) This bill requires that, in addition to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) screening, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) shall take all actions necessary to ensure that each covered alien receives a background investigation before U.S. refugee admission. A ‘covered alien’ is any alien applying for U.S. refugee admission who: is a national or resident of Iraq or Syria, has no nationality and whose last habitual residence was in Iraq or Syria, or has been present in Iraq or Syria at any time on or after March 1, 2011. A covered alien: may not be admitted as a refugee until the FBI certifies to DHS and the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) that he or she has received a background investigation sufficient to determine whether the alien is a U.S. security threat; and may only be admitted to the United States after DHS, with the unanimous concurrence of the FBI and the DNI, certifies to Congress that he or she is not such a threat.” [H.R. 4038, Vote #643, [11/19/15](#); Congress.gov, accessed [4/20/23](#)]
- **H.R. 4038 Required The DHS TO “Report Monthly To Congress On The Total Number Of Admission Applications For Which A Certification Was Made And The Number Of Covered Aliens For Whom Such A Certification Was Not Made For The Preceding Month.”** According to Congress.gov, DeSantis voted in favor of H.R. 4038, the “American Security Against Foreign Enemies Act of 2015 or the American SAFE Act of 2015 (Sec. 2) This bill requires that, in addition to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) screening, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) shall take all actions necessary to ensure that each covered alien receives a background investigation before U.S. refugee admission. [...] The Inspector General of DHS shall conduct annual risk-based reviews of all certifications. DHS shall report monthly to Congress on the total number of admission applications for which a certification was made and the number of covered aliens for whom such a certification was not made for the preceding month. The report shall include for each covered alien for whom a certification was not made the concurrence or nonconcurrence of each person whose

concurrence was required by the certification.” [H.R. 4038, Vote #643, [11/19/15](#); Congress.gov, accessed [4/20/23](#)]

***December 2015: DeSantis Introduced The Terrorist Refugee Infiltration Prevention Act, Which Would Prohibit Refugees From “Countries That Have Significant Territory Controlled By An Organization Designate By The State Department To Be A Foreign Terrorist Organization”***

**December 2015: DeSantis Sponsored H.R. 4143, The Terrorist Refugee Infiltration Prevention Act Of 2015, Which “Prohibits The U.S. Refugee Admission Of An Alien Who Is A National Of, Has Habitually Resided In, Or Is Claiming Refugee Status Due To Events In Any Country Containing Terrorist-Controlled Territory.”** According to Congress.gov, DeSantis sponsored H.R. 4143, the Terrorist Refugee Infiltration Prevention Act of 2015, which “prohibits the U.S. refugee admission of an alien who is a national of, has habitually resided in, or is claiming refugee status due to events in any country containing terrorist-controlled territory (Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Syria, Yemen, and any other Department of State-designated country). Such an alien may be admitted to the United States as a refugee if the alien: satisfies refugee admission requirements; is a member of a group designated by the State Department or by an Act of Congress as a victim of genocide (and the group does not pose a risk to U.S. security); has undergone the highest level of security screening of any category of traveler to the United States, including full multi-modal biometrics; and the State Department, the Department of Defense (DOD), the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) certify that such alien is not a threat to U.S. national security.” The bill did not receive a vote. [Congress.gov, H.R. 4143, introduced [12/1/15](#)]

**December 2015: DeSantis Introduced The Terrorist Refugee Infiltration Prevention Act, Which Would Prohibit Refugees From “Countries That Have Significant Territory Controlled By An Organization Designate By The State Department To Be A Foreign Terrorist Organization.”** According to a press release from Rep. Ron DeSantis, “Rep. Ron DeSantis (FL-06) today introduced the Terrorist Refugee Infiltration Prevention Act in order to strengthen national security and ensure that terrorists cannot exploit the United States’ refugee resettlement program. [...] This legislation prohibits refugees from countries that have significant territory controlled by an organization designated by the State Department to be a Foreign Terrorist Organization. [...] ‘Congress must take action to secure any vulnerabilities within our refugee resettlement program that terrorists could exploit to harm the American people,’ DeSantis said. ‘Government officials such as the FBI Director acknowledge that they cannot adequately screen refugees from terrorist havens such as Syria and bad actors such as ISIS have already stated their intent to use these programs to infiltrate the United States. The first duty of the United States government is to protect the American people.’ The Terrorist Refugee Infiltration Prevention Act allows for refugees from identified high-risk countries to be admitted under a narrow exception: prospective refugees must prove ‘clearly and beyond doubt’ that they satisfy the requirements for refugee status and are a member of a group that has been designated as a victim of genocide.” [Rep. Ron DeSantis, Press Release, 12/1/15]

- **Identified “High-Risk” Countries Included Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Syria, And Yemen.** According to a press release from Rep. Ron DeSantis, “Rep. Ron DeSantis (FL-06) today introduced the Terrorist Refugee Infiltration Prevention Act in order to strengthen national security and ensure that terrorists cannot exploit the United States’ refugee resettlement program. [...] This legislation prohibits refugees from countries that have significant territory controlled by an organization designated by the State Department to be a Foreign Terrorist Organization. The bill specifically names Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Syria, and Yemen as countries containing terrorist-controlled territory while also giving the State Department authority to identify and designate additional countries.” [Rep. Ron DeSantis, Press Release, 12/1/15]
- **DeSantis’s Bill Would Allow For Narrow Exceptions For Refugees Who Could Prove “‘Clearly And Beyond Doubt’ That They Satisfy The Requirements For Refugee Status And Are A Member Of A Group That Has Been Designated As A Victim Of Genocide.”** According to a press release from Rep. Ron DeSantis, “Rep. Ron DeSantis (FL-06) today introduced the Terrorist Refugee Infiltration Prevention Act in

order to strengthen national security and ensure that terrorists cannot exploit the United States' refugee resettlement program. [...] This legislation prohibits refugees from countries that have significant territory controlled by an organization designated by the State Department to be a Foreign Terrorist Organization. [...] 'Congress must take action to secure any vulnerabilities within our refugee resettlement program that terrorists could exploit to harm the American people,' DeSantis said. 'Government officials such as the FBI Director acknowledge that they cannot adequately screen refugees from terrorist havens such as Syria and bad actors such as ISIS have already stated their intent to use these programs to infiltrate the United States. The first duty of the United States government is to protect the American people.' The Terrorist Refugee Infiltration Prevention Act allows for refugees from identified high-risk countries to be admitted under a narrow exception: prospective refugees must prove 'clearly and beyond doubt' that they satisfy the requirements for refugee status and are a member of a group that has been designated as a victim of genocide." [Rep. Ron DeSantis, Press Release, 12/1/15]

- **DeSantis: "Congress Must Take Action To Secure Any Vulnerabilities Within Our Refugee Resettlement Program That Terrorists Could Exploit To Harm The American People. [...] The First Duty Of The United States Government Is To Protect The American People."** According to a press release from Rep. Ron DeSantis, "Rep. Ron DeSantis (FL-06) today introduced the Terrorist Refugee Infiltration Prevention Act in order to strengthen national security and ensure that terrorists cannot exploit the United States' refugee resettlement program. [...] This legislation prohibits refugees from countries that have significant territory controlled by an organization designated by the State Department to be a Foreign Terrorist Organization. [...] 'Congress must take action to secure any vulnerabilities within our refugee resettlement program that terrorists could exploit to harm the American people,' DeSantis said. 'Government officials such as the FBI Director acknowledge that they cannot adequately screen refugees from terrorist havens such as Syria and bad actors such as ISIS have already stated their intent to use these programs to infiltrate the United States. The first duty of the United States government is to protect the American people.' The Terrorist Refugee Infiltration Prevention Act allows for refugees from identified high-risk countries to be admitted under a narrow exception: prospective refugees must prove 'clearly and beyond doubt' that they satisfy the requirements for refugee status and are a member of a group that has been designated as a victim of genocide." [Rep. Ron DeSantis, Press Release, 12/1/15]

### ***February 2016: DeSantis Tweeted, "Without A Proper Vetting Process, We Should Not Allow Any Syrian Refugees Into The US"***

**February 2016: DeSantis Tweeted, "Without A Proper Vetting Process, We Should Not Allow Any Syrian Refugees Into The US."** According to a Twitter post from Ron DeSantis, "Without a proper vetting process, we should not allow any Syrian refugees into the US. Sign here if you agree: <http://desantis2016.com/landing/keep-america-safe/>" [Twitter, @RonDeSantisFL, 2/8/16]



[Twitter, @RonDeSantisFL, 2/8/16]

### ***January 2017: DeSantis Stated That The U.S. Needed Time To Develop "Adequate Vetting... Especially When Foreigners Seek To Come To The United States From Nations That Sponsor Terrorism Or Are Hotbeds Of Islamic Radicalism"***

**January 2017: DeSantis Stated That The U.S. Needed Time To Develop "Adequate Vetting... Especially**

**When Foreigners Seek To Come To The United States From Nations That Sponsor Terrorism Or Are Hotbeds Of Islamic Radicalism.”** According to a Facebook post from Ron DeSantis, “Defending the American people against the threat of radical Islamic terrorism is a central responsibility of the federal government and it is clear that our national policies need to be reformed to better discharge this duty. Recently, we have seen terrorist attacks perpetrated by refugees from Somalia (at Ohio State and in St. Cloud, MN, respectively) and witnessed the conviction of an Iraqi refugee, Omar Faraj Saeed Al Hardan, for attempting to bomb shopping malls in Houston, TX. It is incumbent upon the federal government to undertake adequate vetting so that those who seek to do Americans harm are not permitted to enter the United States, especially when foreigners seek to come to the United States from nations that sponsor terrorism or are hotbeds of Islamic radicalism. President Trump is right to be concerned about this and I hope that, during the 90 day period outlined in the President’s executive order, the administration develops policies that will better protect the American people from this potent threat.” [Facebook, Governor Ron DeSantis, [1/30/17](#)]

- **DeSantis Pointed To “Terrorist Attacks Perpetrated By Refugees From Somalia” And An Attempted Attack By An Iraqi Refugee As Evidence That “President Trump Is Right To Be Concerned” About Refugees From “Nations That Sponsor Terrorism Or Are Hotbeds Of Islamic Radicalism.”** According to a Facebook post from Ron DeSantis, “Defending the American people against the threat of radical Islamic terrorism is a central responsibility of the federal government and it is clear that our national policies need to be reformed to better discharge this duty. Recently, we have seen terrorist attacks perpetrated by refugees from Somalia (at Ohio State and in St. Cloud, MN, respectively) and witnessed the conviction of an Iraqi refugee, Omar Faraj Saeed Al Hardan, for attempting to bomb shopping malls in Houston, TX. It is incumbent upon the federal government to undertake adequate vetting so that those who seek to do Americans harm are not permitted to enter the United States, especially when foreigners seek to come to the United States from nations that sponsor terrorism or are hotbeds of Islamic radicalism. President Trump is right to be concerned about this and I hope that, during the 90 day period outlined in the President’s executive order, the administration develops policies that will better protect the American people from this potent threat.” [Facebook, Governor Ron DeSantis, [1/30/17](#)]



[Facebook, Governor Ron DeSantis, [1/30/17](#)]

### ***DeSantis Cosponsored H.R. 4247, The Cuban Immigrant Work Opportunity Act Of 2015, To Stop Treating All Cuban Arrivals As Refugees Or Political Asylees***

**December 2015: DeSantis Cosponsored H.R. 4247, The “Cuban Immigrant Work Opportunity Act Of 2015,” Which “Makes Cuban Nationals Who Enter The United States On Or After The Date Of Enactment Of This Act Ineligible For Refugee/Parolee Assistance Under The Refugee Education Assistance Act Of 1980.”** According to Congress.gov, DeSantis cosponsored H.R. 4247, the Cuban Immigrant Work Opportunity Act of



2015, which “makes Cuban nationals who enter the United States on or after the date of enactment of this Act ineligible for refugee/parolee assistance under the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980. Conforming amendments are made to the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 and the Immigration and Nationality Act. The Inspector General of the Social Security Administration shall report to Congress describing methods for enforcing the loss of Supplemental Security Income eligibility by persons who are absent from the United States for at least one month.” The bill did not receive a vote. [Congress.gov, H.R. 4247, introduced [12/15/15](#)]

**Representative Curbelo, Who Authored H.R. 4247, Said That The Bill Would Amend Existing Federal Law That Treated All Cuban Arrivals As Refugees Or Political Asylees And Instead Treat Cubans Like All Other Immigrants, Who Were Required To File A Refugee Or Asylum Claim.** The Miami Herald reported, “Citing flagrant abuse of government funds, a Miami congressman published legislation Tuesday to stop automatically granting Cubans in the U.S. welfare benefits that take most immigrants of other nationalities years to obtain. Republican Rep. Carlos Curbelo, himself a Cuban American, filed a bill to amend existing federal law that treats all Cuban arrivals as refugees or political asylees—meaning they are entitled to food stamps, Medicaid, disability insurance and other assistance. Under his proposal, which Curbelo cast as a matter of fairness, Cubans would be treated like immigrants from most other countries, who are required to file a refugee or asylum claim—and wait years for it to be approved—before qualifying for special benefits. Only Haitian immigrants, already treated like Cubans under the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980, would continue to be exempted upon legal arrival in the U.S. [...] Curbelo acknowledged his legislation, HR 4247, dubbed the ‘Cuban Immigrant Work Opportunity Act of 2015,’ is a ‘first step’ toward rewriting U.S.-Cuba immigration policy, which would eventually involve tackling the CAA. The freshman congressman has separately been working for months on legislation to crack down on so-called economic refugees from Cuba who claim U.S. residency, established for victims of political persecution, only to travel to the island before becoming U.S. citizens.” [Miami Herald, 12/15/15]

## **DeSantis Opposed President Obama’s Orders To Defer Deportation For Certain Undocumented Immigrants, Calling Obama’s Action An “Unconstitutional Executive Amnesty Decree”**

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### ***In June 2012, Obama Established DACA To Protect Undocumented Immigrants Who Were Brought To The U.S. As Children***

**DACA Was Established Via An Executive Order In June 2012 To Protect Undocumented Immigrants Brought To The U.S. As Children From Removal Proceedings And To Grant Authorization For Those Immigrants To Work.** According to KFF, “DACA was originally established under a Presidential Executive Order in June 2012 to protect certain undocumented immigrants who were brought to the U.S. as children from removal proceedings and receive authorization to work for renewable two-year periods. To be eligible, individuals must have arrived in the U.S. prior to turning 16 and before June 15, 2007; be under the age of 31 as of June 15, 2012 (i.e., under age 41 as of 2022); be currently enrolled in school, have completed high school or its equivalent or be a veteran; and have no lawful status as of June 15, 2012. The program has enabled over 900,000 immigrants to stay in the U.S., go to school, and contribute to the economy through employment.” [KFF, accessed [4/19/23](#)]

### ***In November 2014, Obama Issued Executive Actions To Offer Legal Reprieve To The Undocumented Parents Of U.S. Citizens And Expand The 2012 Deferred Action For Childhood Arrivals Program To Include Immigrants Older Than 30***

**November 2014: Obama Issued Executive Actions To Offer Legal Reprieve To The Undocumented Parents Of U.S. Citizens And Expand The 2012 Deferred Action For Childhood Arrivals Program To Include Immigrants Older Than 30.** The Washington Post reported, “What will Obama’s executive action do? The executive action will have two key components: It would offer a legal reprieve to the undocumented parents of U.S. citizens and permanent residents who’ve resided in the country for at least five years. This would remove the constant threat of deportation. Many could also receive work permits. It would expand the 2012 Deferred Action

for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program that allowed young immigrants, under 30 years old, who arrived as children to apply for a deportation deferral and who are now here legally. Immigrants older than 30 now qualify, as do more recent arrivals.” [Washington Post, 11/20/14]

## ***DeSantis Criticized President Obama’s “Unconstitutional Executive Amnesty”***

**November 2014: DeSantis Criticized “President Barack Obama’s Announced Plans To Unilaterally Expand Deferred Action For Illegal Immigrants,” Calling The Program “The President’s Illegal Executive Amnesty.”** According to a press release from Rep. Ron DeSantis, “St. Augustine, FL - Rep. Ron DeSantis (FL-06) issued the following statement in response to President Barack Obama’s announced plans to unilaterally expand deferred action for illegal immigrants: ‘The President cannot change the law by fiat. Obama’s edict usurps the legislative power of Congress, damages our constitutional system, and creates a precedent that will likely lead to the further erosion of our liberty. [...] The President’s illegal executive amnesty is bigger than the 1986 amnesty which was actually passed by Congress and signed by President Reagan. Obama’s arrogance and contempt for the people are breathtaking. And make no mistake, by issuing work permits to illegal immigrants, the President’s edict will have serious policy consequences: it will fuel more illegal immigration, thereby exacerbating the problem, will further disadvantage legal immigrants and U.S. citizens seeking to utilize our immigration system in accordance with the laws of our land, and will put a downward pressure on the wages of American blue collar workers.’” [Rep. Ron DeSantis, Press Release, 11/21/14]

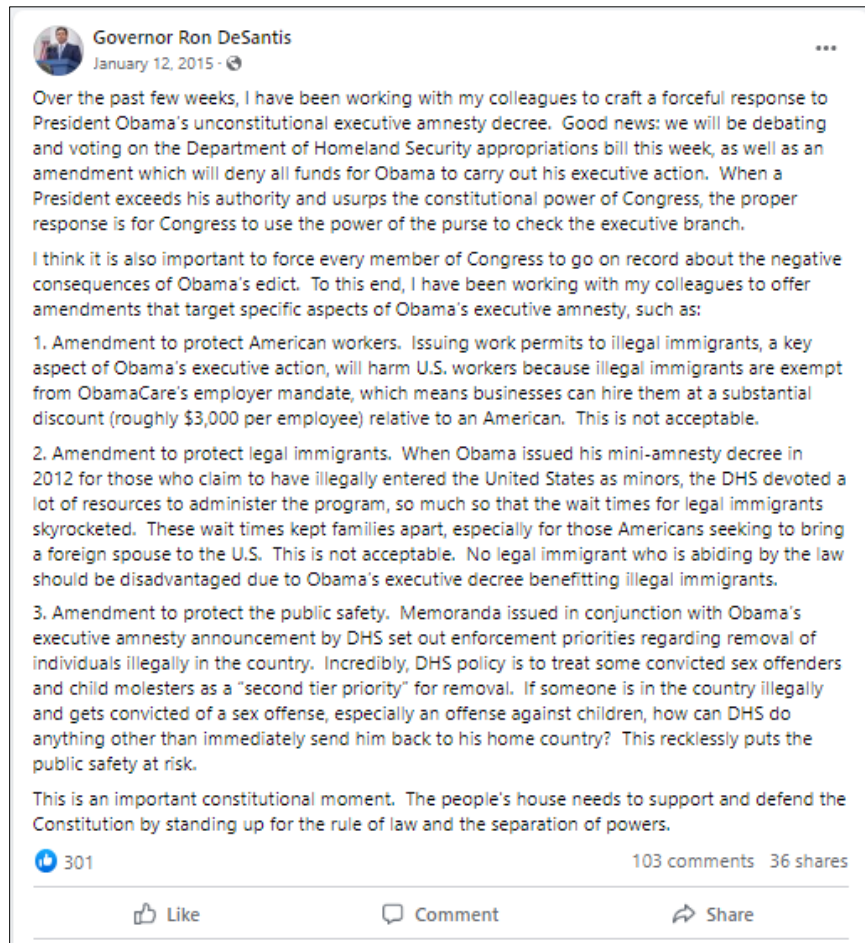
- **DeSantis Issued A Press Release Claiming That President Obama’s Executive Order Allowing Undocumented Immigrants To Get Work Permits Would “Fuel More Illegal Immigration” And “Further Disadvantage” Immigrants Using Legal Channels.** According to a press release from Rep. Ron DeSantis, “St. Augustine, FL - Rep. Ron DeSantis (FL-06) issued the following statement in response to President Barack Obama’s announced plans to unilaterally expand deferred action for illegal immigrants: ‘The President cannot change the law by fiat. Obama’s edict usurps the legislative power of Congress, damages our constitutional system, and creates a precedent that will likely lead to the further erosion of our liberty. [...] The President’s illegal executive amnesty is bigger than the 1986 amnesty which was actually passed by Congress and signed by President Reagan. Obama’s arrogance and contempt for the people are breathtaking. And make no mistake, by issuing work permits to illegal immigrants, the President’s edict will have serious policy consequences: it will fuel more illegal immigration, thereby exacerbating the problem, will further disadvantage legal immigrants and U.S. citizens seeking to utilize our immigration system in accordance with the laws of our land, and will put a downward pressure on the wages of American blue collar workers.’” [Rep. Ron DeSantis, Press Release, 11/21/14]
- **DeSantis Also Claimed That Allowing Undocumented Immigrants To Get Work Permits Would “Put A Downward Pressure On The Wages Of American Blue Collar Workers.”** According to a press release from Rep. Ron DeSantis, “St. Augustine, FL - Rep. Ron DeSantis (FL-06) issued the following statement in response to President Barack Obama’s announced plans to unilaterally expand deferred action for illegal immigrants: ‘The President cannot change the law by fiat. Obama’s edict usurps the legislative power of Congress, damages our constitutional system, and creates a precedent that will likely lead to the further erosion of our liberty. [...] The President’s illegal executive amnesty is bigger than the 1986 amnesty which was actually passed by Congress and signed by President Reagan. Obama’s arrogance and contempt for the people are breathtaking. And make no mistake, by issuing work permits to illegal immigrants, the President’s edict will have serious policy consequences: it will fuel more illegal immigration, thereby exacerbating the problem, will further disadvantage legal immigrants and U.S. citizens seeking to utilize our immigration system in accordance with the laws of our land, and will put a downward pressure on the wages of American blue collar workers.’” [Rep. Ron DeSantis, Press Release, 11/21/14]
- **DeSantis Discussed President Obama’s Expansion Of Deferred Action, Stating, “Obama’s Arrogance And Contempt For The People Are Breathtaking.”** According to a press release from Rep. Ron DeSantis, “St. Augustine, FL - Rep. Ron DeSantis (FL-06) issued the following statement in response to President Barack Obama’s announced plans to unilaterally expand deferred action for illegal immigrants: ‘The President cannot change the law by fiat. Obama’s edict usurps the legislative power of Congress, damages our constitutional

system, and creates a precedent that will likely lead to the further erosion of our liberty. [...] The President's illegal executive amnesty is bigger than the 1986 amnesty which was actually passed by Congress and signed by President Reagan. Obama's arrogance and contempt for the people are breathtaking. And make no mistake, by issuing work permits to illegal immigrants, the President's edict will have serious policy consequences: it will fuel more illegal immigration, thereby exacerbating the problem, will further disadvantage legal immigrants and U.S. citizens seeking to utilize our immigration system in accordance with the laws of our land, and will put a downward pressure on the wages of American blue collar workers." [Rep. Ron DeSantis, Press Release, 11/21/14]

**January 2015: DeSantis Expressed Opposition To "President Obama's Unconstitutional Executive Amnesty Decree" And Indicated That He Was Working With Colleagues In Congress To Nullify Obama's Policies Using Amendments To An Appropriations Bill.** According to a Facebook post from Ron DeSantis, "Over the past few weeks, I have been working with my colleagues to craft a forceful response to President Obama's unconstitutional executive amnesty decree. Good news: we will be debating and voting on the Department of Homeland Security appropriations bill this week, as well as an amendment which will deny all funds for Obama to carry out his executive action. [...] I think it is also important to force every member of Congress to go on record about the negative consequences of Obama's edict. To this end, I have been working with my colleagues to offer amendments that target specific aspects of Obama's executive amnesty...." [Facebook, Governor Ron DeSantis, [1/12/15](#)]

- **DeSantis Supported An "Amendment To Protect American Workers" To Address "Harm" Caused To American Workers By The Presence Of Undocumented Immigrants In The Labor Market, And He Stated That "Issuing Work Permits To Illegal Immigrants" Was "Not Acceptable."** According to a Facebook post from Ron DeSantis, "Over the past few weeks, I have been working with my colleagues to craft a forceful response to President Obama's unconstitutional executive amnesty decree. Good news: we will be debating and voting on the Department of Homeland Security appropriations bill this week, as well as an amendment which will deny all funds for Obama to carry out his executive action. [...] I think it is also important to force every member of Congress to go on record about the negative consequences of Obama's edict. To this end, I have been working with my colleagues to offer amendments that target specific aspects of Obama's executive amnesty, such as: 1. Amendment to protect American workers. Issuing work permits to illegal immigrants, a key aspect of Obama's executive action, will harm U.S. workers because illegal immigrants are exempt from ObamaCare's employer mandate, which means businesses can hire them at a substantial discount (roughly \$3,000 per employee) relative to an American. This is not acceptable." [Facebook, Governor Ron DeSantis, [1/12/15](#)]
- **DeSantis Supported An "Amendment To Protect Legal Immigrants" To Address Increases In Legal Immigration Wait Times He Claimed Were Due To DACA.** According to a Facebook post from Ron DeSantis, "Over the past few weeks, I have been working with my colleagues to craft a forceful response to President Obama's unconstitutional executive amnesty decree. Good news: we will be debating and voting on the Department of Homeland Security appropriations bill this week, as well as an amendment which will deny all funds for Obama to carry out his executive action. [...] I think it is also important to force every member of Congress to go on record about the negative consequences of Obama's edict. To this end, I have been working with my colleagues to offer amendments that target specific aspects of Obama's executive amnesty, such as: [...] 2. Amendment to protect legal immigrants. When Obama issued his mini-amnesty decree in 2012 for those who claim to have illegally entered the United States as minors, the DHS devoted a lot of resources to administer the program, so much so that the wait times for legal immigrants skyrocketed. These wait times kept families apart, especially for those Americans seeking to bring a foreign spouse to the U.S. This is not acceptable. No legal immigrant who is abiding by the law should be disadvantaged due to Obama's executive decree benefitting illegal immigrants." [Facebook, Governor Ron DeSantis, [1/12/15](#)]
- **DeSantis Supported An "Amendment To Protect The Public Safety" To Address DHS Immigration Enforcement Priorities, Claiming, "Incredibly, DHS Policy Is To Treat Some Convicted Sex Offenders And Child Molesters As A 'Second Tier Priority.'"** According to a Facebook post from Ron DeSantis, "Over the past few weeks, I have been working with my colleagues to craft a forceful response to President Obama's

unconstitutional executive amnesty decree. Good news: we will be debating and voting on the Department of Homeland Security appropriations bill this week, as well as an amendment which will deny all funds for Obama to carry out his executive action. [...] I think it is also important to force every member of Congress to go on record about the negative consequences of Obama’s edict. To this end, I have been working with my colleagues to offer amendments that target specific aspects of Obama’s executive amnesty, such as: [...] 3. Amendment to protect the public safety. Memoranda issued in conjunction with Obama’s executive amnesty announcement by DHS set out enforcement priorities regarding removal of individuals illegally in the country. Incredibly, DHS policy is to treat some convicted sex offenders and child molesters as a ‘second tier priority’ for removal. If someone is in the country illegally and gets convicted of a sex offense, especially an offense against children, how can DHS do anything other than immediately send him back to his home country? This recklessly puts the public safety at risk.” [Facebook, Governor Ron DeSantis, [1/12/15](#)]



[Facebook, Governor Ron DeSantis, [1/12/15](#)]

**November 2014: DeSantis Signed A Letter Encouraging The House Committee On Appropriations To Draft Spending Bills That Would Prohibit Funding For Policies To Create Work Permits And Green Cards For Undocumented Immigrants In The United States.** According to a Facebook post from Ron DeSantis, “I will be joining Neil Cavuto on Fox News at 4 PM to discuss a letter I signed encouraging the House Committee on Appropriations to ‘include language that would prohibit funding for the President’s reported intentions to create work permits and green cards for undocumented immigrants currently in the United States’ in the upcoming spending bills. Please tune in!” [Facebook, Governor Ron DeSantis, [11/17/14](#)]



[Facebook, Governor Ron DeSantis, [11/17/14](#)]

## ***DeSantis Voted In Favor Of H.R. 5272, “To Prohibit Certain Actions With Respect To Deferred Action For Aliens Not Lawfully Present In The United States, And For Other Purposes”***

**August 2014: DeSantis Voted In Favor Of H.R. 5272, “To Prohibit Certain Actions With Respect To Deferred Action For Aliens Not Lawfully Present In The United States, And For Other Purposes.”** According to Congress.gov, DeSantis voted in favor of H.R. 5272, “To prohibit certain actions with respect to deferred action for aliens not lawfully present in the United States, and for other purposes.” The bill “Prohibits a federal agency or instrumentality from using federal funding or resources after July 30, 2014, to: consider or adjudicate any new or previously denied application of any alien requesting consideration of deferred action for childhood arrivals, as authorized by Executive memorandum dated June 15, 2012, or by any other succeeding Executive memorandum or policy authorizing a similar program; newly authorize deferred action for any class of aliens not lawfully present in the United States; or authorize any alien to work in the United States who was not lawfully admitted into the United States and who is not in lawful U.S. status on the date of enactment of this Act.” The bill passed the House on a vote of 216-192. It did not become law. [H.R. 5272, Vote #479, [8/1/14](#); Congress.gov, accessed [4/21/23](#)]

- **The Bill Would Have Prohibited A Federal Agency “From Using Federal Funding Or Resources ... To: Consider Or Adjudicate Any New Or Previously Denied Application Of Any Alien Requesting Consideration Of Deferred Action For Childhood Arrivals.”** According to Congress.gov, DeSantis voted in favor of H.R. 5272, which “Prohibits a federal agency or instrumentality from using federal funding or resources after July 30, 2014, to: consider or adjudicate any new or previously denied application of any alien requesting consideration of deferred action for childhood arrivals, as authorized by Executive memorandum dated June 15, 2012, or by any other succeeding Executive memorandum or policy authorizing a similar program; newly authorize deferred action for any class of aliens not lawfully present in the United States; or authorize any alien to work in the United States who was not lawfully admitted into the United States and who is not in lawful U.S. status on the date of enactment of this Act.” [H.R. 5272, Vote #479, [8/1/14](#); Congress.gov, accessed [4/21/23](#)]
- **H.R. 5272 Would Have Prohibited A Federal Agency “From Using Federal Funding Or Resources ... To: ... Newly Authorize Deferred Action For Any Class Of Aliens Not Lawfully Present In The United States; Or Authorize Any Alien To Work In The United States Who Was Not Lawfully Admitted Into The United States...”** According to Congress.gov, DeSantis voted in favor of H.R. 5272, which “Prohibits a federal agency or instrumentality from using federal funding or resources after July 30, 2014, to: consider or adjudicate any new or previously denied application of any alien requesting consideration of deferred action for childhood arrivals, as authorized by Executive memorandum dated June 15, 2012, or by any other succeeding Executive memorandum or policy authorizing a similar program; newly authorize deferred action for any class of aliens not lawfully present in the United States; or authorize any alien to work in the United States who was not lawfully admitted into the United States and who is not in lawful U.S. status on the date of enactment of this Act.” [H.R. 5272, Vote #479, [8/1/14](#); Congress.gov, accessed [4/21/23](#)]

## ***DeSantis Voted In Favor Of H.R. 5759, The “Preventing Executive Overreach On Immigration Act of 2014”***

**December 2014: DeSantis Voted In Favor Of H.R. 5759, The “Preventing Executive Overreach On Immigration Act Of 2014,” Which Prohibited The Executive Branch From “Exempting Or Deferring From Removal ... Aliens Considered Under The Immigration Laws To Be Unlawfully Present In The United States.”** According to Congress.gov, DeSantis voted in favor of H.R. 5759, the “Preventing Executive Overreach on Immigration Act of 2014,” which, “Prohibits the executive branch of the government from: exempting or deferring from removal, by executive order, regulation, or any other means, categories of aliens considered under the immigration laws to be unlawfully present in the United States; treating such aliens as if they were lawfully present or had a lawful immigration status; or treating them other than as unauthorized aliens. States that such prohibition shall not apply: to the extent prohibited by the Constitution; upon the request of federal, state, or local law enforcement agencies for purposes of maintaining aliens in the United States to be tried for crimes or to be trial witnesses; or for humanitarian purposes where the aliens are at imminent risk of serious bodily harm or death. Declares that any executive branch action intending to circumvent the objectives of this Act shall be null and void and without legal effect. States that this Act shall take effect as if enacted on November 20, 2014, and shall apply to requests (whether the request is original or for reopening of a previously denied request) submitted on or after that date for: (1) work authorization; or (2) exemption from, or deferral of, removal.” The bill passed the House on a vote of 219-197. It did not become law. [H.R. 5759, Vote #550, [12/4/14](#); Congress.gov, accessed [4/21/23](#)]

- **H.R. 5759 Would Have Prohibited The Executive Branch From “Treating Such Aliens As If They Were Lawfully Present Or Had A Lawful Immigration Status; Or Treating Them Other Than As Unauthorized Aliens.”** According to Congress.gov, DeSantis voted in favor of H.R. 5759, the “Preventing Executive Overreach on Immigration Act of 2014,” which, “Prohibits the executive branch of the government from: exempting or deferring from removal, by executive order, regulation, or any other means, categories of aliens considered under the immigration laws to be unlawfully present in the United States; treating such aliens as if they were lawfully present or had a lawful immigration status; or treating them other than as unauthorized aliens. States that such prohibition shall not apply: to the extent prohibited by the Constitution; upon the request of federal, state, or local law enforcement agencies for purposes of maintaining aliens in the United States to be tried for crimes or to be trial witnesses; or for humanitarian purposes where the aliens are at imminent risk of serious bodily harm or death. Declares that any executive branch action intending to circumvent the objectives of this Act shall be null and void and without legal effect. States that this Act shall take effect as if enacted on November 20, 2014, and shall apply to requests (whether the request is original or for reopening of a previously denied request) submitted on or after that date for: (1) work authorization; or (2) exemption from, or deferral of, removal.” [H.R. 5759, Vote #550, [12/4/14](#); Congress.gov, accessed [4/21/23](#)]

## ***DeSantis Sought To Prevent Undocumented Immigrants From Claiming Certain Tax Credits And Tuition Benefits***

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### ***DeSantis Called For Taxpayers To Provide A Valid Social Security Number In Order To Be Eligible For Refunds Under The Child Tax Credit***

**January 2014: DeSantis Proposed Requiring A Social Security Number For Child Tax Credits, Stating, “This Loophole Allows Individuals, Some Of Whom Are In The Country Illegally, To Fraudulently Claim Child Tax Credits.”** According to a press release from Rep. Ron DeSantis, “The Ryan-Murray budget deal contained a provision to reduce the cost-of-living increases for military pensions for retired military personnel under the age of 62. Military retirees are essentially the only group affected by the budget; the changes to federal civilian retirement programs only applied to federal civilian employees not yet hired. [...] There are much better ways to save money. I am cosponsoring H.R. 3788, which will repeal the changes to military retirement programs and replace those changes with a requirement that taxpayers provide a valid Social Security number in order to be eligible for tax refunds under the child tax credit. This loophole allows individuals, some of whom are in the country illegally, to fraudulently claim child tax credits. This reform will save roughly \$7 billion over 10 years, which is more than the changes to military pensions are forecasted to save over the same time. Shouldn’t we take

this sensible step to stop fraud and abuse in the federal government before fiddling with the pensions of military retirees?” [Rep. Ron DeSantis, Press Release, 1/8/14]

- **DeSantis Linked Closing This “Loophole” To Making Room In The Budget To Reverse Reductions In Cost-Of-Living Adjustments To Military Pensions.** According to a press release from Rep. Ron DeSantis, “The Ryan-Murray budget deal contained a provision to reduce the cost-of-living increases for military pensions for retired military personnel under the age of 62. Military retirees are essentially the only group affected by the budget; the changes to federal civilian retirement programs only applied to federal civilian employees not yet hired. [...] There are much better ways to save money. I am cosponsoring H.R. 3788, which will repeal the changes to military retirement programs and replace those changes with a requirement that taxpayers provide a valid Social Security number in order to be eligible for tax refunds under the child tax credit. This loophole allows individuals, some of whom are in the country illegally, to fraudulently claim child tax credits. This reform will save roughly \$7 billion over 10 years, which is more than the changes to military pensions are forecasted to save over the same time. Shouldn’t we take this sensible step to stop fraud and abuse in the federal government before fiddling with the pensions of military retirees?” [Rep. Ron DeSantis, Press Release, 1/8/14]

### ***DeSantis Voted For H.R. 2581, The Verify First Act***

**June 2017: DeSantis Voted In Favor Of H.R. 2581, The “Verify First Act,” Which Would Have Amended The IRS Code To Prohibit Premium Assistance Tax Credit Advance Payments To An Individual “Without A Verified Status As A Citizen Or National Of The United States Or An Alien Lawfully Present In The United States.”** According to Congress.gov, DeSantis voted in favor of H.R. 2581, the “Verify First Act,” which, “amends the Internal Revenue Code to prohibit advance payments of the premium assistance tax credit from being made to an individual unless the Department of the Treasury has received confirmation from the Department of Health and Human Services that the Social Security Administration or the Department of Homeland Security has verified the individual’s status as a citizen or national of the United States or an alien lawfully present in the United States. The verification process must include the appropriate use of information related to citizenship or immigration status, such as Social Security numbers (but not individual taxpayer identification numbers). The bill also amends the Public Health Service Act and the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to permit adjustments to certain health insurance coverage dates for an individual whose eligibility for advance payments is delayed due to the verification requirements. The bill is contingent on the enactment of the American Health Care Act of 2017 (AHCA). If the AHCA is enacted, the bill applies to: (1) the existing tax credit after December 31, 2017; and (2) the tax credit, as modified by the AHCA, after December 31, 2019.” The bill passed the House on a vote of 238-184. It did not become law. [H.R. 2581, Vote #306, [6/13/17](#); Congress.gov, accessed [4/21/23](#)]

- **H.R. 2581 Would Have Required That The Verification Process For Individuals “Must Include The Appropriate Use Of Information Related To Citizenship Or Immigration Status, Such As Social Security Numbers.”** According to Congress.gov, DeSantis voted in favor of H.R. 2581, the “Verify First Act,” which, “amends the Internal Revenue Code to prohibit advance payments of the premium assistance tax credit from being made to an individual unless the Department of the Treasury has received confirmation from the Department of Health and Human Services that the Social Security Administration or the Department of Homeland Security has verified the individual’s status as a citizen or national of the United States or an alien lawfully present in the United States. The verification process must include the appropriate use of information related to citizenship or immigration status, such as Social Security numbers (but not individual taxpayer identification numbers). The bill also amends the Public Health Service Act and the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to permit adjustments to certain health insurance coverage dates for an individual whose eligibility for advance payments is delayed due to the verification requirements. The bill is contingent on the enactment of the American Health Care Act of 2017 (AHCA). If the AHCA is enacted, the bill applies to: (1) the existing tax credit after December 31, 2017; and (2) the tax credit, as modified by the AHCA, after December 31, 2019.” The bill passed the House on a vote of 238-184. It did not become law. [H.R. 2581, Vote #306, [6/13/17](#); Congress.gov, accessed [4/21/23](#)]

## ***DeSantis Stated That Undocumented Immigrants Should Not Receive “Special Benefits” Such As In-State Tuition Rates***

**August 2012: DeSantis Stated That Undocumented Immigrants Should Not Receive “Special Benefits” Such As In-State Tuition Rates, Stating, “This Approach Is Best For American Citizens And Is Fair To Those Who Have Taken The Time And Effort To Go Through The Legal Immigration Process.”** According to a press release from Ron DeSantis for Congress, “‘I am pleased to be endorsed by Sheriff Joe Arpaio,’ DeSantis said. ‘Like Sheriff Joe, I believe that illegal immigration is a major problem that undermines the rule of law. We must enforce the laws we have on the books, secure our borders and deny special benefits to illegal immigrants such as in-state tuition rates. This approach is best for American citizens and is fair to those who have taken the time and effort to go through the legal immigration process.’” [Ron DeSantis for Congress via the Internet Archive, Press Release, [8/2/12](#)]

## ***DeSantis Said He Would Have Opposed A 2013 Florida Bill That Would Have Allowed Dreamers To Get Drivers’ Licenses***

**April 2018: A DeSantis Spokesperson Said That DeSantis Would Have Voted Against A 2013 Florida Bill Supported By Most House Republicans That Would Have Allowed Dreamers To Get Drivers’ Licenses.** The Miami Herald reported, “In 2013, the Florida House led by Weatherford voted to grant drivers’ licenses to Dreamers. Corcoran, then a regular House member who was set to become speaker himself in 2016, voted for the bill. While most other House Republicans did too, those votes haven’t aged well for GOP primary voters in today’s political climate. [...] ‘Ron DeSantis would’ve voted against’ that legislation, said Brad Herold, spokesman for that campaign. DeSantis was endorsed by Trump himself and, before that, former Arizona Sheriff Joseph Arpaio, who was convicted for contempt of court for continuing illegal racial profiling practices.” [Miami Herald, 4/6/18]

## ***DeSantis Sponsored A Bill To Withhold Funding From The United Nations Relief And Works Agency For Palestine Refugees In The Near East (UNRWA)***

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### ***The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) Provided Services To Palestinians Who Lost Their Homes Following The Establishment Of The State Of Israel***

**The United Nations Relief And Works Agency For Palestine Refugees In The Near East (UNRWA) Provided Services To Palestinians Who Lost Their Homes Following The Establishment Of The State Of Israel.**

According to the Encyclopedia Britannica, “United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), subsidiary agency created by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly in 1949 to provide relief, health, and education services for Palestinians who lost both their homes and means of livelihood during the Arab-Israeli wars following the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948.” [Encyclopedia Britannica, accessed [4/19/23](#)]

### ***March 2013: DeSantis Introduced The Palestinian Accountability Act, Which Would Have Suspended Funding To The United Nations Relief And Works Agency For Palestine Refugees In The Near East***

**March 2013: DeSantis Introduced H.R. 1337, The Palestinian Accountability Act, Which Would Have Suspended Funding To The United Nations Relief And Works Agency For Palestine Refugees In The Near East.** According to Congress.gov, DeSantis sponsored H.R. 1337, the “Palestinian Accountability Act,” which “Prohibits funds from from [sic] being obligated or expended for U.S. contributions to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) unless: (1) a U.S. nongovernmental or private entity audits the UNRWA budget and the Secretary submits the audit to Congress, and (2) the Secretary certifies to Congress that UNRWA meets specified requirements.” The bill did not receive a vote in the House.



[Congress.gov, H.R. 1337, introduced [3/21/13](#)]

**July 2014: DeSantis Called On Congress To Pass His Law Withholding Funding To The United Nations Relief And Works Agency For Palestine Refugees In The Near East (UNRWA) After The Organization Discovered Rockets Placed By Militants In An UNRWA-Run School.** According to a press release from Rep. Ron DeSantis, “In reaction to news that the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) discovered that approximately 20 rockets were placed by militants in a UNRWA-run school in the Gaza Strip, Rep. Ron DeSantis (FL-06) has renewed his call for Congress to pass his Palestinian Accountability Act. The Palestinian Accountability Act would withhold funds from UNRWA until certain conditions are met.” [Rep. Ron DeSantis, Press Release, 7/18/14]

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## **DeSantis Cosponsored The “Restore The Oath Of Allegiance Act” To Prevent Changes To The Naturalization Oath Of Allegiance**

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***July 2015: The U.S. Citizenship And Immigration Services (USCIS) Issued Guidelines Allowing A Candidate For Citizenship To Exclude Military-Related Clauses In The Oath Of Allegiance***

**July 2015: The U.S. Citizenship And Immigration Services (USCIS) Issued Guidelines Allowing A Candidate For Citizenship To Exclude Clauses In The Oath Of Allegiance Declaring That They Would “Bear Arms” And “Perform Noncombatant Service” For The United States.** The Free Beacon reported, “The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has denied that the modifications to military service requirements in the Oath of Allegiance published on July 21 flout the law, despite harsh criticism from immigration experts and members of Congress. ‘Candidates for citizenship normally declare that they will ‘bear arms on behalf of the United States’ and ‘perform noncombatant service in the Armed Forces of the United States’ when required by law,’ stated USCIS on July 21. ‘A candidate may be eligible to exclude these two clauses based on religious training and belief or a conscientious objection.’ The new guidelines, which appear under the heading ‘Modifications to Oath of Allegiance for Naturalization,’ state that a candidate ‘is not required to belong to a specific church or religion, follow a particular theology or belief, or to have had religious training in order to qualify,’ and ‘may submit, but is not required to provide, an attestation from a religious or other type of organization, as well as other evidence to establish eligibility.’ Immigration experts and some on Capitol Hill say that this represents a substantive change, and a bill has been introduced in Congress to roll back USCIS’s actions.” [Free Beacon, [7/31/15](#)]

## ***DeSantis Cosponsored H.R. 3296, The “Restore The Oath Of Allegiance Act,” To Prevent Changes To The Oath***

**July 2015: DeSantis Cosponsored H.R. 3296, The “Restore The Oath Of Allegiance Act,” Which “Requires That The Naturalization Oath Of Allegiance Be The Same Formulation, Subject To The Same Potential Omissions Or Alterations, As The Formulation Of The Oath Administered On July 20, 2015.”** According to Congress.gov, “Cosponsor [...] Rep. DeSantis, Ron [R-FL-6] [...] Introduced in House (07/29/2015) Restore the Oath of Allegiance Act This bill requires that the naturalization oath of allegiance be the same formulation, subject to the same potential omissions or alterations, as the formulation of the oath administered on July 20, 2015.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 3296, introduced [7/29/15](#)]

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## **DeSantis Supported Trump’s Border Wall And Even Backed Shutting Down The Government To Ensure Funding For The Wall**

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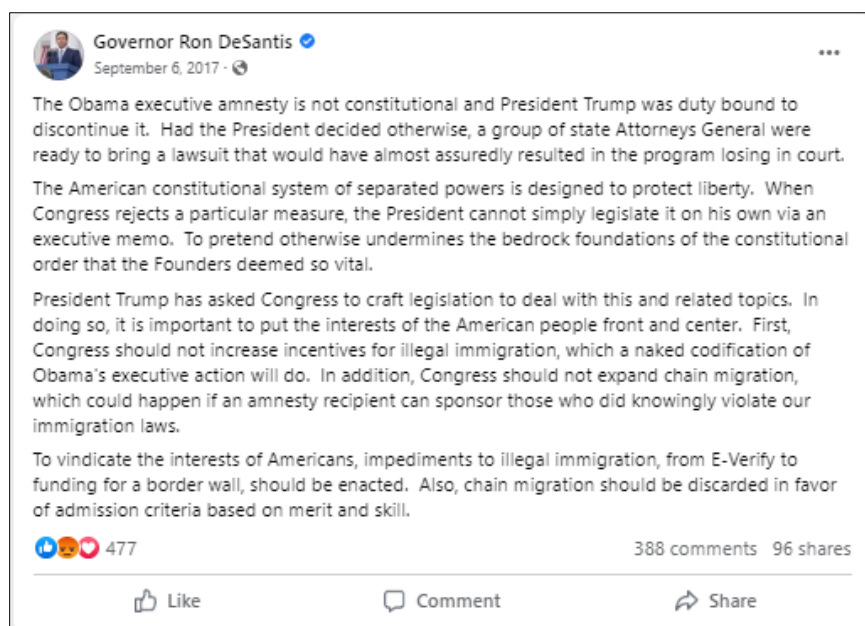
**2016: DeSantis Supported Building A Wall Along The U.S./Mexico Border.** According to the campaign website for Ron DeSantis, “The United States is a sovereign nation that has a duty to defend its borders and enforce its laws. Ron supports stopping illegal immigration by building a wall along the southern border and instituting a visa tracking system to prevent individuals from illegally overstaying visas. He has led efforts in the House to stop

President Obama’s unconstitutional executive amnesty and to prevent the release of sexual offenders and domestic abusers who are in the country illegally.” [RonDeSantis.com via the Internet Archive, view from [9/23/16](#)]

The United States is a sovereign nation that has a duty to defend its borders and enforce its laws. Ron supports stopping illegal immigration by building a wall along the southern border and instituting a visa tracking system to prevent individuals from illegally overstaying visas. He has led efforts in the House to stop President Obama’s unconstitutional executive amnesty and to prevent the release of sexual offenders and domestic abusers who are in the country illegally.

[RonDeSantis.com via the Internet Archive, view from [9/23/16](#)]

**September 2017: DeSantis Posted, “To Vindicate The Interests Of Americans, Impediments To Illegal Immigration, From E-Verify To Funding For A Border Wall, Should Be Enacted.”** According to a Facebook post from Ron DeSantis, “The Obama executive amnesty is not constitutional and President Trump was duty bound to discontinue it. [...] First, Congress should not increase incentives for illegal immigration, which a naked codification of Obama’s executive action will do. In addition, Congress should not expand chain migration, which could happen if an amnesty recipient can sponsor those who did knowingly violate our immigration laws. To vindicate the interests of Americans, impediments to illegal immigration, from E-Verify to funding for a border wall, should be enacted. Also, chain migration should be discarded in favor of admission criteria based on merit and skill.” [Facebook, Governor Ron DeSantis, [9/6/17](#)]



**August 2018: DeSantis Stated, “In Congress We Should Be Funding This Wall,” And Suggested That President Trump Was Right To Threaten To Shut Down The Federal Government If Congress Did Not Provide That Funding.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “But President Trump may not share that sentiment. He posted a series of tweets in the final days of July threatening to shutdown the federal government if the spending bills passed by Congress do not adequately fund his border wall, adding that he doesn’t care ‘what the political ramifications are.’ Some have dismissed the tweets as bluster, but after a campaign stop in Miami on Monday, DeSantis backed the president, saying it was a tactic to get Congress to cooperate. ‘In the Congress we should be funding this wall. Part of it is about illegal immigration but honestly for me a big part of it is the drugs coming in,’ he said in a gaggle with reporters. ‘You have fentanyl and all this stuff coming in. This is very deadly stuff.’ ‘What he (Trump) should do ... I urged him to veto the omnibus last time,’ DeSantis added. ‘Congress keeps doing the same stuff over and over again and I think if he says, ‘I’m willing to veto something,’ that actually would light a fire under someone’s rear end.’” [Tampa Bay Times, 8/7/18]

**DeSantis Aired A Campaign Ad In Which His Young Daughter Built A “Border Wall” Out Of Toy Blocks.** The Miami Herald reported, “DeSantis—a vocal supporter of President Donald Trump who aired a campaign ad in which he helped his young daughter build a tiny border wall—has also used the examples of people killed by undocumented immigrants to make his point. ‘We do not want to be in a situation where we have more angel parents,’ DeSantis said during a March press conference. ‘I hope that the Legislature moves quickly this session to pass legislation.’” [Miami Herald, 4/26/19]

**July 2021: At The Conservative Student Action Summit, DeSantis Called On Biden To Stop “Releasing Criminal Aliens... And Yes... Finish The Border Wall.”** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “The event, called the Student Action Summit, featured prominent national figures like Donald Trump Jr. and former White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany. It was organized by Turning Point USA, an organization aimed at building an organized and active conservative presence on high school and college campuses. DeSantis greeted the crowd by welcoming everyone to the ‘free state of Florida. [...] He also mentioned his Saturday trip to the U.S.-Mexico border, where he met with Texas Gov. Greg Abbott. DeSantis had sent 50 state law enforcement officers to Texas to help with border security. ‘Governor Abbott has got a very difficult situation, you have a president, Joe Biden, who’s come in and basically embraced open borders,’ DeSantis said. ‘He reversed the policies that succeeded under Donald Trump.’ During his 30-minute speech, DeSantis said that when he spoke with those who had been detained at the border, their final destination was commonly Florida. He believes Biden needs to stop ‘releasing criminal aliens... and yes... finish the border wall.’” [Tampa Bay Times, 7/18/21]

## **DeSantis Called For Ending Birthright Citizenship, Which Was Guaranteed Under The 14th Amendment**

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### ***DeSantis Supported Ending Birthright Citizenship, Which Was Guaranteed Under The 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment***

**October 2018: DeSantis Supported Ending Birthright Citizenship.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “DeSantis said he supports the idea of ending birthright citizenship, but has some questions about the legal feasibility of doing so. ‘As a matter of policy I don’t think the Constitution intended that people could come illegally in order to get citizenship,’ DeSantis said. ‘That being said, there’s been a long list of out decisions that I think you’d have to reckon with.’” [Tampa Bay Times, 10/31/18]

- **DeSantis: “As A Matter Of Policy I Don’t Think The Constitution Intended That People Could Come Illegally In Order To Get Citizenship. That Being Said, There’s Been A Long List Of Out Decisions That I Think You’d Have To Reckon With.”** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “DeSantis said he supports the idea of ending birthright citizenship, but has some questions about the legal feasibility of doing so. ‘As a matter of policy I don’t think the Constitution intended that people could come illegally in order to get citizenship,’ DeSantis said. ‘That being said, there’s been a long list of out decisions that I think you’d have to reckon

with.” [Tampa Bay Times, 10/31/18]

**The Constitution Guaranteed Birthright Citizenship Under The 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment.** The New York Times reported, “Does the Constitution guarantee birthright citizenship? Yes. The 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment says, ‘All persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside.’ The part about jurisdiction creates a very narrow exception that today essentially applies only to children of accredited foreign diplomats. Other than that, the citizenship or immigration status of a person’s parents has not been held to have any effect on this right.” [New York Times, [8/22/19](#)]

### ***Robert Tracinski, A Senior Writer At The Federalist, Said That Ending Birthright Citizenship Would Make Republicans “The Party Of Dred Scott” And “The Party Of White People”***

**Robert Tracinski, A Senior Writer At The Federalist, Said That Ending Birthright Citizenship Would Make Republicans “The Party Of Dred Scott” And “The Party Of White People.”** According to Federalist senior writer Robert Tracinski, “Are Republicans ready to become the party of Dred Scott? I ask because that’s what Michael Anton—a conservative intellectual, former Trump administration official, and fanatical supporter of the president—advocated in the Washington Post. Even worse, he implies that Trump should do it by executive fiat, in defiance of the Supreme Court. This is not just intellectually and morally bankrupt. It would spell disaster for the Republican Party by making it de facto what the Democrats have long wanted it to be: the party of white people—and only white people. Anton’s op-ed is an argument for eliminating “birthright citizenship,” the provision from the Fourteenth Amendment (with roots going back much, much earlier) that states children born in America are automatically citizens, even if their parents were not. Anton’s argument against this, borrowed from a 2015 article by Edward J. Erler in National Review, is based on a blatant lie.” [Federalist, Column, [7/23/18](#)]

### ***DeSantis Vowed To Stand With President Trump Amid Criticism Of Trump’s Family Separation Policy, Though DeSantis Said He Would Personally “Keep The Family Together And Repatriate Them Back As A Family Unit”***

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#### ***Under The Trump Administration’s “Zero Tolerance” Policy, Thousands Of Children Were Separated From Their Parents At The Southern Border***

**Under Trump’s “Zero Tolerance” Policy, About 5,500 Children Were Separated From Their Parents At The Southern Border, And Many Of The Children Suffered From Heat Exhaustion, Malnutrition, Freezing Temperatures And Poor Medical Attention.** PolitiFact reported, “About 5,500 children were separated from their parents at the southern border under President Donald Trump’s ‘zero-tolerance’ policy, mainly in spring 2018, according to an Oct. 28, 2021 New York Times report. Under the Trump-era policy, thousands of children ranging from infants to teens were taken from their parents, with no provisions to later reunite them. During their time away from their families, many children suffered from issues including heat exhaustion, malnutrition, freezing temperatures and a lack of medical attention. The family separation policy was a key component of the administration’s crackdown on illegal immigration, aimed at deterring people from coming to the U.S. The policy also affected families that were legally entitled to asylum due to persecution in their home countries. So, in those cases, the families were not ‘illegal immigrants’ at all, but people who followed the protocols for seeking asylum.” [PolitiFact, [10/28/21](#)]

#### ***DeSantis On Separating Asylum-Seeking Parents And Children: “I’d Keep The Family Together And Repatriate Them Back As A Family Unit”***

**June 2018 – DeSantis On Separating Asylum-Seeking Parents And Children: “I’d Keep The Family Together And Repatriate Them Back As A Family Unit.”** The Florida Times-Union reported, “U.S. Rep. Ron DeSantis, a Republican candidate for governor, waded into the contentious issue of separating children of illegal

immigrants from their parents Monday, telling a Bradenton crowd that ‘I’d keep the family together and repatriate them back as a family unit.’ DeSantis was asked about the issue by Donna Hayes, the former Manatee County GOP chairwoman, who noted it has been in the news in recent days and asked ‘What is your solution to that problem?’ ‘For the asylum claims I think that you want a speedy adjudication of these claims within two weeks and if they’re valid fine and if they’re not then you keep the family together during that review and then just return them where they came,’ DeSantis said.” [Florida Times-Union, [6/19/18](#)]

- **DeSantis: “For The Asylum Claims I Think That You Want A Speedy Adjudication Of These Claims Within Two Weeks And If They’re Valid Fine And If They’re Not Then You Keep The Family Together During That Review And Then Just Return Them Where They Came.”** The Florida Times-Union reported, “U.S. Rep. Ron DeSantis, a Republican candidate for governor, waded into the contentious issue of separating children of illegal immigrants from their parents Monday, telling a Bradenton crowd that ‘I’d keep the family together and repatriate them back as a family unit.’ DeSantis was asked about the issue by Donna Hayes, the former Manatee County GOP chairwoman, who noted it has been in the news in recent days and asked ‘What is your solution to that problem?’ ‘For the asylum claims I think that you want a speedy adjudication of these claims within two weeks and if they’re valid fine and if they’re not then you keep the family together during that review and then just return them where they came,’ DeSantis said.” [Florida Times-Union, [6/19/18](#)]

### ***DeSantis Vowed To Stand With Trump, Even As The Separation Of Migrant Families Faced Bipartisan Criticism***

**Tampa Bay Times: DeSantis “Vowed To Stand With President Donald Trump On His Border Policies, Even When The Separation Of Migrant Families Came Under Bipartisan Criticism.”** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “Immigration came up more than education, transportation, job creation and the environment - combined - during last month’s Republican gubernatorial debate. Both Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam and U.S. Rep. Ron DeSantis have vowed to stand with President Donald Trump on his border policies, even when the separation of migrant families came under bipartisan criticism. A plurality of Republicans list immigration as the No. 1 issue facing the country, according to a June Gallup poll, even though despite an uptick in recent months, apprehensions at the border are historically low compared to the previous two decades. Trump himself has pointed this out.” [Tampa Bay Times, 7/19/18]

### **DeSantis “Absolutely” Supported Trump’s Decision To Deploy Thousands Of U.S. Troops To Intercept Migrants At The Southern Border**

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**October 2018: DeSantis Said He “Absolutely” Supported President Trump’s Decision To Deploy More Than 5,000 Troops To The U.S.-Mexico Border To Intercept An Estimated 3,500 Migrants.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “DeSantis and Gillum were also asked about the president’s decision to deploy more than 5,000 troops to the southern border to discourage or block an estimated 3,500 migrants heading north toward American soil. (The group is still hundreds of miles and several weeks away from reaching the border.) DeSantis said he ‘absolutely’ supports the president’s decision. ‘This is to try to prove a point that people basically can overrun our border. We’re either a sovereign country or we’re not, and the president needs to step up and support national sovereignty,’ DeSantis said in Tampa. ‘They’re not really even refugees because the Mexican government offered them to be able to stay in Mexico, and they rejected that.’” [Tampa Bay Times, 10/31/18]

- **Regarding President Trump’s Decision To Deploy Troops To The U.S.-Mexico Border, DeSantis Stated, “We’re Either A Sovereign Country Or We’re Not, And The President Needs To Step Up And Support National Sovereignty.”** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “DeSantis and Gillum were also asked about the president’s decision to deploy more than 5,000 troops to the southern border to discourage or block an estimated 3,500 migrants heading north toward American soil. (The group is still hundreds of miles and several weeks away from reaching the border.) DeSantis said he ‘absolutely’ supports the president’s decision. ‘This is to try to prove a point that people basically can overrun our border. We’re either a sovereign country or we’re not, and the president needs to step up and support national sovereignty,’ DeSantis said in Tampa. ‘They’re not

really even refugees because the Mexican government offered them to be able to stay in Mexico, and they rejected that.” [Tampa Bay Times, 10/31/18]

- **DeSantis Stated That The 3,500 Migrants Headed Towards The U.S.-Mexico Border Were “Not Really Even Refugees Because The Mexican Government Offered Them To Be Able To Stay In Mexico, And They Rejected That.”** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “DeSantis and Gillum were also asked about the president’s decision to deploy more than 5,000 troops to the southern border to discourage or block an estimated 3,500 migrants heading north toward American soil. (The group is still hundreds of miles and several weeks away from reaching the border.) DeSantis said he ‘absolutely’ supports the president’s decision. ‘This is to try to prove a point that people basically can overrun our border. We’re either a sovereign country or we’re not, and the president needs to step up and support national sovereignty,’ DeSantis said in Tampa. ‘They’re not really even refugees because the Mexican government offered them to be able to stay in Mexico, and they rejected that.’” [Tampa Bay Times, 10/31/18]

## **Key Findings: Governor Of Florida**

### **Gov. DeSantis Signed SB 168 To Ban Sanctuary Cities In Florida– Even Though Florida Did Not Have Any Sanctuary Cities**

#### ***July 2018: In Response To A Survey About Specific Immigration Policies, DeSantis Issued A Statement Promising To “Work To End Sanctuary Cities”***

**July 2018: In Response To A Survey About Specific Immigration Policies, DeSantis Issued A Statement Promising To “Work To End Sanctuary Cities And Remove State Officials Who Participate In Abetting Sanctuary City Policies Here In Florida.”** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “The Times asked the seven major candidates for governor in both parties five questions regarding Florida’s population of undocumented immigrants, the third largest in the country. [...] While Republicans Adam Putnam and Ron DeSantis have spent months stumping on immigration, neither responded to the questions and their campaigns instead sent a statement. [...] Response to the survey from DeSantis campaign spokesman Dave Vasquez: ‘Adam Putnam fought to kill E-Verify in Florida, supported the gang of eight amnesty deal and voted with Nancy Pelosi against securing our border with troops. Ron DeSantis will sign E-Verify into law here in Florida, ensuring a legal workforce and disincentivizing illegal immigration in our state. He will work to end sanctuary cities and remove state officials who participate in abetting sanctuary city policies here in Florida.’” [Tampa Bay Times, 7/20/18]

#### ***June 2019: DeSantis Signed Into Law SB 168, Which Banned Sanctuary Cities In Florida – Even Though Florida Did Not Have Any Sanctuary Cities***

**June 2019: DeSantis Signed Into Law SB 168, Which Banned Sanctuary Cities In Florida And Required Local Law Enforcement To Honor Federal “Immigration Detainer” Requests.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “Fulfilling a key, controversial campaign promise popular with his party’s base, Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis signed a bill Friday that will ban ‘sanctuary cities’ in Florida, though the policy is expected to draw a legal skirmish over its constitutionality as it goes into effect next month. The bill, SB 168, requires local and state law enforcement officials and entities to honor federal ‘immigration detainer’ requests, which ask a law enforcement agency to detain someone on probable cause that they are ‘removable’ under federal immigration laws. It also prohibits local officials from implementing ‘sanctuary’ policies, which had previously not been defined in state law. There are no ‘sanctuary cities’ in Florida. [...] Though no local governments currently have such policies in the state, he cast ‘sanctuary cities’ as ‘law-free zones’ where people could arrive illegally and commit crimes, ‘and then just walk out the door and continue to do it.’” [Tampa Bay Times, 6/15/19]

- **As Of June 2019, Florida Did Not Have Any “Sanctuary Cities.”** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “Fulfilling a key, controversial campaign promise popular with his party’s base, Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis signed a bill Friday that will ban ‘sanctuary cities’ in Florida, though the policy is expected to draw a legal

skirmish over its constitutionality as it goes into effect next month. The bill, SB 168, requires local and state law enforcement officials and entities to honor federal ‘immigration detainer’ requests, which ask a law enforcement agency to detain someone on probable cause that they are ‘removable’ under federal immigration laws. It also prohibits local officials from implementing ‘sanctuary’ policies, which had previously not been defined in state law. There are no ‘sanctuary cities’ in Florida. [...] Though no local governments currently have such policies in the state, he cast ‘sanctuary cities’ as ‘law-free zones’ where people could arrive illegally and commit crimes, ‘and then just walk out the door and continue to do it.’” [Tampa Bay Times, 6/15/19]

### ***At The Bill Signing For SB 168, DeSantis Characterized Sanctuary Cities As “Law Free Zones” Where Undocumented Immigrants Could Commit Crimes “And Then Just Walk Out The Door And Continue To Do It”***

**At The Bill Signing For SB 168, DeSantis Characterized Sanctuary Cities As “Law Free Zones” Where Undocumented Immigrants Could Commit Crimes “And Then Just Walk Out The Door And Continue To Do It.”** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “Fulfilling a key, controversial campaign promise popular with his party’s base, Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis signed a bill Friday that will ban ‘sanctuary cities’ in Florida, though the policy is expected to draw a legal skirmish over its constitutionality as it goes into effect next month. [...] Joined by ally U.S. Rep. Matt Gaetz, who represents the area, and bill sponsor state Sen. Joe Gruters, R-Sarasota, DeSantis told a packed crowd in the chambers of the Okaloosa County Commission that the bill ‘is about the rule of law’ and ‘public safety.’ ‘I said we were going to do certain things, and I’m happy to report after having just one legislative session under our belt we’re delivering on the promises we made to the people of Florida,’ he said to applause. Though no local governments currently have such policies in the state, he cast ‘sanctuary cities’ as ‘law-free zones’ where people could arrive illegally and commit crimes, ‘and then just walk out the door and continue to do it.’” [Tampa Bay Times, 6/15/19]

### ***The Sanctuary City Bill Was Written In Part By Federation For American Immigration Reform (FAIR), An Anti-Immigrant Organization Labeled As A “Hate Group” By The Southern Poverty Law Center For Its Ties To White Supremacists***

**The Sanctuary City Bill Ron DeSantis Signed Was Written In Part By Federation For American Immigration Reform (FAIR), An Anti-Immigrant Organization Labeled As A “Hate Group” By The Southern Poverty Law Center Due To Its Ties To White Supremacists And Eugenacists.** The Miami Herald reported, “Her recent appearance, sharing the billing at a GOP event with a representative from the misnamed FAIR (Federation for American Immigration Reform) -- an organization that vows to ‘defeat immigration anarchy’ in Florida—is reprehensible. Member of anti-immigration ‘hate group’ joined Lt. Gov. Núñez at Miami event FAIR is rated as a ‘hate group’ by the Southern Poverty Law Center because its leaders have ‘ties to white supremacists and eugenacists and have made many racist statements.’ This same organization helped write the sanctuary ban bill passed by the Republican-dominated Florida Legislature and signed into law by Núñez’s boss, Gov. Ron DeSantis.” [Miami Herald, 8/21/19]

### ***September 2019: A Judge Overturned A Part Of The Florida Bill Banning Sanctuary Cities, Ruling That Local Police Could Hold Undocumented Immigrants At The Request Of Federal Immigration Officials But Could Not Cross State Lines To Assist Federal Immigration Officials***

**September 2019: A Judge Overturned A Part Of The Florida Bill Banning Sanctuary Cities, Ruling That Local Police Could Hold Undocumented Immigrants At The Request Of Federal Immigration Officials But Could Not Cross State Lines To Assist Them.** The Miami Herald reported, “A federal judge has temporarily blocked a portion of a controversial Florida law that called on local police to cross state lines to assist federal immigration officials but left in place a provision where the officers would have to hold undocumented immigrants until the feds pick them up. In an order issued on Monday—one day before enforcement of the new law is slated to

take effect -- Miami U.S. District Judge Beth Bloom shot down a small piece of the state law requiring Florida police officers to cooperate with federal immigration enforcement agencies, like U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The Florida law—SB 168 -- will continue to forbid sanctuary cities. Bloom ruled that local police cannot transport undocumented immigrants across state lines at the request of the feds, saying it is strictly the job of the federal government. Her ruling can be appealed.” [Miami Herald, 9/30/19]

## **Following Hurricane Dorian, DeSantis Refrained From Requesting That Displaced Bahamians Be Allowed To Seek Temporary Refuge In Florida**

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**September 2019: After The Devastation Of Hurricane Dorian, DeSantis Refused To Join Senators Rubio And Scott In Requesting That President Trump Allow Bahamian People Displaced By The Storm To Find Temporary Refuge In Florida While Their Homes Were Rebuilt.** The Miami Herald reported, “In the aftermath of Dorian’s devastation, DeSantis joined with U.S. Sens. Scott and Rubio in an aerial tour of the affected islands. But the conservative Republican governor who was first elected last year has refrained from addressing the needs of the Bahamians. He instead has kept his focus on Floridians and Florida-based companies like the cruise industry ‘who have relationships with the Bahamas.’ ‘A lot of those islands that got really leveled, you probably have Floridian property owners in some of those places,’ he said last week. When DeSantis was asked Monday whether he will ask President Donald Trump to support requests by Republicans Rubio and Scott to waive or suspend visa requirements to allow Bahamians to temporarily live with relatives in Florida and other states, he said he would not. ‘I’m not going to weigh in on that,’ DeSantis said. ‘They got to figure out how they’re going to do the immigration stuff,’ adding that he agrees with the president and the Bahamian government that they don’t ‘want to facilitate a big migration.’” [Miami Herald, 9/9/19]

- **DeSantis Stated That He Agreed With Trump And The Bahamian Government That They Didn’t “Want To Facilitate A Big Migration.”** The Miami Herald reported, “In the aftermath of Dorian’s devastation, DeSantis joined with U.S. Sens. Scott and Rubio in an aerial tour of the affected islands. But the conservative Republican governor who was first elected last year has refrained from addressing the needs of the Bahamians. He instead has kept his focus on Floridians and Florida-based companies like the cruise industry ‘who have relationships with the Bahamas.’ ‘A lot of those islands that got really leveled, you probably have Floridian property owners in some of those places,’ he said last week. When DeSantis was asked Monday whether he will ask President Donald Trump to support requests by Republicans Rubio and Scott to waive or suspend visa requirements to allow Bahamians to temporarily live with relatives in Florida and other states, he said he would not. ‘I’m not going to weigh in on that,’ DeSantis said. ‘They got to figure out how they’re going to do the immigration stuff,’ adding that he agrees with the president and the Bahamian government that they don’t ‘want to facilitate a big migration.’” [Miami Herald, 9/9/19]
- **Regarding Whether Bahamian People Should Be Allowed To Find Temporary Refuge In Florida, DeSantis Stated, “When You’re Foreign Nationals, That Has To Be Done Consistent With Whatever The Federal Policy Is... Those Are Not My Decisions To Make.”** According to Miami Herald columnist Fabiola Santiago, “Allowing Bahamians easy travel to stay with family in the United States is common sense relief for the thousands left homeless by Category 5 Hurricane Dorian. The storm of 185 mph winds and gusts of up to 220 mph decimated the Abacos and Grand Bahama islands. The Bahamian government hasn’t yet asked for it, but President Donald Trump and his administration should make the option of temporarily relocating people here official as soon as possible. [...] And there’s no better suited elected official to press the president on this issue than his long-time, unwavering ally Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis. The governor should be encouraging an open-arms policy—not deflecting the issue of Bahamian travel to Florida, as he did during Thursday’s briefing at the state Emergency Operations Center in Tallahassee. ‘When you’re foreign nationals, that has to be done consistent with whatever the federal policy is and we’ll see how that shakes out,’ DeSantis said. ‘Those are not my decisions to make.’” [Miami Herald, Column, 9/5/19]



## **DeSantis Blamed Immigrants And Migrant Farmworkers For Florida's COVID-19 Surge And Sought To Prevent Them From Accessing Vaccines**

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### ***June 2020: DeSantis Blamed “Overwhelmingly Hispanic” Agricultural Communities And Migrant Farmworkers For Florida's Surge In COVID-19 Cases Despite Skepticism From Public Health Experts***

**June 2020: DeSantis Blamed “Overwhelmingly Hispanic” Agricultural Communities And Migrant Farmworkers For Florida's Surge In COVID-19 Cases Despite Skepticism From Public Health Experts.** The Miami Herald reported, “Public health experts and aid groups are challenging Gov. Ron DeSantis’ assertion this week that migrant farmworkers are driving Florida’s record surge in COVID-19 cases—noting that state help with testing, face masks and educational outreach has been late to reach agricultural communities. After DeSantis said last week that ‘the No. 1 outbreak we’ve seen is in agricultural communities’ and followed up this week with statements that ‘overwhelmingly Hispanic’ farmworkers and day laborers were the leading source of new cases, Florida Agriculture Commissioner Nikki Fried fired back, noting that the majority of farmworkers left several weeks ago after harvests ended and that cases are spiking in non-agricultural areas. But many farmworkers live in Florida year round, and public health experts who work with those communities say the state has only recently begun to ramp up testing and public health education campaigns in agricultural communities, where cramped working and living conditions can fuel an outbreak of COVID-19.” [Miami Herald, 6/18/20]

**Public Health Experts Said The State Had Only Recently Started To Ramp Up Testing And Education Campaigns In Agricultural Communities.** The Miami Herald reported, “Public health experts and aid groups are challenging Gov. Ron DeSantis’ assertion this week that migrant farmworkers are driving Florida’s record surge in COVID-19 cases—noting that state help with testing, face masks and educational outreach has been late to reach agricultural communities. After DeSantis said last week that ‘the No. 1 outbreak we’ve seen is in agricultural communities’ and followed up this week with statements that ‘overwhelmingly Hispanic’ farmworkers and day laborers were the leading source of new cases, Florida Agriculture Commissioner Nikki Fried fired back, noting that the majority of farmworkers left several weeks ago after harvests ended and that cases are spiking in non-agricultural areas. But many farmworkers live in Florida year round, and public health experts who work with those communities say the state has only recently begun to ramp up testing and public health education campaigns in agricultural communities, where cramped working and living conditions can fuel an outbreak of COVID-19.” [Miami Herald, 6/18/20]

**A Spokesman For The Florida Department Of Agriculture And Consumer Services Said That The Rise In New Cases Largely Occurred In Counties With Little Agriculture, Saying, “The Governor Is Cherry-Picking Data In An Attempt To Blame Farmworkers And Agriculture For The Spread Of COVID-19...”** The Miami Herald reported, “When DeSantis cited outbreaks among farmworkers as a leading driver of the recent surge in COVID-19 cases, he added that a watermelon farm in north central Florida had recently seen a lot of cases. But Franco Ripple, a spokesman for the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, said much of the rise in new cases since June 10 has occurred in counties where there is little agriculture. ‘With 12,333 new cases across the state since June 10, naming rural and farm communities as a main driver is not accurate,’ Ripple said in a prepared statement. ‘The governor is cherry-picking data in an attempt to blame farmworkers and agriculture for the spread of COVID-19, by highlighting a small sample size from one farm.’” [Miami Herald, 6/18/20]

### ***August 2021: DeSantis Accused Biden Of “Helping Facilitate” COVID-19 By Not Securing The Border With Mexico, Saying, “Whatever Variants There Are Around The World, They’re Coming Across The Southern Border”***

**August 2021: DeSantis Accused Biden Of “Helping Facilitate” COVID-19 By Not Securing The Border With Mexico, Stating, “Whatever Variants There Are Around The World, They’re Coming Across The Southern Border.”** The Miami Herald reported, “‘You have hundreds of thousands of people pouring across every month,’

DeSantis said. ‘Not only are they letting them through, they’re farming them out all across the country, putting them on planes, putting them on buses. Do you think they’re worrying about COVID for that? Of course not.’ He said the immigrants are crossing the border from all over the world, and ‘whatever variants there are around the world, they’re coming across that southern border.’ ‘He’s not shutting down the virus. He’s helping facilitate it,’ DeSantis said of Biden. ‘Why don’t you get this border secure?’ DeSantis added. ‘Until you do that, I don’t want to hear a blip about COVID from you.’” [Miami Herald, 8/4/21]

- **DeSantis Stated, “Not Only Are They Letting Them Through, They’re Farming Them Out All Across The Country, Putting Them On Planes, Putting Them On Buses. Do You Think They’re Worrying About COVID For That? Of Course Not.”** The Miami Herald reported, “‘You have hundreds of thousands of people pouring across every month,’ DeSantis said. ‘Not only are they letting them through, they’re farming them out all across the country, putting them on planes, putting them on buses. Do you think they’re worrying about COVID for that? Of course not.’ He said the immigrants are crossing the border from all over the world, and ‘whatever variants there are around the world, they’re coming across that southern border.’ ‘He’s not shutting down the virus. He’s helping facilitate it,’ DeSantis said of Biden. ‘Why don’t you get this border secure?’ DeSantis added. ‘Until you do that, I don’t want to hear a blip about COVID from you.’” [Miami Herald, 8/4/21]

**August 2021: According To A Column In The Miami Herald, America’s Voice, A Pro-Immigration Reform Group, Denounced DeSantis For Blaming Immigrants For COVID-19 Variants.** According to a column by Fabiola Santiago in the Miami Herald, “‘Hyping the dangerous nativist trope of immigrants as public health threats,’ America’s Voice, a pro-immigration reform group, called DeSantis’ scapegoating rhetoric. America’s Voice denounces DeSantis blaming border immigrants for COVID variant surge Instead of governing to stem infection by allowing local officials to issue mask and vaccine mandates when appropriate, the ambitious Trump clone is more interested in playing party politics with the president.” [Miami Herald, Column, 8/6/21]

**August 2021: Public Health Experts Indicated That DeSantis’s Level Of Concern About COVID-19 Variants Among Migrants Crossing The Border Was Not Supported By The Evidence, With One Calling The Immigration Contribution “Akin To Pouring A Bucket Of Water Into A Swimming Pool.”** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “DeSantis unloaded on Biden during an Aug. 4 news conference in Panama City. ‘He’s imported more virus from around the world by having a wide-open southern border. You have hundreds of thousands of people pouring across every month,’ DeSantis said. ‘You have over 100 different countries where people are pouring through. Not only are they letting them through - they’re then farming them out all across our communities across this country. Putting them on planes, putting them on buses.’ [...] Public health experts said it’s reasonable to be concerned about coronavirus spreading among migrants, especially if they’re living in close quarters. ‘It would be fair to say that detention centers, like prisons, are likely to be ‘hotspots’ for transmission,’ said Babak Javid, a professor of medicine at the University of California-San Francisco. ‘We saw a lot of this last year,’ earlier in the pandemic. But they said there is no evidence it’s happening on the scale that DeSantis described. It may well be that immigrants coming illegally into the country are contributing to COVID-19 caseloads, ‘but given the extensive transmission already in the U.S., the immigration contribution is akin to pouring a bucket of water into a swimming pool,’ said William Schaffner, a professor of preventive medicine at Vanderbilt University. ‘It’s hard to measure and pretty trivial.’” [Tampa Bay Times, 8/8/21]

**August 2021: The Tampa Bay Times Rated DeSantis’s Assertion That Biden’s Border Policy Drove The COVID-19 Surge As “False.”** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “DeSantis unloaded on Biden during an Aug. 4 news conference in Panama City. ‘He’s imported more virus from around the world by having a wide-open southern border. You have hundreds of thousands of people pouring across every month,’ DeSantis said. ‘You have over 100 different countries where people are pouring through. Not only are they letting them through - they’re then farming them out all across our communities across this country. Putting them on planes, putting them on buses.’ [...] Public health experts said it’s reasonable to be concerned about coronavirus spreading among migrants, especially if they’re living in close quarters. ‘It would be fair to say that detention centers, like prisons, are likely to be ‘hotspots’ for transmission,’ said Babak Javid, a professor of medicine at the University of California-San Francisco. ‘We saw a lot of this last year,’ earlier in the pandemic. But they said there is no evidence it’s happening on the scale that DeSantis described. It may well be that immigrants coming illegally into the country are

contributing to COVID-19 caseloads, ‘but given the extensive transmission already in the U.S., the immigration contribution is akin to pouring a bucket of water into a swimming pool,’ said William Schaffner, a professor of preventive medicine at Vanderbilt University. ‘It’s hard to measure and pretty trivial.’ [...] We rate the statement False.” [Tampa Bay Times, 8/8/21]

## ***January 2021: Florida Instituted A Requirement That All Recipients Of The COVID-19 Vaccine Be Florida Residents***

**January 2021: Florida Instituted A Requirement That All Recipients Of The COVID-19 Vaccine Be Florida Residents, And DeSantis Stated That He Did Not Want People To “Come From Another Country Or Whatever” To Florida To Get Vaccinated.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “The advisory, signed by Florida Surgeon General Scott Rivkees on Thursday, requires vaccine recipients to show a valid Florida driver’s license or photo identification, a utility bill with a Florida address and the patient’s name, or, a part-time rental agreement. Mail from a financial institution or a government agency that shows the individual’s name and Florida address can also be provided as proof. Florida’s new vaccine residency requirements come after reports of ‘vaccine tourism,’ people traveling to Florida from another country or state to get the vaccine. Gov. Ron DeSantis has previously said he approves of ‘snowbirds’ and full-time Florida residents getting the vaccine, but that he does not want people to ‘come from another country or whatever,’ flying to Florida to get inoculated.” [Tampa Bay Times, 1/22/21]

- **Tampa Bay Times: “Gov. Ron DeSantis Has Previously Said He Approves Of ‘Snowbirds’ And Full-Time Florida Residents Getting The Vaccine, But That He Does Not Want People To ‘Come From Another Country Or Whatever,’ Flying To Florida To Get Inoculated.”** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “The advisory, signed by Florida Surgeon General Scott Rivkees on Thursday, requires vaccine recipients to show a valid Florida driver’s license or photo identification, a utility bill with a Florida address and the patient’s name, or, a part-time rental agreement. Mail from a financial institution or a government agency that shows the individual’s name and Florida address can also be provided as proof. Florida’s new vaccine residency requirements come after reports of ‘vaccine tourism,’ people traveling to Florida from another country or state to get the vaccine. Gov. Ron DeSantis has previously said he approves of ‘snowbirds’ and full-time Florida residents getting the vaccine, but that he does not want people to ‘come from another country or whatever,’ flying to Florida to get inoculated.” [Tampa Bay Times, 1/22/21]

**Frank O’Loughlin, A Parish Priest In Central Florida, Decried The Vaccine Residency Requirement By Saying, “Ron DeSantis Has Determined Whose Families Deserve To Live And Whose Families Deserve To Die.”** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “Frank O’Loughlin, a parish priest who started working with migrant families in Indian Town in Central Florida in the 1960s, says the state, through its policies, is failing to provide vaccines to the families of the agricultural workforce. ‘Ron DeSantis has determined whose families deserve to live and whose families deserve to die,’ he said.” [Tampa Bay Times, 1/22/21]

**April 2021: A Group Of Florida Legislators Called On DeSantis To Loosen State Residency Requirements For The COVID-19 Vaccine, Arguing That It Created A Public Health Risk By Preventing Undocumented Migrant Agricultural Workers, Who Were Already At Elevated Risk, From Receiving The Vaccine.** The Miami Herald reported, “A handful of Florida Democrats are calling on Gov. Ron DeSantis to loosen state residency requirements that have made it difficult for many undocumented immigrants to access the vaccine. The members of Congress—Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Ted Deutch, Darren Soto and Lois Frankel—sent letters to the governor’s office Wednesday, citing a Miami Herald article that chronicled how undocumented migrants are being turned away at vaccination sites. ‘We write with serious concerns about the lack of access to COVID-19 vaccinations for several key vulnerable populations in Florida, especially undocumented immigrants and migrant and seasonal farmworkers,’ the lawmakers wrote. ‘These particular populations are among the most vulnerable and hardest-hit, and they are part of our communities.’ They urged DeSantis to work with the Florida Department of Health and other agencies to ‘remedy this growing disparity by setting up new targeted sites, going into these communities with vaccines, and creating flexibility in Florida’s residency requirements.’” [Miami Herald, 4/14/21]

## **DeSantis Promoted E-Verify Programs**

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### ***July 2018: DeSantis Promised To “Sign E-Verify Into Law”***

**July 2018: In Response To A Survey About Specific Immigration Policies, DeSantis Issued A Statement Promising To “Sign E-Verify Into Law, Ensuring A Legal Workforce And Disincentivizing Illegal Immigration In Our State.”** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “The Times asked the seven major candidates for governor in both parties five questions regarding Florida’s population of undocumented immigrants, the third largest in the country. [...] While Republicans Adam Putnam and Ron DeSantis have spent months stumping on immigration, neither responded to the questions and their campaigns instead sent a statement. [...] Response to the survey from DeSantis campaign spokesman Dave Vasquez: ‘Adam Putnam fought to kill E-Verify in Florida, supported the gang of eight amnesty deal and voted with Nancy Pelosi against securing our border with troops. Ron DeSantis will sign E-Verify into law here in Florida, ensuring a legal workforce and disincentivizing illegal immigration in our state. He will work to end sanctuary cities and remove state officials who participate in abetting sanctuary city policies here in Florida.’” [Tampa Bay Times, 7/20/18]

### ***DeSantis Argued That E-Verify Would Benefit Florida’s Economy By Raising Blue-Collar Wages – But It Faced Opposition From Members Of The Business Community***

**November 2019: DeSantis Stated That E-Verify Would Benefit Working People Who Would No Longer Have To Compete With “Cheap, Illegal, Foreign Labor.”** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “In addition to public safety, DeSantis and the lawmakers who joined him in The Villages said e-Verify will benefit Florida economically, potentially raising the wages of blue-collar workers who will no longer have to compete with ‘cheap, illegal, foreign labor.’” [Tampa Bay Times, 11/26/19]

**December 2019: Some Republicans Said That The E-Verify Program DeSantis Supported Would Be Ineffective And Could Even Harm Florida’s Economy If The Agricultural And Tourism Industries Lost The Cheap Labor On Which They Depended.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “For a decade, former Gov. Rick Scott and now DeSantis campaigned on requiring the E-Verify system to identify undocumented immigrants and then pushed the Legislature to approve it. [...] But the Republican-controlled Legislature consistently has ignored the governors’ calls to extend the practice to private employers, and for good reason. First, the E-Verify system is cumbersome to use and imperfect. Critics point out that undocumented immigrants have figured out ways to avoid detection through the use of forged documents, stolen Social Security numbers and other techniques. More importantly, large segments of the state’s economy depend on cheap labor supplied by undocumented immigrants. These are often the workers picking crops in the fields, cleaning hotel rooms, building apartment buildings and working in restaurants for little pay and under conditions few American citizens with better options would accept. Who would fill those jobs?” [Tampa Bay Times, 12/19/19]

**DeSantis: “Lower-Income Workers Also Shouldn’t Have Their Wages Depressed By Cheap Foreign Labor. Assuring A Legal Workforce Through E-Verify Will Be Good For The Rule Of Law, Protect Taxpayers, And Place An Upward Pressure On The Wages Of Floridians Who Work In Blue Collar Jobs.”** According to DeSantis’s 2020 State of the State address, “Our citizens shouldn’t need a permission slip from the government in order to earn a living. We have a good reform bill pending before the Legislature that made it to the 1 yard line last year. Let’s punch it in the end zone this year. Lower-income workers also shouldn’t have their wages depressed by cheap foreign labor. Assuring a legal workforce through E-verify will be good for the rule of law, protect taxpayers, and place an upward pressure on the wages of Floridians who work in blue collar jobs. We are a state that has an economy, not the other way around. And we need to make sure that our Florida citizens from all walks of life come first.” [Office of Governor Ron DeSantis, State of the State Transcript, [1/14/20](#)]

**February 2020: DeSantis Supported E-Verify Legislation In The Face Of Opposition From The Business Community.** The Miami Herald reported, “The sponsor of a controversial bill that would require Florida businesses to check the immigration status of new hires via “E-Verify” made two things clear Tuesday. First, Gov.

Ron DeSantis wants the mandate. Second, the mandate is still very much ‘a work in progress.’ [...] The truncated debate set up what is likely to be a drawn-out fight through the second half of the legislative session, characterized by party-line votes and opposition from some of the most powerful lobbies in Tallahassee. The proposal is the strictest of its kind filed this year, as it includes both public and private employers in the mandate, crossing both the business and agriculture lobby. Two other bills, sponsored by Sen. Joe Gruters, R-Sarasota and Rep. Cord Byrd, R-Neptune Beach, exempt private employers, who serve as some of the state’s biggest political campaign donors. Despite the strong business lobby against it, DeSantis has vowed to pass an E-Verify bill, even directly asking the Legislature to do so, saying it would remove an incentive for people to come to Florida illegally. Last month the Republican Party of Florida, where Gruters doubles as chairman, recently voted to back the governor’s stance.” [Miami Herald, 2/11/20]

- **Paul DiMare, A DeSantis Donor And Leader In Florida’s Agricultural Industry, Told DeSantis That E-Verify Would “Destroy” Florida’s Agriculture, Tourism And Construction Industries.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “Paul DiMare, CEO of DiMare Fresh, a major farming business that grows tomatoes and other produce in Hillsborough County and Homestead as well as in other states, said the fact an E-Verify bill is moving in the Legislature shows DeSantis’ clout. A staunch opponent of the proposal, DiMare said E-Verify would ‘destroy’ Florida’s agriculture, tourism and construction industries, especially when low unemployment has already caused labor shortages. When DeSantis was still campaigning for governor, DiMare spoke with him about E-Verify, he said. ‘He called me personally, I told him, ‘Congressman DeSantis ... I’m going to help you but I’m totally against what you’re trying to do with E-Verify,’” DiMare recalled, saying that DeSantis emphasized the popular support for the measure. ‘I argued with him for half an hour.’ Campaign finance records show that DiMare’s companies donated \$35,000 to DeSantis’ campaign in the fall of 2018.” [Tampa Bay Times, 2/17/20]

### ***June 2020: DeSantis Signed An E-Verify Bill Requiring All Public Employers And Private Employers With Public Contracts Or Taxpayer-Funded Incentives To Use E-Verify, Though Some Republicans Criticized The Bill As Ineffective***

**June 2020: DeSantis Signed An E-Verify Bill Requiring All Public Employers And Private Employers With Public Contracts Or Taxpayer-Funded Incentives To Use E-Verify.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “While the measure expands the use of E-Verify among employers, it falls short of DeSantis’ campaign promise. The bill will require all public employers --- such as local school districts, public universities and state agencies --- as well as their private contractors to use E-Verify, a system run by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Private employers are not mandated to use the system unless they have a contract with a public employer or they apply for taxpayer-funded incentives through the state Department of Economic Opportunity, beginning on July 1. Private businesses that do not use E-Verify will be required to keep a three-year record of the documents employees use to complete ‘I-9’ forms, which the federal government uses to verify workers’ identities and legal eligibility to work in the U.S. Federal law already requires businesses and workers to fill out the forms.” [Tampa Bay Times, 6/30/20]

- **Some Republican Legislators Criticized The Bill DeSantis Signed For Being Too Moderate Because The Mandate Did Not Extend To All Private Employers.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “The measure that finally was approved by the Legislature only mandates E-Verify for public employers and private contractors that do business with the state government. Some Republican supporters of E-Verify expressed disappointment with the measure, arguing that it does not go far enough.’ This is fake E-Verify. People expected mandatory E-Verify; this is the opposite --- optional E-Verify,’ Rep. Anthony Sabatini, R-Howey-in-the-Hills, told the News Service in March.” [Tampa Bay Times, 6/30/20]

### ***February 2023: DeSantis Said That The E-Verify Law That He Pushed In 2020 “Hasn’t Been Effective Enough”***

**February 2023: DeSantis Said That The E-Verify Law That He Pushed In 2020 “Hasn’t Been Effective Enough” And Stressed The Need To Have The Law Expanded To Include All Private Employers In Florida.** The Miami Herald reported, “Gov. Ron DeSantis on Thursday revived a push to adopt more stringent hiring

protocols to prevent the employment of undocumented workers, acknowledging that a state law he championed during his first term in office has been ineffective. Florida law currently requires all government employers and their contractors to use a federal electronic system, known as E-Verify, to check the immigration status of new hires. DeSantis, however, says the mandate should be expanded to include all private employers in the state, saying the current law was a ‘compromise’ reached by the Legislature following pushback from Florida’s agriculture, tourism and construction industries. [...] At the press conference, DeSantis said the E-Verify law he championed in 2020 has allowed the state to hold some employers accountable, but said ‘it hasn’t been effective enough.’ [Miami Herald, 2/23/23]

### ***DeSantis’s Support For E-Verify Laws Came Despite His Own Administration’s Payments To Archer Western-De Moya Joint Venture, A Construction Contractor With A History Of Hiring Undocumented Workers***

**October 2022: The DeSantis Administration Paid More Than \$8 Million To Archer Western-De Moya Joint Venture, A Construction Contractor That Had Hired Several Undocumented Workers, Including Two Men Who Were Charged In Connection With The Death Of A Pinellas County Deputy.** The Miami Herald reported, “Gov. Ron DeSantis’ administration has paid more than \$8 million to a construction contractor since authorities found it had hired several undocumented workers—including two men who have been charged in connection with the death of a Pinellas County deputy. The state contractor, Archer Western-De Moya Joint Venture, has a standing contract with the Florida Department of Transportation to do work on the Gateway Expressway in the Tampa Bay area. Records show the payments, which are part of a multi-year half-billion dollar contract, have not stopped since the Pinellas County Sheriff’s Office announced the findings. [...] In a statement to the Herald/Times, the state agency defended the contractor. ‘The Florida Department of Transportation and its contractors follow strict hiring procedures including all federal and state laws. This is true here,’ the statement read. [...] ‘Compliant hiring procedures were followed including a federal E-Verify clearance check and the individual in question passed this federal clearance. The Department continues to support law enforcement efforts and investigations related to this case,’ the state agency told the Herald/Times.” [Miami Herald, 10/27/22]

- **Records Showed That Payments To Archer Western-De Moya Joint Venture Had Not Stopped Since The Pinellas County Sheriff’s Office Announced The Findings.** The Miami Herald reported, “Gov. Ron DeSantis’ administration has paid more than \$8 million to a construction contractor since authorities found it had hired several undocumented workers—including two men who have been charged in connection with the death of a Pinellas County deputy. The state contractor, Archer Western-De Moya Joint Venture, has a standing contract with the Florida Department of Transportation to do work on the Gateway Expressway in the Tampa Bay area. Records show the payments, which are part of a multi-year half-billion dollar contract, have not stopped since the Pinellas County Sheriff’s Office announced the findings. [...] In a statement to the Herald/Times, the state agency defended the contractor. ‘The Florida Department of Transportation and its contractors follow strict hiring procedures including all federal and state laws. This is true here,’ the statement read. [...] ‘Compliant hiring procedures were followed including a federal E-Verify clearance check and the individual in question passed this federal clearance. The Department continues to support law enforcement efforts and investigations related to this case,’ the state agency told the Herald/Times.” [Miami Herald, 10/27/22]
- **The Florida Department Of Transportation Defended The Contractor And Stated, “Compliant Hiring Procedures Were Followed Including A Federal E-Verify Clearance Check And The Individual In Question Passed This Federal Clearance.”** The Miami Herald reported, “Gov. Ron DeSantis’ administration has paid more than \$8 million to a construction contractor since authorities found it had hired several undocumented workers—including two men who have been charged in connection with the death of a Pinellas County deputy. The state contractor, Archer Western-De Moya Joint Venture, has a standing contract with the Florida Department of Transportation to do work on the Gateway Expressway in the Tampa Bay area. Records show the payments, which are part of a multi-year half-billion dollar contract, have not stopped since the Pinellas County Sheriff’s Office announced the findings. [...] In a statement to the Herald/Times, the state agency defended the contractor. ‘The Florida Department of Transportation and its contractors follow strict

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**October 2022: During A Gubernatorial Debate, DeSantis Brought Up The Incident Of A Pinellas County Deputy Who Was Killed By A "Twice-Deported Illegal Alien" But Failed To Mention That The State Of Florida Continued To Do Business With The Contractor That Employed The Suspect.** The Miami Herald reported, "We just had a sheriff's deputy from Pinellas County killed by a twice-deported illegal alien who came across the border illegally six months ago. I didn't hear any of the outrage about that,' DeSantis said during the first and only gubernatorial debate when his Democratic opponent, Charlie Crist, criticized the governor's migrant relocation plan. DeSantis did not mention the state continues to do business with the contractor that employed the suspect. The De Moya Group, which is listed as a partner in the contract, contributed \$32,500 to DeSantis' political action committee, Friend of Ron DeSantis, during the 2022 election cycle, according to campaign finance records." [Miami Herald, 10/27/22]

- **According To DeSantis's Campaign Finance Records, The De Moya Group, Which Was Listed As A Partner In The Contract That Employed The Suspect Who Killed A Sheriff's Deputy, Contributed \$32,500 To DeSantis's Political Action Committee, Friend Of Ron DeSantis.** The Miami Herald reported, "We just had a sheriff's deputy from Pinellas County killed by a twice-deported illegal alien who came across the border illegally six months ago. I didn't hear any of the outrage about that,' DeSantis said during the first and only gubernatorial debate when his Democratic opponent, Charlie Crist, criticized the governor's migrant relocation plan. DeSantis did not mention the state continues to do business with the contractor that employed the suspect. The De Moya Group, which is listed as a partner in the contract, contributed \$32,500 to DeSantis' political action committee, Friend of Ron DeSantis, during the 2022 election cycle, according to campaign finance records." [Miami Herald, 10/27/22]

## **September 2020: The Florida Department Of Corrections Entered Into A Formal Partnership With ICE, Allowing Officers To Interrogate And Process Any Detainee They Believed Was In The Country Illegally**

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**September 2020: The Florida Department Of Corrections Entered Into A Formal Partnership With ICE Under 287(G) Allowing Officers To Interrogate And Process Any Detainee They Believed Was In The Country Illegally.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, "A select group of correctional officers at a Northwest Florida prison is set to take part in a federal immigration program that will allow officers to interrogate any detainee who they believe is in the country illegally and process them for potential immigration violations. Florida Corrections Secretary Mark Inch signed the agreement with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in mid-August, though corrections officials only made the formal partnership public on Friday. The push to participate in the program - known as 287(g) - began a year and a half ago, at the request of Gov. Ron DeSantis, who has long embraced President Donald Trump's hard-line immigration policies. DeSantis said Friday he is pleased to see the program moving forward, adding that he directed Inch to seek the program to 'facilitate greater cooperation in immigration enforcement with the federal government.' 'We take our responsibility to protect our citizens, foster safe communities and uphold the rule of law very seriously,' DeSantis said. [...] But the DeSantis administration maintains the goal is to 'enhance public safety by identifying criminal aliens received into a correctional facility.'" [Tampa Bay Times, 9/18/20]

- **DeSantis Praised Cooperative Efforts Between The Florida Department Of Corrections And ICE, Saying The Program Was Intended To "Enhance Public Safety By Identifying Criminal Aliens Received Into A Correctional Facility."** The Tampa Bay Times reported, "A select group of correctional officers at a Northwest Florida prison is set to take part in a federal immigration program that will allow officers to interrogate any detainee who they believe is in the country illegally and process them for potential immigration violations. Florida Corrections Secretary Mark Inch signed the agreement with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in mid-August, though corrections officials only made the formal partnership public on Friday.

The push to participate in the program - known as 287(g) - began a year and a half ago, at the request of Gov. Ron DeSantis, who has long embraced President Donald Trump's hard-line immigration policies. DeSantis said Friday he is pleased to see the program moving forward, adding that he directed Inch to seek the program to 'facilitate greater cooperation in immigration enforcement with the federal government.' 'We take our responsibility to protect our citizens, foster safe communities and uphold the rule of law very seriously,' DeSantis said. [...] But the DeSantis administration maintains the goal is to 'enhance public safety by identifying criminal aliens received into a correctional facility.'" [Tampa Bay Times, 9/18/20]

- **DeSantis Commented On Cooperative Efforts Between State Law Enforcement And ICE: “We Take Our Responsibility To Protect Our Citizens, Foster Safe Communities And Uphold The Rule Of Law Very Seriously.”** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “A select group of correctional officers at a Northwest Florida prison is set to take part in a federal immigration program that will allow officers to interrogate any detainee who they believe is in the country illegally and process them for potential immigration violations. Florida Corrections Secretary Mark Inch signed the agreement with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in mid-August, though corrections officials only made the formal partnership public on Friday. The push to participate in the program - known as 287(g) - began a year and a half ago, at the request of Gov. Ron DeSantis, who has long embraced President Donald Trump's hard-line immigration policies. DeSantis said Friday he is pleased to see the program moving forward, adding that he directed Inch to seek the program to 'facilitate greater cooperation in immigration enforcement with the federal government.' 'We take our responsibility to protect our citizens, foster safe communities and uphold the rule of law very seriously,' DeSantis said. [...] But the DeSantis administration maintains the goal is to 'enhance public safety by identifying criminal aliens received into a correctional facility.'" [Tampa Bay Times, 9/18/20]
- **DeSantis Pushed The Florida Department Of Corrections To Cooperate With ICE Under 287(G) On Immigration Enforcement, Which Opponents Said Would Drive More Family Separations In Florida.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “A select group of correctional officers at a Northwest Florida prison is set to take part in a federal immigration program that will allow officers to interrogate any detainee who they believe is in the country illegally and process them for potential immigration violations. Florida Corrections Secretary Mark Inch signed the agreement with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in mid-August, though corrections officials only made the formal partnership public on Friday. The push to participate in the program - known as 287(g) - began a year and a half ago, at the request of Gov. Ron DeSantis, who has long embraced President Donald Trump's hard-line immigration policies. [...] But, opponents say, the new partnership will fuel more family separations in Florida, where about 20 percent of the state's population is foreign-born. 'In a state where 1 in 5 people are immigrants, and where U.S. citizens are often caught in (Immigration and Customs Enforcement's) sprawling net, we should be taking steps to protect our communities and not furthering our role in the federal deportation agenda leading to the separation of families,' said Gaby Guadalupe, a spokeswoman for the American Civil Liberties Union Foundation of Florida.” [Tampa Bay Times, 9/18/20]
- **ACLU Foundation Of Florida Spokeswoman: “In A State Where 1 In 5 People Are Immigrants..., We Should Be Taking Steps To Protect Our Communities And Not Furthering Our Role In The Federal Deportation Agenda Leading To The Separation Of Families.”** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “A select group of correctional officers at a Northwest Florida prison is set to take part in a federal immigration program that will allow officers to interrogate any detainee who they believe is in the country illegally and process them for potential immigration violations. Florida Corrections Secretary Mark Inch signed the agreement with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in mid-August, though corrections officials only made the formal partnership public on Friday. The push to participate in the program - known as 287(g) - began a year and a half ago, at the request of Gov. Ron DeSantis, who has long embraced President Donald Trump's hard-line immigration policies. [...] But, opponents say, the new partnership will fuel more family separations in Florida, where about 20 percent of the state's population is foreign-born. 'In a state where 1 in 5 people are immigrants, and where U.S. citizens are often caught in (Immigration and Customs Enforcement's) sprawling net, we should be taking steps to protect our communities and not furthering our role in the federal deportation agenda leading to the separation of families,' said Gaby Guadalupe, a spokeswoman for the American Civil Liberties Union Foundation of Florida.” [Tampa Bay Times, 9/18/20]



## **April 2021: DeSantis Directed The Florida Department Of Corrections Secretary To Transfer Undocumented Inmates To ICE And Provide Information On Undocumented Inmates Released In Florida Communities**

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**April 2021: DeSantis Directed The Florida Department Of Corrections (FDC) Secretary To Pursue All Legal Means Available To Transfer All Florida Inmates With Detainer Agreements To ICE Custody Upon Completion Of Their Florida Prison Terms.** According to a press release from the Office of the Governor of Florida, “Over the next 30 days, the Florida Department of Corrections (FDC) estimates that 50 confirmed or suspected criminal aliens will complete their state prison terms. [...] Today, to combat the inaction of the federal government, the Governor sent a letter to FDC Secretary Mark Inch directing him to: Identify all Florida inmates with detainer agreements and pursue all legal means available to transfer them to ICE custody upon completion of their Florida prison terms. [...] Provide monthly updates to FDLE and the Office of the Governor on all undocumented inmates released at the direction of ICE. Notify local law enforcement whenever undocumented individuals may be released in their communities. [...] Work with Florida Sheriffs to facilitate use of the national Law Enforcement Notification System (LENS), which provides local law enforcement with information on criminal aliens released from ICE custody in Florida. Submit formal requests to ICE under 8 U.S.C. 1373© to confirm the citizenship status of all inmates where citizenship status is inconclusive.” [Office of the Governor of Florida, Press Release, [4/1/21](#)]

- **DeSantis Directed The FDC Secretary To Provide Monthly Updates To The Governor’s Office On All Undocumented Inmates Released At The Direction Of ICE And Notify Law Enforcement Whenever Undocumented Individuals Were Released In Their Communities.** According to a press release from the Office of the Governor of Florida, “Today, to combat the inaction of the federal government, the Governor sent a letter to FDC Secretary Mark Inch directing him to: Identify all Florida inmates with detainer agreements and pursue all legal means available to transfer them to ICE custody upon completion of their Florida prison terms. [...] Provide monthly updates to FDLE and the Office of the Governor on all undocumented inmates released at the direction of ICE. Notify local law enforcement whenever undocumented individuals may be released in their communities. [...] Work with Florida Sheriffs to facilitate use of the national Law Enforcement Notification System (LENS), which provides local law enforcement with information on criminal aliens released from ICE custody in Florida. Submit formal requests to ICE under 8 U.S.C. 1373© to confirm the citizenship status of all inmates where citizenship status is inconclusive.” [Office of the Governor of Florida, Press Release, [4/1/21](#)]
- **DeSantis Directed The FDC Secretary To “Work With FDLE To Cross-Check, On A Weekly Basis, Any Released Criminal Aliens Against Florida Law Enforcement’s Statewide Reports Of New Crimes.”** According to a press release from the Office of the Governor of Florida, “Today, to combat the inaction of the federal government, the Governor sent a letter to FDC Secretary Mark Inch directing him to: Identify all Florida inmates with detainer agreements and pursue all legal means available to transfer them to ICE custody upon completion of their Florida prison terms. Provide monthly updates to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) and the Office of the Governor on all inmates who have detainers lifted by ICE during the ninety days prior to release date. Provide monthly updates to FDLE and the Office of the Governor on all undocumented inmates released at the direction of ICE. Notify local law enforcement whenever undocumented individuals may be released in their communities. Work with FDLE to cross-check, on a weekly basis, any released criminal aliens against Florida law enforcement’s statewide reports of new crimes. Work with Florida Sheriffs to facilitate use of the national Law Enforcement Notification System (LENS), which provides local law enforcement with information on criminal aliens released from ICE custody in Florida. Submit formal requests to ICE under 8 U.S.C. 1373© to confirm the citizenship status of all inmates where citizenship status is inconclusive.” [Office of the Governor of Florida, Press Release, [4/1/21](#)]
- **DeSantis Directed The FDC Secretary To Work With Florida Sheriffs To Facilitate The Use Of The National Law Enforcement Notification System, Which Provided Local Law Enforcement With Information On Criminal Aliens Released From ICE Custody In Florida.** According to a press release

from the Office of the Governor of Florida, “Today, to combat the inaction of the federal government, the Governor sent a letter to FDC Secretary Mark Inch directing him to: Identify all Florida inmates with detainer agreements and pursue all legal means available to transfer them to ICE custody upon completion of their Florida prison terms. [...] Provide monthly updates to FDLE and the Office of the Governor on all undocumented inmates released at the direction of ICE. Notify local law enforcement whenever undocumented individuals may be released in their communities. [...] Work with Florida Sheriffs to facilitate use of the national Law Enforcement Notification System (LENS), which provides local law enforcement with information on criminal aliens released from ICE custody in Florida. Submit formal requests to ICE under 8 U.S.C. 1373© to confirm the citizenship status of all inmates where citizenship status is inconclusive.” [Office of the Governor of Florida, Press Release, [4/1/21](#)]

- **DeSantis Directed The FDC Secretary To Submit Formal Requests To ICE To Confirm The Citizenship Status Of All Inmates Where Citizenship Status Was Inconclusive.** According to a press release from the Office of the Governor of Florida, “Today, to combat the inaction of the federal government, the Governor sent a letter to FDC Secretary Mark Inch directing him to: [...] Provide monthly updates to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) and the Office of the Governor on all inmates who have detainers lifted by ICE during the ninety days prior to release date. Provide monthly updates to FDLE and the Office of the Governor on all undocumented inmates released at the direction of ICE. Notify local law enforcement whenever undocumented individuals may be released in their communities. Work with FDLE to cross-check, on a weekly basis, any released criminal aliens against Florida law enforcement’s statewide reports of new crimes. Work with Florida Sheriffs to facilitate use of the national Law Enforcement Notification System (LENS), which provides local law enforcement with information on criminal aliens released from ICE custody in Florida. Submit formal requests to ICE under 8 U.S.C. 1373© to confirm the citizenship status of all inmates where citizenship status is inconclusive.” [Office of the Governor of Florida, Press Release, [4/1/21](#)]

## **DeSantis Sent Florida Law Enforcement Officers To The Southern Border In Texas And Arizona To Assist With Border Control**

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### ***June 2021: DeSantis Sent Florida Law Enforcement Officers To The Southern Border To Assist With Immigration Enforcement***

**June 2021: DeSantis Announced That Florida Law Enforcement Officers Would Travel To Texas And Arizona To Help With Border Control And Immigration Enforcement.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “Gov. Ron DeSantis said Wednesday that Florida law enforcement officers will go to Texas and Arizona to help with border control as Florida continues to challenge the Biden administration in federal court about immigration enforcement. DeSantis’ announcement during a news conference in Pensacola came after Texas Gov. Greg Abbott and Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey sent a letter last week to governors of the 48 other states requesting assistance in battling illegal immigration at the border with Mexico. Details on the number of Florida officers that will be deployed, where they will go and the costs to Florida taxpayers have not been determined, DeSantis said. In addition to the Florida Highway Patrol, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the DeSantis administration said commitments to send officers have come from the Brevard, Escambia, Hillsborough, Holmes, Lee, Okaloosa, Pasco, Santa Rosa and Walton county sheriff’s offices. ‘The Biden administration ended effective policies that have been implemented by President Donald Trump to curb illegal immigration across the Southern border,’ said DeSantis, who was flanked at the news conference by Attorney General Ashley Moody and law enforcement officers. ‘They have revoked policies designed to secure our border and keep Americans safe.’” [Tampa Bay Times, 6/16/21]

- **DeSantis Stated That Details On The Program, Including Its Cost To Florida Taxpayers, Had Not Been Determined.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “Gov. Ron DeSantis said Wednesday that Florida law enforcement officers will go to Texas and Arizona to help with border control as Florida continues to challenge the Biden administration in federal court about immigration enforcement. DeSantis’ announcement during a news conference in Pensacola came after Texas Gov. Greg Abbott and Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey sent a letter last week to governors of the 48 other states requesting assistance in battling illegal immigration at the border

with Mexico. Details on the number of Florida officers that will be deployed, where they will go and the costs to Florida taxpayers have not been determined, DeSantis said. In addition to the Florida Highway Patrol, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the DeSantis administration said commitments to send officers have come from the Brevard, Escambia, Hillsborough, Holmes, Lee, Okaloosa, Pasco, Santa Rosa and Walton county sheriff's offices. 'The Biden administration ended effective policies that have been implemented by President Donald Trump to curb illegal immigration across the Southern border,' said DeSantis, who was flanked at the news conference by Attorney General Ashley Moody and law enforcement officers. 'They have revoked policies designed to secure our border and keep Americans safe.'" [Tampa Bay Times, 6/16/21]

- **DeSantis Stated That Florida Would Send Officers From The Florida Highway Patrol, The Florida Department Of Law Enforcement, The Florida Fish And Wildlife Conservation Commission And Certain Sheriff's Offices.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, "Gov. Ron DeSantis said Wednesday that Florida law enforcement officers will go to Texas and Arizona to help with border control as Florida continues to challenge the Biden administration in federal court about immigration enforcement. DeSantis' announcement during a news conference in Pensacola came after Texas Gov. Greg Abbott and Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey sent a letter last week to governors of the 48 other states requesting assistance in battling illegal immigration at the border with Mexico. Details on the number of Florida officers that will be deployed, where they will go and the costs to Florida taxpayers have not been determined, DeSantis said. In addition to the Florida Highway Patrol, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the DeSantis administration said commitments to send officers have come from the Brevard, Escambia, Hillsborough, Holmes, Lee, Okaloosa, Pasco, Santa Rosa and Walton county sheriff's offices. 'The Biden administration ended effective policies that have been implemented by President Donald Trump to curb illegal immigration across the Southern border,' said DeSantis, who was flanked at the news conference by Attorney General Ashley Moody and law enforcement officers. 'They have revoked policies designed to secure our border and keep Americans safe.'" [Tampa Bay Times, 6/16/21]
- **DeSantis: "The Biden Administration Ended Effective Policies That Have Been Implemented By President Donald Trump To Curb Illegal Immigration Across The Southern Border. They Have Revoked Policies Designed To Secure Our Border And Keep Americans Safe."** The Tampa Bay Times reported, "Gov. Ron DeSantis said Wednesday that Florida law enforcement officers will go to Texas and Arizona to help with border control as Florida continues to challenge the Biden administration in federal court about immigration enforcement. DeSantis' announcement during a news conference in Pensacola came after Texas Gov. Greg Abbott and Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey sent a letter last week to governors of the 48 other states requesting assistance in battling illegal immigration at the border with Mexico. Details on the number of Florida officers that will be deployed, where they will go and the costs to Florida taxpayers have not been determined, DeSantis said. In addition to the Florida Highway Patrol, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the DeSantis administration said commitments to send officers have come from the Brevard, Escambia, Hillsborough, Holmes, Lee, Okaloosa, Pasco, Santa Rosa and Walton county sheriff's offices. 'The Biden administration ended effective policies that have been implemented by President Donald Trump to curb illegal immigration across the Southern border,' said DeSantis, who was flanked at the news conference by Attorney General Ashley Moody and law enforcement officers. 'They have revoked policies designed to secure our border and keep Americans safe.'" [Tampa Bay Times, 6/16/21]

**June 2021: DeSantis Stated That Funding For Florida Law Enforcement's Mission In Texas "Was Still A Point Of Discussion."** The Tampa Bay Times reported, "Gov. Ron DeSantis on Friday announced that Florida is sending 50 state law enforcement officers to Texas to help enforce the U.S.-Mexico border, though it remains unclear exactly what their mission will be and who will be paying for the effort. 'We are unable to share mission specifics at this time to protect the security of the missions they are working,' said Katie Strickland, a spokeswoman for the governor. DeSantis said funding the mission has also not been determined. 'That is still a point of discussion,' DeSantis said at a press conference in Pensacola. 'Typically, if someone would help us, you know, we would pick up some of their funding and so that is how we would hope that it goes. But we do not anticipate getting any federal funds.'" [Tampa Bay Times, 6/25/21]

- **DeSantis Announced That 50 Officers From FDLE, The Florida Fish And Wildlife Conservation Commission And The Florida Highway Patrol Would Go To Texas To Assist At The Border, But The Sheriff's Deputies Who Volunteered Would Remain In Florida.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, "By Friday, the plans became more clear and they also appeared to have changed. Florida is not sending any aid to Arizona yet because the state has not requested it, a need from the state, Strickland said. Texas, however, will be receiving 50 state personnel from FDLE, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the Florida Highway Patrol. Deputies with the nine sheriff's offices that volunteered to go on the mission will not be going to Texas. They will mostly be used to potentially 'back fill' the positions left vacant by the state law enforcement officers who are deployed to the border, DeSantis said, DeSantis added that locals were no longer needed in Texas because 50 state personnel were enough for Florida to 'meet the need' in Texas." [Tampa Bay Times, 6/25/21]
- **DeSantis Announced That Florida Law Enforcement Would Not Yet Go To Arizona, As The State Had Not Requested Aid.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, "By Friday, the plans became more clear and they also appeared to have changed. Florida is not sending any aid to Arizona yet because the state has not requested it, a need from the state, Strickland said. Texas, however, will be receiving 50 state personnel from FDLE, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the Florida Highway Patrol. Deputies with the nine sheriff's offices that volunteered to go on the mission will not be going to Texas. They will mostly be used to potentially 'back fill' the positions left vacant by the state law enforcement officers who are deployed to the border, DeSantis said, DeSantis added that locals were no longer needed in Texas because 50 state personnel were enough for Florida to 'meet the need' in Texas." [Tampa Bay Times, 6/25/21]

### ***DeSantis Did Not Say Exactly Where The Officers Would Go Or What They Would Do, And A Critic Claimed He Had "No Real Plan"***

**June 2021: After Florida Law Enforcement Officers Were Deployed To Texas, DeSantis Still Would Not Say Where They Would Be Going And What They Would Be Doing.** The San Francisco Chronicle reported, "DeSantis arrived in the state's Panhandle on Friday to see off some of the departing law enforcement personnel, who will be deployed for 16-day shifts. 'They will get there and they will be ready to go on Monday,' he said, adding that he, too, would soon be headed to the border. 'We look forward to being able to see them in action.' The personnel will be at the disposal of Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey and Texas Gov. Greg Abbott, who issued a call to their fellow governors earlier this month for help - charging that the Biden administration 'has proven unwilling or unable' to secure the U.S.-Mexico border. GOP governors in Idaho, Iowa and Nebraska also have vowed to send personnel. DeSantis did not say where exactly the Florida personnel would be deployed and what duties they would be performing." [San Francisco Chronicle, 6/27/21]

**June 2021: According To A Column In The Miami Herald, DeSantis Sent Florida Police Officers To Defend The Border In Texas And Arizona With "No Real Plan."** According to Miami Herald columnist Fabiola Santiago, "If Gov. Ron DeSantis really cared about the meth-addiction problem in Florida, he would not be looking for solutions among immigrants at the Texas or Arizona borders, where he has no jurisdiction to enforce immigration law or run drug stings. But demagogue DeSantis made another round of attention-grabbing headlines when he pledged to send local and state security forces to Texas and Arizona to help police the southern border. Never mind that everyone knows that immigration and border security are federal government issues. DeSantis says he'll send Florida police officers to help Texas, Arizona enforce border The deployment would take place at the expense of Florida taxpayers and, so far, DeSantis appears to have no real plan for his deputies other than, maybe, having them watch a series of revved-up Fox News reports from the U.S.-Mexico border?" [Miami Herald, Column, 6/18/21]

### ***July 2021: DeSantis Visited The Southern Border And Claimed That "More Than 70%" Of The Migrants Florida Law Enforcement Officers Had Intercepted Identified Florida As Their Ultimate Destination***

**July 2021: DeSantis Held A Press Conference While Visiting Florida Law Enforcement Officers At The Texas-Mexico Border, Stating That “More Than 70%” Of The Migrants Florida Law Enforcement Had Intercepted Identified Florida As Their Ultimate Destination.** The Miami Herald reported, “Within seconds of touching American ground, the three Cubans were apprehended by a group of Texas law enforcement officers who began the process of turning them over to U.S. Customs and Border Patrol. Whether they will be deported remains unknown. Just four hours earlier, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, Attorney General Ashley Moody and Senate President Wilton Simpson, R-Trilby, had visited that very same spot as they were briefed on what some 50 Florida law enforcement officials had been doing during a 23-day stint to help Texas officers secure the U.S.-Mexico border. After that visit, DeSantis and an entourage of state officials held a press conference with Texas Gov. Greg Abbott, a fellow Republican, to talk about the states’ efforts to enforce the U.S. border. [...] ‘Of the individuals our law enforcement have apprehended at the border, more than 70% said they ultimately wanted to go to Florida,’ DeSantis said during a press conference with Abbott at an airport hangar in Del Rio, Texas, a border city more than 1,000 miles away from Florida’s capital city of Tallahassee. If the undocumented immigrants ultimately make it to Florida, DeSantis said it will be a ‘stress on public resources, schools, medical, all of these things’ and ‘greatly impact communities throughout Florida, and I think throughout the country.’” [Miami Herald, 7/17/21]

- **DeSantis Stated That If The Undocumented Immigrants Apprehended At The Border Made It To Florida, That Would Cause “Stress On Public Resources, Schools, Medical, All Of These Things” And “Greatly Impact Communities Throughout Florida, And I Think Throughout The Country.”** The Miami Herald reported, “‘Of the individuals our law enforcement have apprehended at the border, more than 70% said they ultimately wanted to go to Florida,’ DeSantis said during a press conference with Abbott at an airport hangar in Del Rio, Texas, a border city more than 1,000 miles away from Florida’s capital city of Tallahassee. If the undocumented immigrants ultimately make it to Florida, DeSantis said it will be a ‘stress on public resources, schools, medical, all of these things’ and ‘greatly impact communities throughout Florida, and I think throughout the country.’” [Miami Herald, 7/17/21]

**July 2021: DeSantis Tweeted, “Today, More Than 50 Officers From Florida State Law Enforcement Are Deployed In Texas, Fighting Human Smuggling And Drug Trafficking At The Border.”** According to a Twitter post from Ron DeSantis, “When @GovAbbott sent out a call for help to secure our southern border, Florida answered. Today, more than 50 officers from Florida state law enforcement are deployed in Texas, fighting human smuggling and drug trafficking at the border.” [Twitter, @GovRonDeSantis, [7/17/21](#)]



[Twitter, @GovRonDeSantis, [7/17/21](#)]

**July 2021: A Press Release By DeSantis’s Office Claimed That Florida Law Enforcement Had Assisted With The Apprehension Of More Than 2,800 Undocumented “Aliens” In 23 Days And Aided In More Than 100 Criminal Arrests For Felonies Including Human Trafficking, Drug Smuggling And Stolen Vehicles.**

According to a press release from the Office of the Governor of Florida, “Today, Governor Ron DeSantis visited the Southern Border to meet with Florida law enforcement who have been deployed to Texas to provide additional resources in response to the border crisis. While in Texas, Governor DeSantis also met with Governor Abbott for a tour and to receive a briefing on the rise in crime and drug trafficking that Texas is experiencing because of the Biden Administration’s failed border policies. At the briefing, Governor DeSantis announced that the Florida National Guard will remain in Texas to provide additional support at the border until October 2022. Florida law enforcement have assisted with the apprehension of more than 2,800 undocumented aliens in 23 days and aided in more than 100 criminal arrests for felonies including human trafficking, drug smuggling and stolen vehicles. ‘We appreciate Texas stepping up where the federal government won’t,’ said Governor Ron DeSantis. ‘[...] Of the individuals our law enforcement have apprehended at the border, more than 70% said they ultimately wanted to go to Florida.’” [Office of the Governor of Florida, Press Release, [7/17/21](#)]

***Florida Spent Over \$1.6 Million On The Decision To Send Law Enforcement To The Texas-Mexico Border***

**July 2021: Texas Was Unwilling To Reimburse Florida For Costs Associated With Sending Law Enforcement To The Texas-Mexico Border, But DeSantis Maintained That The Operation Was Still A Responsible Use Of Florida Funds And “Within An Existing Budget.”** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “A spokesman for the Texas Department of Public Safety told the Times/Herald that states are sending troops ‘at their own expense’ and that there will be no reimbursement. When asked Saturday, Abbott did not commit to reimbursing Florida for travel expenses associated with the mission. While reimbursements appear unlikely, DeSantis and state officials say the mission is still a worthwhile use of state funds. ‘The bottom line is, Texas has helped us in the past. They asked for Florida’s help, and the governor said we would help,’ Swearingen said. ‘So finding the resources, we will figure all that stuff out. We will figure out how we pay for this. But you can’t come here [Texas] and not realize what is going on here.’ DeSantis added that the mission is within the state’s means. ‘Obviously, we are doing this within an existing budget. We’re making sure that all our priorities are met. We have a lot of stuff going on in the state,’ DeSantis said. He then added: ‘Hopefully, we’ll get some other states to step up.’” [Tampa Bay Times, 7/18/21]

**November 2021: Florida Spent \$570,988 On DeSantis’s Decision To Send Law Enforcement Officers To The Texas-Mexico Border.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “Florida spent more than half a million dollars to send law enforcement officers to the U.S.-Mexico border in Texas over the summer, a mission that was spearheaded by Gov. Ron DeSantis, a frequent critic of President Joe Biden’s immigration policies. The cost of the mission - in total \$570,988 - covered the salaries of dozens of state personnel, their travel costs, as well as supplies and equipment used during a weeks-long stint at the border, according to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. DeSantis’ office initially said the state would seek reimbursements for the costs. But it appears Florida taxpayers will end up footing the bill for the mission, which Democrats have called a political stunt aimed at bolstering the governor’s national stature.” [Tampa Bay Times, 11/10/21]

- **The Project, Called “Operation Lone Star,” Involved 74 Florida Law Enforcement Officers Who Assisted Texas Law Enforcement, Patrolling The Border With Airboats, Off-Road Vehicles, And Aircrafts.** The Miami Herald reported, “For about two months, dozens of state law enforcement officers were stationed in Del Rio, Texas, as part of what became known as ‘Operation Lone Star.’ They assisted Texas law enforcement, not U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents, and patrolled the area with airboats, off-road vehicles and aircraft. The mission started June 26 and ended August 14. In total, 74 state law enforcement officers participated in the effort.” [Miami Herald, 11/10/21]

**November 2021: Additional Records Showed That The Actual Cost Of The Operation In Texas Was At Least \$1.6 Million And Was Expected To Keep Growing.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “Gov. Ron DeSantis over the summer sent dozens of Florida law enforcement officers and equipment to the southern border in Texas,

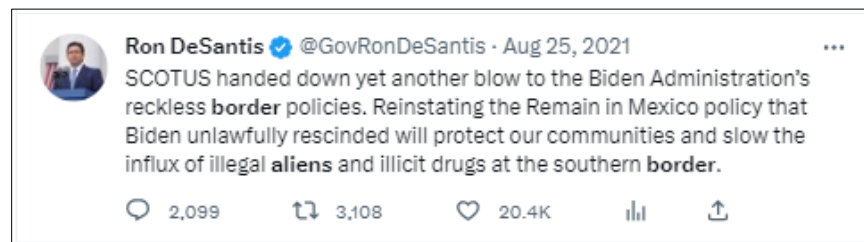
and racked up a taxpayer-funded bill that so far amounts to at least \$1.6 million but is expected to keep growing. The seven-week trip, led by three state agencies, was cast by the Republican governor as a needed measure to beef up security at the border amid the failures of President Joe Biden’s administration, while critics saw the effort as a state-funded political errand used to further DeSantis’ national footprint ahead of a potential 2024 White House bid. The Miami Herald reported earlier in November that the trip had cost taxpayers \$570,988, but additional records released to the First Amendment Foundation and obtained by the Miami Herald show the actual cost was at least \$1.6 million, a number that is still expected to grow. The governor’s office did not correct the record when the Herald first asked about and later reported the \$570,988 figure on Nov. 10, despite the actual cost of the mission being nearly triple that amount.” [Tampa Bay Times, 11/30/21]

- **The Results Of This Mission Included “Contacts” With 9,171 Immigrants, 311 Criminal Arrests, 79 Human Smuggling Cases, 16 Stolen Vehicles, 43 Narcotics Cases And 4 Drug Seizures.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “According to Pushaw, state law enforcement officers had ‘contacts’ with 9,171 undocumented migrants. That included: 311 criminal arrests, 79 human smuggling cases, 16 stolen vehicle cases, 43 narcotics cases, 4 drug seizures.” [Tampa Bay Times, 11/30/21]

## **DeSantis Supported Trump’s “Remain In Mexico” Policy**

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**August 2021: DeSantis Tweeted, “Reinstating The Remain In Mexico Policy That Biden Unlawfully Rescinded Will Protect Our Communities And Slow The Influx Of Illegal Aliens And Illicit Drugs At The Southern Border.”** According to a Twitter post from Ron DeSantis, “SCOTUS handed down yet another blow to the Biden Administration’s reckless border policies. Reinstating the Remain in Mexico policy that Biden unlawfully rescinded will protect our communities and slow the influx of illegal aliens and illicit drugs at the southern border.” [Twitter, @GovRonDeSantis, [8/25/21](#)]



[Twitter, @GovRonDeSantis, [8/25/21](#)]

**DeSantis Supported Lawsuits To Reinstate The Trump Administration Immigration Policy To Return People Caught At The Border To Detention Centers In Mexico.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “Kurzban, the past national president of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, detailed his objections to DeSantis: the governor’s support of lawsuits to reinstate the Trump administration immigration policy to return people caught at the border to detention centers in Mexico, his use of taxpayer money to send the Florida National Guard to the Texas border, his support of legislation blocking the transport of undocumented immigrants into the state, and his order directing state law enforcement to stop any undocumented persons who are released into Florida. Kurzban, who is nationally recognized for his immigration work and whose ‘Immigration Law Sourcebook,’ is known as a resource in the legal community, was invited to be a panelist at the 2022 EB-5 & Global Immigration Expo, scheduled for April 7-8 in Miami.” [Tampa Bay Times, 3/24/22]

**September 2022: DeSantis Called The “Remain In Mexico” Policy A “Solution” To The Border Crisis.** The Miami Herald reported, “At a news conference Tuesday, DeSantis did not address rumors of the Delaware flight. He did, however, double down on his use of the charter flights, despite criticism from Florida Democrats that spending taxpayer money to transport migrants from Texas, rather than Florida, disregarded language approved in the state budget. Paying for flights out of Texas was necessary, DeSantis suggested, because authorities are not seeing ‘mass movements’ of migrants into Florida but rather a trickle—making it harder to recruit people for trips north in large numbers. ‘If we just ignore the source, then you’re gonna have people trickling in[to Florida] 5, 10 a

day, 20 a day,' DeSantis said. 'I think that at the end of the day, what we're doing is not the ultimate solution. I think it's opening people's eyes to the solution, which is, let's have a secure border. Let's have 'Remain in Mexico.' Let's take the cartels seriously.'" [Miami Herald, 9/20/22]

## **September 2021: DeSantis's Administration Sued The Biden Administration Over Its Immigration Policies**

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**September 2021: DeSantis Announced He Was Filing A Lawsuit Against The Biden Administration, Alleging That The Administration's "Catch And Release" Practice And Other Immigration Policies Caused Florida Harm.** The Miami Herald reported, "The lawsuit is primarily focused on the so-called 'catch and release' practice that former President Donald Trump and many Republicans, including DeSantis, have blamed for crimes and violence committed by undocumented immigrants. In a 23-page lawsuit filed in federal court in Pensacola, Moody alleges many of the migrants the Biden administration has 'illegally released' will come to Florida and cost the state money. 'The Biden administration's illegal border policies cause Florida harm,' according to the complaint. 'Many of the aliens illegally released by the Biden administration are arriving, or will arrive in Florida, harming the state's quasi-sovereign interests and forcing it to incur millions of dollars in expenses.' Moody also alleges that some undocumented immigrants coming to Florida could be gang members, drug traffickers and other criminals. When announcing the lawsuit, DeSantis said the crimes committed by undocumented immigrants are worse than those committed by U.S. citizens 'in terms of the anguish that the families face' because they could have been prevented by the federal government. 'Had the government just done its job, this would not have happened. They would not have been in their situation,' DeSantis said. 'So, it's really, really a sad thing.'" [Miami Herald, 9/28/21]

**October 2021: DeSantis's Lawsuit Against The Biden Administration Demanded That The Administration Keep Asylum Seekers At The U.S. Border Instead Of Releasing Them Pending A Hearing.** The Miami Herald reported, "Texas' border is DeSantis' priority: Among the governor's priorities aimed at a national audience is fighting the border war in Texas. Last week, DeSantis sued the federal government over immigration, demanding the Biden administration retain people who claim asylum at U.S. borders instead of releasing them as they await a hearing. He also signed an executive order that 'encouraged' Florida law enforcement officers to pull over drivers who are transporting migrants into the state if there is 'reasonable' suspicion of a crime. Within minutes of the news conference, the governor's political committee sent out a fundraising email." [Miami Herald, 10/4/21]

**January 2023: A Federal Judge Began Hearing Arguments In A Legal Battle Between The State Of Florida And The Biden Administration, Stemming From A Lawsuit That Florida's Attorney General Ashley Moody Filed In 2021.** The Miami Herald reported, "A federal judge on Monday began hearing arguments in a legal battle between Florida and the Biden administration over immigration, a long-running political fight that in recent days has taken center stage in the Florida Keys where hundreds of migrants have arrived by boat. The trial, which is expected to go through Thursday, stems from a lawsuit Attorney General Ashley Moody filed against the Biden administration in 2021. The issue is hitting close to home simultaneously as Gov. Ron DeSantis says the migrant arrivals in the Keys are 'likely to constitute a major disaster.' In Pensacola this week, attorneys in Moody's office will try to convince U.S. District Judge T.K. Wetherell that the U.S. government is violating federal law through policies that release undocumented immigrants who cross the southern border into the community, many of them hoping to reach Florida." [Miami Herald, 1/9/23]

- **Attorney General Ashley Moody's Office Planned To Convince U.S. District Judge T.K. Wetherell That The U.S. Government Violated Federal Law Through Policies That Released Undocumented Immigrants Crossing The Southern Border With Hopes Of Reaching Florida.** The Miami Herald reported, "A federal judge on Monday began hearing arguments in a legal battle between Florida and the Biden administration over immigration, a long-running political fight that in recent days has taken center stage in the Florida Keys where hundreds of migrants have arrived by boat. The trial, which is expected to go through Thursday, stems from a lawsuit Attorney General Ashley Moody filed against the Biden administration in 2021. The issue is hitting close to home simultaneously as Gov. Ron DeSantis says the migrant arrivals in the Keys are 'likely to constitute a major disaster.' In Pensacola this week, attorneys in Moody's office will try to convince U.S. District Judge T.K. Wetherell that the U.S. government is violating federal law through policies that release



undocumented immigrants who cross the southern border into the community, many of them hoping to reach Florida.” [Miami Herald, 1/9/23]

- **U.S. Department Of Justice Attorney Erin T. Ryan Argued During Opening Statements That The Case Was “Simply A Disagreement On Policy” And Its Resolution Should Be At The “Voting Booth, Not The Courtroom.”** The Miami Herald reported, “In Pensacola this week, attorneys in Moody’s office will try to convince U.S. District Judge T.K. Wetherell that the U.S. government is violating federal law through policies that release undocumented immigrants who cross the southern border into the community, many of them hoping to reach Florida. U.S. Department of Justice attorneys, meanwhile, will argue the Biden administration—just like every other administration in the past—has discretion over whom to detain and release after they illegally enter the country. The case is ‘simply a disagreement on policy,’ DOJ attorney Erin T. Ryan argued during opening statements on Monday. Its resolution should be at the ‘voting booth, not the courtroom,’ she added. But the state contends the federal government’s policies are harming Florida and intends to prove it by showing how the flow of undocumented immigrants into the state is raising the cost of services such as education, healthcare and unemployment services. ‘Defendants caused the border crisis, and they know it,’ Florida Deputy Attorney General of Legal Policy James H. Percival said.” [Miami Herald, 1/9/23]
- **The State Alleged That Biden’s Policies Were Harming Florida As The Flow Of Undocumented Immigrants Raised The Cost Of Services Like Education And Healthcare, While The Florida Deputy Attorney General Accused The Biden Administration Of Causing The “Border Crisis.”** The Miami Herald reported, “In Pensacola this week, attorneys in Moody’s office will try to convince U.S. District Judge T.K. Wetherell that the U.S. government is violating federal law through policies that release undocumented immigrants who cross the southern border into the community, many of them hoping to reach Florida. U.S. Department of Justice attorneys, meanwhile, will argue the Biden administration—just like every other administration in the past—has discretion over whom to detain and release after they illegally enter the country. The case is ‘simply a disagreement on policy,’ DOJ attorney Erin T. Ryan argued during opening statements on Monday. Its resolution should be at the ‘voting booth, not the courtroom,’ she added. But the state contends the federal government’s policies are harming Florida and intends to prove it by showing how the flow of undocumented immigrants into the state is raising the cost of services such as education, healthcare and unemployment services. ‘Defendants caused the border crisis, and they know it,’ Florida Deputy Attorney General of Legal Policy James H. Percival said.” [Miami Herald, 1/9/23]

**February 2022: Following An Initial Suit Filed In September 2021, Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody Filed An Amended Complaint Challenging Biden’s “Catch And Release” Immigration Policy.** According to a press release from the Office of the Governor of Florida, “Today, Attorney General Ashley Moody announced Florida is taking legal action against the Biden administration for ignoring federal immigration law as the out-of-control situation at the U.S. southwest border continues. The Attorney General filed an amended complaint challenging President Joe Biden’s latest unlawful immigration policy. Instead of commencing immigration court proceedings against illegal immigrants caught at the border, the federal government is releasing them into the interior without even starting the legal process for their removal. [...] ‘The Biden administration has not only consciously refused to enforce immigration laws, but it has also developed an operation to secretly resettle illegal aliens into communities across Florida and the rest of the United States,’ said Governor Ron DeSantis. [...] I am glad Attorney General Moody is continuing our fight to hold the Biden Administration accountable for its reckless disregard for immigration laws.” [Office of the Governor of Florida, Press Release, [2/2/22](#)]

- **DeSantis: “I Am Glad Attorney General Moody Is Continuing Our Fight To Hold The Biden Administration Accountable For Its Reckless Disregard For Immigration Laws.”** According to a press release from the Office of the Governor of Florida, “Today, Attorney General Ashley Moody announced Florida is taking legal action against the Biden administration for ignoring federal immigration law as the out-of-control situation at the U.S. southwest border continues. The Attorney General filed an amended complaint challenging President Joe Biden’s latest unlawful immigration policy. Instead of commencing immigration court proceedings against illegal immigrants caught at the border, the federal government is releasing them into the interior without even starting the legal process for their removal. [...] ‘The Biden administration has not

only consciously refused to enforce immigration laws, but it has also developed an operation to secretly resettle illegal aliens into communities across Florida and the rest of the United States,' said Governor Ron DeSantis. '[...] I am glad Attorney General Moody is continuing our fight to hold the Biden Administration accountable for its reckless disregard for immigration laws.'" [Office of the Governor of Florida, Press Release, [2/2/22](#)]

**March 2023: In His First State Of The State Speech Of His Second Term, DeSantis Said That His Administration Was “Suing The Biden Administration Over Its Catch And Release Policies” And Stated That Florida Had Transported “Illegal Aliens To Sanctuary Jurisdictions.”** The Miami Herald reported, “Proclaiming ‘you ain’t seen nothing yet,’ Gov. Ron DeSantis used the first state of the state speech of his second term Tuesday to aim at a national political audience and give a nod to a cooperative Republican-led Legislature that vowed to work together to pass his agenda. [...] DeSantis made no mention of President Joe Biden, except to note the administration ‘is suing the Biden administration over its catch and release policies,’ a reference to the federal practice of releasing migrants into the community as they await an immigration hearing. He noted that Florida has transported ‘illegal aliens to sanctuary jurisdictions’ but did not refer to the bill filed Tuesday that would prohibit local municipalities from providing funds to entities that issue identification to undocumented immigrants and require hospitals that accept Medicaid to ask patients whether they are ‘lawfully present in the United States. [...] He echoed many of the themes of his previous state speeches, such as declaring Florida would not be a sanctuary state for illegal immigrants, even though during his term there have never been any local governments in the state operating as sanctuary cities.” [Miami Herald, 3/7/23]

- **In His State Of The State Speech, DeSantis Said That Florida Would Not Be A Sanctuary State For Illegal Immigrants Even Though No Local Governments In The State Operated As Sanctuary Cities During His Term.** The Miami Herald reported, “Proclaiming ‘you ain’t seen nothing yet,’ Gov. Ron DeSantis used the first state of the state speech of his second term Tuesday to aim at a national political audience and give a nod to a cooperative Republican-led Legislature that vowed to work together to pass his agenda. [...] DeSantis made no mention of President Joe Biden, except to note the administration ‘is suing the Biden administration over its catch and release policies,’ a reference to the federal practice of releasing migrants into the community as they await an immigration hearing. He noted that Florida has transported ‘illegal aliens to sanctuary jurisdictions’ but did not refer to the bill filed Tuesday that would prohibit local municipalities from providing funds to entities that issue identification to undocumented immigrants and require hospitals that accept Medicaid to ask patients whether they are ‘lawfully present in the United States. [...] He echoed many of the themes of his previous state speeches, such as declaring Florida would not be a sanctuary state for illegal immigrants, even though during his term there have never been any local governments in the state operating as sanctuary cities.” [Miami Herald, 3/7/23]

**March 2023: A Federal Judge Sided With DeSantis And Ruled That The Biden Administration’s Handling Of Immigrants At The Southwest Border, Including Its Parole+ATD Process, Violated The Federal Immigration And Nationality Act.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “Siding largely with Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis and Attorney General Ashley Moody, a federal judge on Wednesday ruled that the Biden administration’s handling of immigrants at the Southwest border violates federal law. Moody’s office filed the lawsuit in 2021, alleging that the Biden administration violated immigration laws through ‘catch-and-release’ policies that led to people being released from detention after crossing the U.S. border with Mexico. The lawsuit centered, in part, on what state lawyers call the Biden administration’s ‘non-detention’ policy and a policy known as ‘Parole Plus Alternatives to Detention,’ or ‘Parole+ATD.’ [...] Wetherell, a former state appellate judge appointed to the federal bench by former President Donald Trump, found that Florida’s claims about the alleged ‘non-detention policy’ were ‘nonjusticiable’ but that the Parole+ATD process violated the federal Immigration and Nationality Act. The judge put his decision vacating the Parole+ATD policy on hold for seven days, giving the Biden administration time to appeal.” [Tampa Bay Times, 3/8/23]

- **The Biden Administration Declined To Appeal A Decision Blocking A Department Of Homeland Security Program That Helped To Relieve Migrant Congestion At The Southern Border.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “The Biden administration has declined to appeal a decision from last week that blocks a key Department of Homeland Security program that has helped the agency relieve migrant congestion at the U.S. southern border. U.S. District Judge Kent Wetherell II, a Florida-based judge appointed by former President

Donald Trump, issued the 109-page opinion last week, blaming President Joe Biden for the country's border crisis and giving the government a week to appeal — a deadline that passed on Wednesday." [Tampa Bay Times, 3/16/23]

## **September 2021: DeSantis Issued Executive Order 21-223, A Broad Directive That “Encouraged” Law Enforcement To Pull Over Drivers Who Were Transporting Migrants and Prohibited State Agencies From Helping To Relocate Migrants To Florida**

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**Miami Herald – September 2021: DeSantis Issued An Executive Order That “‘Encouraged’ State Law Enforcement Officers To Pull Over Drivers Who Are Transporting Migrants Into The State If There Is ‘Reasonable’ Suspicion Of A Crime.”** The Miami Herald reported, “Gov. Ron DeSantis on Tuesday ‘encouraged’ state law enforcement officers to pull over drivers who are transporting migrants into the state if there is ‘reasonable’ suspicion of a crime, as many Haitian migrants who were recently released at the U.S.-Mexico border are expected to settle in Florida. The new policy, issued as part of a broad executive order, also prohibits state executive agencies from assisting the federal government in transporting migrants from the southwestern border to Florida. Just two years ago, though, DeSantis made his top legislative priority a law that required state and local officials to fully cooperate with federal immigration agents. ‘We’ve got to take every effort we can to make sure that we’re protecting the people of Florida, and that’s what we’re doing here today,’ DeSantis said at a press conference in Fort Myers, where he also announced the state is suing President Joe Biden’s administration over its immigration practices.” [Miami Herald, 9/28/21]

- **The Executive Order Also Prohibited State Executive Agencies From Cooperating With The Federal Government To Transport Migrants From The U.S.-Mexico Border To Florida.** The Miami Herald reported, “Gov. Ron DeSantis on Tuesday ‘encouraged’ state law enforcement officers to pull over drivers who are transporting migrants into the state if there is ‘reasonable’ suspicion of a crime, as many Haitian migrants who were recently released at the U.S.-Mexico border are expected to settle in Florida. The new policy, issued as part of a broad executive order, also prohibits state executive agencies from assisting the federal government in transporting migrants from the southwestern border to Florida. Just two years ago, though, DeSantis made his top legislative priority a law that required state and local officials to fully cooperate with federal immigration agents. ‘We’ve got to take every effort we can to make sure that we’re protecting the people of Florida, and that’s what we’re doing here today,’ DeSantis said at a press conference in Fort Myers, where he also announced the state is suing President Joe Biden’s administration over its immigration practices.” [Miami Herald, 9/28/21]
- **DeSantis’s Executive Order Authorized The Florida Department Of Law Enforcement And Florida Highway Patrol “To Detain Any Aircraft, Bus, Or Other Vehicle Within The State Of Florida Reasonably Believed To Be Transporting Illegal Aliens To Florida From The Southwest Border.”** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “Florida filed suit against President Joe Biden’s administration Tuesday claiming his immigration policy is illegal, and Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis signed an order barring state agencies from assisting with the relocation of undocumented immigrants arriving in the state. DeSantis’ order authorized the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and the Florida Highway Patrol ‘to detain any aircraft, bus, or other vehicle within the State of Florida reasonably believed to be transporting illegal aliens to Florida from the Southwest Border’ - if allowed by federal and state law. The caveat that the law must be followed likely prevents them from seizing federal aircraft. He also ordered the agencies to gather information on the identities of any immigrants arriving illegally in Florida from the Mexico border and told state agencies not to spend money assisting those immigrants unless required by law.” [Tampa Bay Times, 9/29/21]
- **DeSantis Ordered Florida Agencies To Gather Information On The Identities Of Any Immigrants Arriving In Florida But Not To Spend Any Money Assisting Those Immigrants.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “Florida filed suit against President Joe Biden’s administration Tuesday claiming his immigration policy is illegal, and Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis signed an order barring state agencies from assisting with the relocation of undocumented immigrants arriving in the state. DeSantis’ order authorized the Florida

Department of Law Enforcement and the Florida Highway Patrol ‘to detain any aircraft, bus, or other vehicle within the State of Florida reasonably believed to be transporting illegal aliens to Florida from the Southwest Border’ - if allowed by federal and state law. The caveat that the law must be followed likely prevents them from seizing federal aircraft. He also ordered the agencies to gather information on the identities of any immigrants arriving illegally in Florida from the Mexico border and told state agencies not to spend money assisting those immigrants unless required by law.” [Tampa Bay Times, 9/29/21]

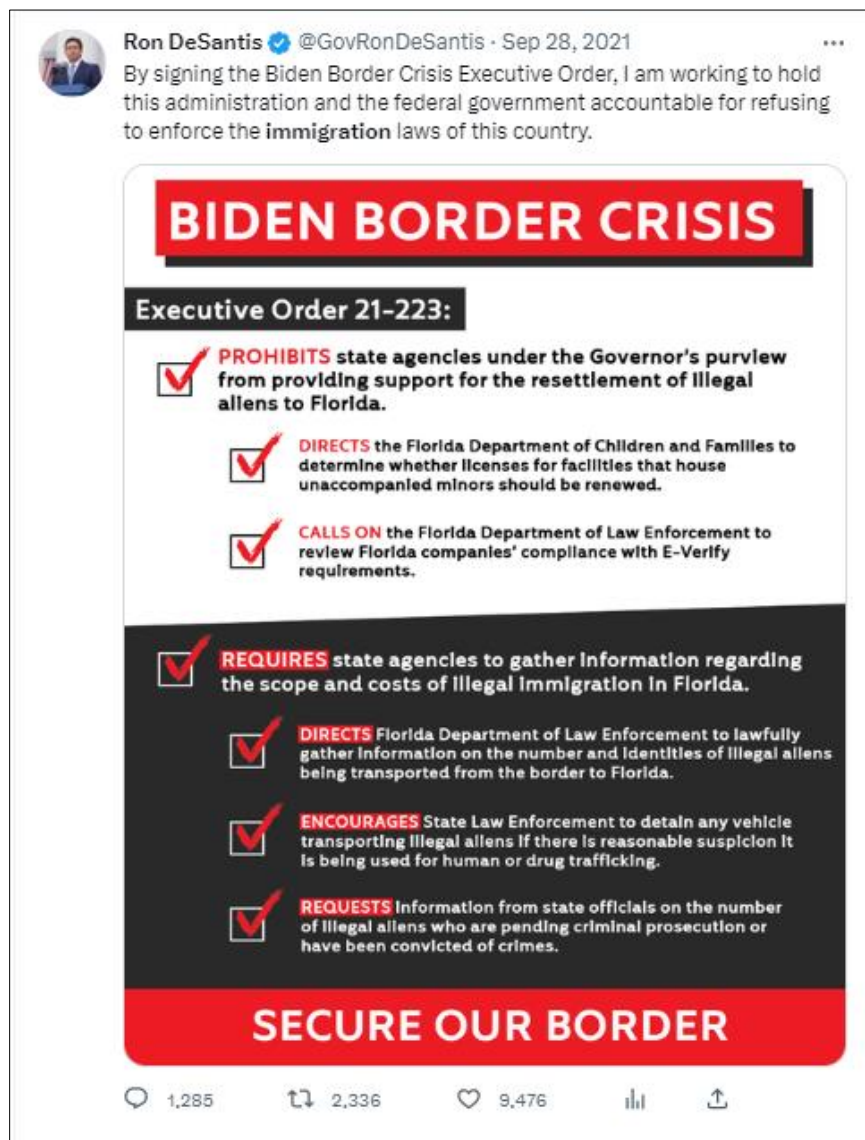
**September 2021: DeSantis Signed An Executive Order Directing State Agencies To Issue A Monthly Report On The Number Of “Illegal Aliens” Who Had Been Criminally Charged And Account For Taxpayer Dollars Spent Caring For Immigrants Who Entered The Country Illegally.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “One of Gov. Ron DeSantis’ top health officials on Thursday wrote a letter to the head of the Florida Hospital Association to ask how much money state hospitals spent last year on caring for people living in the country illegally. The letter, written by Agency for Health Care Administration Secretary Simone Marstiller, is part of a broader effort by the DeSantis administration to account for the ways in which the state is paying to support immigrants who are in the country illegally. In September, DeSantis signed an executive order directing state agencies to, among other things, issue a monthly report on the number of ‘illegal aliens’ who have been criminally charged and account for taxpayer dollars spent caring for immigrants who entered the country illegally. ‘As illegal aliens continue to cross the southern border unchecked in record numbers, hardworking Floridians pay the price, footing the bill for their medical care,’ Marstiller wrote in her Thursday letter to Mary Mayhew, the CEO of the Florida Hospital Association. The letter, which was first reported by Florida Politics, gave the hospital association a deadline of May 23 to submit the data, which it said will eventually be posted on the agency’s website. Hospitals received a formal data request from the agency this week. The facilities have been asked to report ‘all costs and expenditures, including those that are written off as uncollected debt,’ related to the inpatient treatment of people living in the country illegally.” [Tampa Bay Times, 5/6/22]

**September 2021: DeSantis Tweeted, “By Signing The Biden Border Crisis Executive Order, I Am Working To Hold This Administration And The Federal Government Accountable For Refusing To Enforce The Immigration Laws Of This Country.”** According to a Twitter post from Ron DeSantis, “By signing the Biden Border Crisis Executive Order, I am working to hold this administration and the federal government accountable for refusing to enforce the immigration laws of this country.” [Twitter, @GovRonDeSantis, 9/28/21]

- **The Executive Order, No. 21-233, “Prohibits State Agencies Under The Governor’s Purview From Providing Support For The Resettlement Of Illegal Aliens To Florida” And “Requires State Agencies To Gather Information Regarding The Scope And Costs Of Illegal Immigration In Florida.”** According to a Twitter post from Ron DeSantis, Executive Order 21-233 “Prohibits state agencies under the Governor’s purview from providing support for the resettlement of illegal aliens to Florida. Directs the Florida Department of Children and Families to determine whether licenses for facilities that house unaccompanied minors should be reviewed. Calls on the Florida Department of Law Enforcement to review Florida companies’ compliance with E-Verify requirements. Requires state agencies to gather information regarding the scope and costs of illegal immigration in Florida. Directs Florida Department of Law Enforcement to lawfully gather information on the number of identities of illegal aliens being transported from the border to Florida. Encourages State Law Enforcement to detain any vehicle transporting illegal aliens if there is reasonable suspicion it is being used for human or drug trafficking. Requests information from state officials on the number of illegal aliens who are pending criminal prosecution or have been convicted of crimes.” [Twitter, @GovRonDeSantis, 9/28/21]
- **Executive Order No. 21-233 “Directs The Florida Department Of Children And Families To Determine Whether Licenses For Facilities That House Unaccompanied Minors Should Be Reviewed” And “Calls On The Florida Department Of Law Enforcement To Review Florida Companies’ Compliance With E-Verify Requirements.”** According to a Twitter post from Ron DeSantis, Executive Order 21-233 “Prohibits state agencies under the Governor’s purview from providing support for the resettlement of illegal aliens to Florida. Directs the Florida Department of Children and Families to determine whether licenses for facilities that house unaccompanied minors should be reviewed. Calls on the Florida Department of Law Enforcement to review Florida companies’ compliance with E-Verify requirements. Requires state agencies to gather information regarding the scope and costs of illegal immigration in Florida. Directs Florida Department of Law

Enforcement to lawfully gather information on the number of identities of illegal aliens being transported from the border to Florida. Encourages State Law Enforcement to detain any vehicle transporting illegal aliens if there is reasonable suspicion it is being used for human or drug trafficking. Requests information from state officials on the number of illegal aliens who are pending criminal prosecution or have been convicted of crimes.” [Twitter, @GovRonDeSantis, [9/28/21](#)]

- **Executive Order 21-233 “Directs Florida Department Of Law Enforcement To Lawfully Gather Information On The Number Of Identities Of Illegal Aliens Being Transported From The Border To Florida.”** According to a Twitter post from Ron DeSantis, Executive Order 21-233 “Prohibits state agencies under the Governor’s purview from providing support for the resettlement of illegal aliens to Florida. Directs the Florida Department of Children and Families to determine whether licenses for facilities that house unaccompanied minors should be reviewed. Calls on the Florida Department of Law Enforcement to review Florida companies’ compliance with E-Verify requirements. Requires state agencies to gather information regarding the scope and costs of illegal immigration in Florida. Directs Florida Department of Law Enforcement to lawfully gather information on the number of identities of illegal aliens being transported from the border to Florida. Encourages State Law Enforcement to detain any vehicle transporting illegal aliens if there is reasonable suspicion it is being used for human or drug trafficking. Requests information from state officials on the number of illegal aliens who are pending criminal prosecution or have been convicted of crimes.” [Twitter, @GovRonDeSantis, [9/28/21](#)]
- **Executive Order 21-233 “Encourages State Law Enforcement To Detain Any Vehicle Transporting Illegal Aliens If There Is Reasonable Suspicion It Is Being Used For Human Or Drug Trafficking.”** According to a Twitter post from Ron DeSantis, Executive Order 21-233 “Prohibits state agencies under the Governor’s purview from providing support for the resettlement of illegal aliens to Florida. Directs the Florida Department of Children and Families to determine whether licenses for facilities that house unaccompanied minors should be reviewed. Calls on the Florida Department of Law Enforcement to review Florida companies’ compliance with E-Verify requirements. Requires state agencies to gather information regarding the scope and costs of illegal immigration in Florida. Directs Florida Department of Law Enforcement to lawfully gather information on the number of identities of illegal aliens being transported from the border to Florida. Encourages State Law Enforcement to detain any vehicle transporting illegal aliens if there is reasonable suspicion it is being used for human or drug trafficking. Requests information from state officials on the number of illegal aliens who are pending criminal prosecution or have been convicted of crimes.” [Twitter, @GovRonDeSantis, [9/28/21](#)]
- **Executive Order 21-233 “Requests Information From State Officials On The Number Of Illegal Aliens Who Are Pending Criminal Prosecution Or Have Been Convicted Of Crimes.”** According to a Twitter post from Ron DeSantis, Executive Order 21-233 “Prohibits state agencies under the Governor’s purview from providing support for the resettlement of illegal aliens to Florida. Directs the Florida Department of Children and Families to determine whether licenses for facilities that house unaccompanied minors should be reviewed. Calls on the Florida Department of Law Enforcement to review Florida companies’ compliance with E-Verify requirements. Requires state agencies to gather information regarding the scope and costs of illegal immigration in Florida. Directs Florida Department of Law Enforcement to lawfully gather information on the number of identities of illegal aliens being transported from the border to Florida. Encourages State Law Enforcement to detain any vehicle transporting illegal aliens if there is reasonable suspicion it is being used for human or drug trafficking. Requests information from state officials on the number of illegal aliens who are pending criminal prosecution or have been convicted of crimes.” [Twitter, @GovRonDeSantis, [9/28/21](#)]



[Twitter, @GovRonDeSantis, [9/28/21](#)]

## **DeSantis Tied Undocumented Immigrants To Crime**

### ***November 2021: DeSantis Blamed The Biden Administration’s Immigration Policies For A Murder Allegedly Committed By An Undocumented Immigrant***

**November 2021: DeSantis Blamed The Biden Administration’s Immigration Policies For A Murder Allegedly Committed By An Undocumented Immigrant In Florida, Stating, “That Individual Who Died Would Be Alive Had Biden Not Been Doing This. So This Is Really Serious Stuff.”** The New York Post reported, “Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis says the Biden administration’s encouragement of ‘lawlessness’ was to blame for a murder allegedly committed by an illegal immigrant - that was first exposed by The Post. In an appearance on Fox News’ ‘Hannity’ Wednesday, DeSantis highlighted the shocking case of Yery Noel Medina Ulloa, who authorities say pretended to be 17 to get into the US and is charged with murdering the Jacksonville man who took him in. ‘Unfortunately there was a tragic situation - one of the illegals that Biden flew in committed a murder in Florida recently,’ DeSantis told host Sean Hannity. ‘That individual who died would be alive had Biden not been doing this,’ the governor said of 46-year-old victim Francisco Javier Cuellar. ‘So this is really serious stuff.’ DeSantis suggested that Ulloa came to the Sunshine State on one of dozens of secretive nighttime flights

carrying immigrant minors. The Post previously reported on similar flights carrying underage migrants to Westchester County. ‘They don’t tell us when these flights are coming in - these are flights at 2 in the morning,’ DeSantis complained before adding that he was ‘looking at ways to be able to protect the state.’ [New York Post, 11/12/21]

### ***DeSantis Stated That Crimes Committed By Undocumented Immigrants Were Worse Than Crimes Committed By U.S. Citizens “In Terms Of The Anguish That The Families Face”***

**DeSantis Stated That Crimes Committed By Undocumented Immigrants Were Worse Than Crimes Committed By U.S. Citizens “In Terms Of The Anguish That The Families Face.”** The Miami Herald reported, “The lawsuit is primarily focused on the so-called ‘catch and release’ practice that former President Donald Trump and many Republicans, including DeSantis, have blamed for crimes and violence committed by undocumented immigrants. In a 23-page lawsuit filed in federal court in Pensacola, Moody alleges many of the migrants the Biden administration has ‘illegally released’ will come to Florida and cost the state money. ‘The Biden administration’s illegal border policies cause Florida harm,’ according to the complaint. ‘Many of the aliens illegally released by the Biden administration are arriving, or will arrive in Florida, harming the state’s quasi-sovereign interests and forcing it to incur millions of dollars in expenses.’ Moody also alleges that some undocumented immigrants coming to Florida could be gang members, drug traffickers and other criminals. When announcing the lawsuit, DeSantis said the crimes committed by undocumented immigrants are worse than those committed by U.S. citizens ‘in terms of the anguish that the families face’ because they could have been prevented by the federal government. ‘Had the government just done its job, this would not have happened. They would not have been in their situation,’ DeSantis said. ‘So, it’s really, really a sad thing.’” [Miami Herald, 9/28/21]

### ***June 2022: DeSantis Announced The Launch Of A “Strike Force” Of State And Local Law Enforcement To Interdict Human Smuggling And Human Trafficking, And To Seize Illegal Weapons Being Transported Through Florida***

**June 2022: DeSantis Announced The Launch Of A “Strike Force” Of State And Local Law Enforcement To Interdict Human Smuggling And Human Trafficking, And To Seize Illegal Weapons Being Transported Through Florida.** According to a press release from the Office of the Governor of Florida, “Today, Governor DeSantis announced three significant actions Florida is taking to address the Biden Border Crisis. First, Governor DeSantis announced that Florida has formed a strike force of state and local law enforcement to interdict human smuggling, human trafficking, and to seize illegal weapons being transported through the state. [...] In the span of just three days, in Northwest Florida, law enforcement interdicted five illegal aliens from Honduras and two from El Salvador who were arrested and charged with human smuggling or solicitation to commit human smuggling. The strike force also recovered almost four grams of fentanyl, which is enough to kill nearly 2,000 Floridians.” [Office of the Governor of Florida, Press Release, [6/17/22](#)]

### ***DeSantis Stated That The Strike Force Interdicted Seven “Illegal Aliens” And “Enough Fentanyl To Kill Off 2,000 People In The State Of Florida”***

**The Office Of The Governor Stated In A Press Release That In Just Three Days, The Strike Force Interdicted Five “Illegal Aliens” From Honduras And Two From El Salvador Who Were Arrested And Charged With Human Smuggling, And Also Recovered Almost Four Grams Of Fentanyl.** According to a press release from the Office of the Governor of Florida, “Today, Governor DeSantis announced three significant actions Florida is taking to address the Biden Border Crisis. First, Governor DeSantis announced that Florida has formed a strike force of state and local law enforcement to interdict human smuggling, human trafficking, and to seize illegal weapons being transported through the state. [...] In the span of just three days, in Northwest Florida, law enforcement interdicted five illegal aliens from Honduras and two from El Salvador who were arrested and charged with human smuggling or solicitation to commit human smuggling. The strike force also recovered almost four grams of fentanyl, which is enough to kill nearly 2,000 Floridians.” [Office of the Governor of Florida, Press Release, [6/17/22](#)]

**DeSantis Highlighted That A State-Led Law Enforcement Operation In Four Northwest Florida Counties In June 2022 Was “Able To Recover These Illegal Aliens And Enough Fentanyl To Kill Off 2,000 People In The State Of Florida.”** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “Inside a packed room at the Escambia County Sheriff’s Office in June, Gov. Ron DeSantis talked about the many ways his administration is trying to ‘keep illegals out of the state of Florida’ in response to President Joe Biden’s immigration policies. He highlighted a state-led law enforcement operation, which took place June 7-9 in four counties in Northwest Florida. When talking about outcomes, the governor’s message was unmistakable: The state was doing its part to combat illegal immigration because it had arrested several ‘illegal aliens.’ ‘They were able to recover these illegal aliens and enough fentanyl to kill off 2,000 people in the state of Florida,’ DeSantis said at the news conference in Pensacola. What DeSantis did not mention is that the vast majority of the 22 arrests were not related to immigration but rather tied to men and women who live in the country legally. DeSantis also implied that undocumented migrants had been arrested on drug-related crimes, when none were, according to arrests records provided by the Florida Highway Patrol and two of the four sheriff’s offices that participated in the state’s effort. A review of the records shows seven undocumented migrants were arrested after being pulled over by police for traffic violations - including driving too slow, having excessively tinted windows and having counterfeit registration tags on their vehicles. They were arrested on suspicion of human smuggling when authorities found out they were in the country illegally and were traveling across state lines. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials have not responded to a request for information about those seven arrests and the immigration status of those people.” [Tampa Bay Times, 7/27/22]

### ***The Undocumented Migrants Were Arrested For Traffic Violations, Not Drug-Related Crimes***

**According To The Florida Highway Patrol And Two Of The Four Sheriff’s Offices That Participated In The Enforcement Operation, The Vast Majority Of The 22 Arrests Were Not Related To Immigration But Rather Tied To Men And Women Who Lived In The Country Legally.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “Inside a packed room at the Escambia County Sheriff’s Office in June, Gov. Ron DeSantis talked about the many ways his administration is trying to ‘keep illegals out of the state of Florida’ in response to President Joe Biden’s immigration policies. He highlighted a state-led law enforcement operation, which took place June 7-9 in four counties in Northwest Florida. When talking about outcomes, the governor’s message was unmistakable: The state was doing its part to combat illegal immigration because it had arrested several ‘illegal aliens.’ ‘They were able to recover these illegal aliens and enough fentanyl to kill off 2,000 people in the state of Florida,’ DeSantis said at the news conference in Pensacola. What DeSantis did not mention is that the vast majority of the 22 arrests were not related to immigration but rather tied to men and women who live in the country legally. DeSantis also implied that undocumented migrants had been arrested on drug-related crimes, when none were, according to arrests records provided by the Florida Highway Patrol and two of the four sheriff’s offices that participated in the state’s effort. A review of the records shows seven undocumented migrants were arrested after being pulled over by police for traffic violations - including driving too slow, having excessively tinted windows and having counterfeit registration tags on their vehicles. They were arrested on suspicion of human smuggling when authorities found out they were in the country illegally and were traveling across state lines. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials have not responded to a request for information about those seven arrests and the immigration status of those people.” [Tampa Bay Times, 7/27/22]

- **DeSantis Implied That Undocumented Migrants Had Been Arrested On Drug-Related Crimes, But None Were; Seven Undocumented Migrants Were Arrested After Committing Traffic Violations.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “Inside a packed room at the Escambia County Sheriff’s Office in June, Gov. Ron DeSantis talked about the many ways his administration is trying to ‘keep illegals out of the state of Florida’ in response to President Joe Biden’s immigration policies. He highlighted a state-led law enforcement operation, which took place June 7-9 in four counties in Northwest Florida. When talking about outcomes, the governor’s message was unmistakable: The state was doing its part to combat illegal immigration because it had arrested several ‘illegal aliens.’ ‘They were able to recover these illegal aliens and enough fentanyl to kill off 2,000 people in the state of Florida,’ DeSantis said at the news conference in Pensacola. What DeSantis did not mention is that the vast majority of the 22 arrests were not related to immigration but rather tied to men and women who live in the country legally. DeSantis also implied that undocumented migrants had been arrested



on drug-related crimes, when none were, according to arrests records provided by the Florida Highway Patrol and two of the four sheriff's offices that participated in the state's effort. A review of the records shows seven undocumented migrants were arrested after being pulled over by police for traffic violations - including driving too slow, having excessively tinted windows and having counterfeit registration tags on their vehicles. They were arrested on suspicion of human smuggling when authorities found out they were in the country illegally and were traveling across state lines. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials have not responded to a request for information about those seven arrests and the immigration status of those people." [Tampa Bay Times, 7/27/22]

- **DeSantis Did Not Highlight Crimes Committed By The 15 Legal Residents Who Were Arrested And Variouslly Charged With Possession Of Fentanyl, Methamphetamine, Wanted On Grand Theft Of A Firearm Or Wanted On Domestic Battery Charges In Other Parts Of The State.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, "Inside a packed room at the Escambia County Sheriff's Office in June, Gov. Ron DeSantis talked about the many ways his administration is trying to 'keep illegals out of the state of Florida' in response to President Joe Biden's immigration policies. He highlighted a state-led law enforcement operation, which took place June 7-9 in four counties in Northwest Florida. When talking about outcomes, the governor's message was unmistakable: The state was doing its part to combat illegal immigration because it had arrested several 'illegal aliens.' 'They were able to recover these illegal aliens and enough fentanyl to kill off 2,000 people in the state of Florida,' DeSantis said at the news conference in Pensacola. What DeSantis did not mention is that the vast majority of the 22 arrests were not related to immigration but rather tied to men and women who live in the country legally. [...] One of the detainees was wanted in El Salvador, his native country, for theft and conspiracy to commit theft, records show. The police report said his family had arranged to pay someone \$3,500 to drive him from Texas, where he illegally crossed into the country, to Miami. DeSantis emphasized the details of that arrest during the press conference. The governor did not call any attention to the crimes committed by the 15 people who were arrested and were legal residents, even though they were charged with possession of fentanyl, methamphetamine, wanted on grand theft of a firearm or wanted on domestic battery charges in other parts of the state." [Tampa Bay Times, 7/27/22]

## **DeSantis Opposed Payments To Families Impacted By The Trump Administration's Family Separation Policy**

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### ***Under The Trump Administration's "Zero Tolerance" Policy, Thousands Of Children Were Separated From Their Parents At The Southern Border***

**Under Trump's "Zero Tolerance" Policy, About 5,500 Children Were Separated From Their Parents At The Southern Border, And Many Of The Children Suffered From Heat Exhaustion, Malnutrition, Freezing Temperatures And Poor Medical Attention.** PolitiFact reported, "About 5,500 children were separated from their parents at the southern border under President Donald Trump's 'zero-tolerance' policy, mainly in spring 2018, according to an Oct. 28, 2021 New York Times report. Under the Trump-era policy, thousands of children ranging from infants to teens were taken from their parents, with no provisions to later reunite them. During their time away from their families, many children suffered from issues including heat exhaustion, malnutrition, freezing temperatures and a lack of medical attention. The family separation policy was a key component of the administration's crackdown on illegal immigration, aimed at deterring people from coming to the U.S. The policy also affected families that were legally entitled to asylum due to persecution in their home countries. So, in those cases, the families were not 'illegal immigrants' at all, but people who followed the protocols for seeking asylum." [PolitiFact, [10/28/21](#)]

### ***The Justice Department Was Working To Settle Lawsuits Stemming From The Border Separations, And Sources Said One Potential Payout Figure Was \$450,000 Per Family Member Impacted By The Policies***

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PolitiFact reported, “Lawsuits filed regarding the border separations have described mental-health problems for the children, resulting from the trauma of not having their parents during months of hard conditions, the Wall Street Journal report said. Justice department lawyers have been working to settle the cases, and Biden has assembled a task force made up of representatives of the departments of Homeland Security, Health and Human Services and State, to reunite migrant families that remained separated and determining how to make amends for the harm caused by the policy, according to the New York Times. Payments are still under negotiation All of that said, the final payment figures are far from clear—as is the question of when the various lawsuits will be resolved, be it through settlements or at trial. According to the Wall Street Journal report, sources said families could receive payments close to \$1 million in payments -- \$450,000 per family member impacted by the policies—but final numbers could shift. Many families, the article said, would likely get smaller payouts, depending on their circumstances.” [PolitiFact, [10/28/21](#)]

## ***DeSantis Expressed Opposition To A Settlement That Could Offer Damages To Families Impacted By Trump’s Family Separation Policy***

**November 2021: DeSantis Tweeted, “Paying Illegal Immigrants Hundreds Of Millions Of Taxpayer Dollars For ‘Damages’ Is A Slap In The Face To Hardworking Americans And Individuals Who Legally Immigrated To Our Country.”** According to a Twitter post from Ron DeSantis, “Paying illegal immigrants hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars for ‘damages’ is a slap in the face to hardworking Americans and individuals who legally immigrated to our country.” [Twitter, @GovRonDeSantis, [11/1/21](#)]



[Twitter, @GovRonDeSantis, [11/1/21](#)]

## **DeSantis Believed That Not All “Unaccompanied Minors” Should Be Treated Equally, Noting, “When I Was Serving In Iraq, We Considered Like A 16- Or 17-Year-Old Iraqi To Be A Military-Age Male”**

**DeSantis Referenced A Case Of A 24-Year-Old Undocumented Migrant Who Initially Lied That He Was A Minor, Claiming That He Was 17, As Evidence That Some “Unaccompanied Minors” Were Not Actually Minors.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “DeSantis and others have focused on one particular case in Jacksonville of a 24-year-old Honduran migrant, Yery Noel Medina Ulloa, who is accused of second-degree murder in the killing of 46-year-old Francisco Javier Cuellar. Police say Medina Ulloa, who is undocumented, initially lied about his name and said he was 17, a detail DeSantis says is evidence that not all unaccompanied minors are actually

minors. On Friday, DeSantis further suggested that not all minors should be treated equally. ‘When I was serving in Iraq, we considered like a 16- or 17-year-old Iraqi to be a military-age male,’ he said. ‘They’re technically minors in that respect, but you have people that are more advanced.’ DeSantis has made Media Ulloa’s case a flash point in the immigration debate, and his office has helped amplify it. On the eve of a press conference in which DeSantis first highlighted Medina Ulloa’s case, Pushaw sent an email to Jacksonville media at 9:30 p.m. inviting television stations to cover Medina Ulloa’s first court appearance.” [Tampa Bay Times, 12/10/21]

- **DeSantis Suggested That Not All Minors Should Be Treated The Same, Stating, “When I Was Serving In Iraq, We Considered Like A 16- Or 17-Year-Old Iraqi To Be A Military-Age Male. They’re Technically Minors In That Respect, But You Have People That Are More Advanced.”** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “DeSantis and others have focused on one particular case in Jacksonville of a 24-year-old Honduran migrant, Yery Noel Medina Ulloa, who is accused of second-degree murder in the killing of 46-year-old Francisco Javier Cuellar. Police say Medina Ulloa, who is undocumented, initially lied about his name and said he was 17, a detail DeSantis says is evidence that not all unaccompanied minors are actually minors. On Friday, DeSantis further suggested that not all minors should be treated equally. ‘When I was serving in Iraq, we considered like a 16- or 17-year-old Iraqi to be a military-age male,’ he said. ‘They’re technically minors in that respect, but you have people that are more advanced.’ DeSantis has made Media Ulloa’s case a flash point in the immigration debate, and his office has helped amplify it. On the eve of a press conference in which DeSantis first highlighted Medina Ulloa’s case, Pushaw sent an email to Jacksonville media at 9:30 p.m. inviting television stations to cover Medina Ulloa’s first court appearance.” [Tampa Bay Times, 12/10/21]

## **DeSantis Sought To Cease Licensing Facilities That Housed Migrant Children On Behalf Of The Federal Government**

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### ***December 2021: Florida Child Care Regulators Adopted A Rule To Stop Issuing Licenses To Facilities That Housed Unaccompanied Migrant Children Unless The Federal Government Entered A Cooperative Agreement With Florida***

**December 2021: DeSantis Announced That The Department Of Children And Families (DCF) Published An Emergency Rule To Prohibit The Issuance Or Renewal Of Any License That Provided Services To Unaccompanied “Alien” Children Who Sought To Be Resettled In Florida.** According to a press release from the Office of the Governor of Florida, “Governor DeSantis also announced that DCF published an emergency rule today that prohibits the issuance or renewal of any license to provide services to Unaccompanied Alien Children (UAC) who seek to be resettled in Florida unless resettlement is governed by a cooperative agreement between the State of Florida and the U.S. Government. For UAC already present in the state, the emergency rule requires licensees to conduct regular welfare checks.” [Office of the Governor of Florida, Press Release, [12/10/21](#)]

**December 2021: Florida Child Care Regulators Adopted A Rule To Stop Issuing New Licenses Or Renewing Existing Licenses For Facilities That Housed Unaccompanied Migrant Children Unless The Federal Government Reached A Cooperative Agreement With Florida.** The Miami Herald reported, “Florida shelters that house migrant children on behalf of the federal government say they’re increasingly worried that a feud between Gov. Ron DeSantis’ administration and President Joe Biden over his immigration policies will force them to relocate hundreds of children outside the state. That’s because in mid-December, DeSantis directed Florida child care regulators to stop issuing or renewing the licenses of facilities that contract with the federal government to house migrant children and teenagers who are waiting to be reunited with their families or vetted sponsors. The order will not revoke existing licenses but will not allow Florida shelters to house more migrant children than they already do. The policy change could impact the resettlement of hundreds of migrant children in Florida, where, according to federal data, more than 11,000 unaccompanied minors were released to sponsors between October 2020 and September 2021. [...] Florida shelters that house unaccompanied minors are concerned about a new rule announced by Gov. Ron DeSantis in December that threatens to revoke the licenses of centers that care for migrant kids, unless the federal government enters into a cooperative agreement with the state.” [Miami Herald, 1/7/22]

**Miami Herald: Following DeSantis’s Order Targeting Organizations That Housed Unaccompanied Migrant**

**Children, “One Shelter Suddenly Lost Its State License And Had To Relocate 60 Children With Little Notice.”** The Miami Herald reported, “The governor is going after the Biden administration’s immigration policy that DeSantis says allows minors and hundreds of thousands of others to enter the country illegally. DeSantis refuses to renew the shelters’ state licenses, forcing them to close their doors. [...] The federally funded shelters affected have been getting the run-around since December; one shelter suddenly lost its state license and had to relocate 60 children with little notice. Others have sued to stay open. There are now 16 licensed shelters in Florida, several in South Florida.” [Miami Herald, 2/9/22]

### ***February 2022: DeSantis’s Administration Proposed A Permanent Rule To Deny Licenses To Shelters That Housed Migrant Children On Behalf Of The Federal Government***

**February 2022: The Florida Department Of Children And Families Filed A Proposed Permanent Rule That Prohibited The Issuance Or Renewal Of Licenses For Facilities That Housed Unaccompanied Alien Children, Unless There Was A Cooperative Agreement Between Florida And The Federal Government.**

According to a press release from the Office of the Governor of Florida, “Today, the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) filed a proposed permanent rule that prohibits the issuance or renewal of licenses for facilities or organizations that house Unaccompanied Alien Children (UAC) whom the Federal Government is resettling across the United States, including Florida, unless there is a cooperative agreement between the State of Florida and the Federal Government.” [Office of the Governor of Florida, Press Release, [2/10/22](#)]

**February 2022: DeSantis Proposed A Rule Which Would Direct State Childcare Regulators To Deny Licenses To Shelters, Foster Agencies, And Foster Homes That Provided Care And Housing To Unaccompanied Migrant Children On Behalf Of The Federal Government.**

The Tampa Bay Times reported, “Required welfare checks mandated in a controversial proposed rule from Gov. Ron DeSantis that cracks down on organizations that house unaccompanied immigrant youth on behalf of the federal government could cost millions of additional dollars, according to a cost analysis from the Florida Department of Children and Families. It directs state childcare regulators to deny licenses to shelters, foster agencies, and foster homes that care for and house unaccompanied migrant children on behalf of the federal government unless Florida agrees to a resettlement agreement with the feds. It would also require service providers to conduct twice-a-year welfare checks on the children they place with sponsors until they reach the age of 18, leave Florida, or are removed from the U.S., among other conditions. The checks would be conducted by the child-caring facilities and child-placing agencies, according to the proposed rule. It’s the required in-person visits that would rack up the extra costs, according to the estimated cost analysis, which looks at the financial impact of the measure. Examples of estimated costs for the in-person welfare checks, if all the staff conducting the checks live outside the provider areas, included nearly \$2 million within six months of implementation. Those numbers went up to \$16.8 million for child-caring facilities and \$2.6 million for child-placing agencies within the first five years. ‘The total cost to conduct welfare checks on (unaccompanied minors) until they reach the age of 18 varies on the age of the child when they were placed with a sponsor,’ acknowledges the report.” [Tampa Bay Times, 2/25/22]

- **DeSantis’s Proposed Rule Would Require Child Care Facilities And Placing Agencies To Conduct Twice-A-Year Welfare Checks On The Children They Placed With Sponsors Until They Reached The Age Of 18, Left Florida, Or Were Removed From The United States.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “Required welfare checks mandated in a controversial proposed rule from Gov. Ron DeSantis that cracks down on organizations that house unaccompanied immigrant youth on behalf of the federal government could cost millions of additional dollars, according to a cost analysis from the Florida Department of Children and Families. It directs state childcare regulators to deny licenses to shelters, foster agencies, and foster homes that care for and house unaccompanied migrant children on behalf of the federal government unless Florida agrees to a resettlement agreement with the feds. It would also require service providers to conduct twice-a-year welfare checks on the children they place with sponsors until they reach the age of 18, leave Florida, or are removed from the U.S., among other conditions. The checks would be conducted by the child-caring facilities and child-placing agencies, according to the proposed rule. It’s the required in-person visits that would rack up the extra costs, according to the estimated cost analysis, which looks at the financial impact of the measure. Examples of estimated costs for the in-person welfare checks, if all the staff conducting the checks live outside

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- **A Cost Analysis From The Florida Department Of Children And Families Estimated That In-Person Welfare Checks Could Cost “Nearly \$2 Million” Within Six Months Of Implementation.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “Required welfare checks mandated in a controversial proposed rule from Gov. Ron DeSantis that cracks down on organizations that house unaccompanied immigrant youth on behalf of the federal government could cost millions of additional dollars, according to a cost analysis from the Florida Department of Children and Families. It directs state childcare regulators to deny licenses to shelters, foster agencies, and foster homes that care for and house unaccompanied migrant children on behalf of the federal government unless Florida agrees to a resettlement agreement with the feds. It would also require service providers to conduct twice-a-year welfare checks on the children they place with sponsors until they reach the age of 18, leave Florida, or are removed from the U.S., among other conditions. The checks would be conducted by the child-caring facilities and child-placing agencies, according to the proposed rule. It’s the required in-person visits that would rack up the extra costs, according to the estimated cost analysis, which looks at the financial impact of the measure. Examples of estimated costs for the in-person welfare checks, if all the staff conducting the checks live outside the provider areas, included nearly \$2 million within six months of implementation. Those numbers went up to \$16.8 million for child-caring facilities and \$2.6 million for child-placing agencies within the first five years. ‘The total cost to conduct welfare checks on (unaccompanied minors) until they reach the age of 18 varies on the age of the child when they were placed with a sponsor,’ acknowledges the report.” [Tampa Bay Times, 2/25/22]
- **A Cost Analysis From The Florida Department Of Children And Families Estimated That In-Person Welfare Checks Could Cost Up To \$16.8 Million For Child-Caring Facilities And \$2.6 Million For Child-Placing Agencies Within The First Five Years.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “Required welfare checks mandated in a controversial proposed rule from Gov. Ron DeSantis that cracks down on organizations that house unaccompanied immigrant youth on behalf of the federal government could cost millions of additional dollars, according to a cost analysis from the Florida Department of Children and Families. It directs state childcare regulators to deny licenses to shelters, foster agencies, and foster homes that care for and house unaccompanied migrant children on behalf of the federal government unless Florida agrees to a resettlement agreement with the feds. It would also require service providers to conduct twice-a-year welfare checks on the children they place with sponsors until they reach the age of 18, leave Florida, or are removed from the U.S., among other conditions. The checks would be conducted by the child-caring facilities and child-placing agencies, according to the proposed rule. It’s the required in-person visits that would rack up the extra costs, according to the estimated cost analysis, which looks at the financial impact of the measure. Examples of estimated costs for the in-person welfare checks, if all the staff conducting the checks live outside the provider areas, included nearly \$2 million within six months of implementation. Those numbers went up to \$16.8 million for child-caring facilities and \$2.6 million for child-placing agencies within the first five years. ‘The total cost to conduct welfare checks on (unaccompanied minors) until they reach the age of 18 varies on the age of the child when they were placed with a sponsor,’ acknowledges the report.” [Tampa Bay Times, 2/25/22]
- **The Biden Administration Sent A Letter To DeSantis’s General Counsel, Ryan Newman, Highlighting That State-Issued Licenses Were Not A Requirement To Receive Money From The Federal Government And That Florida Could Not Penalize Service Providers For Operating Through The Federal Contracts.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “The Biden administration sent a letter Tuesday telling DeSantis’ general counsel, Ryan Newman, that state-issued licenses are not a requirement to receive money from the federal government, and that Florida cannot penalize the service providers for operating through the federal contracts. ‘Under the Supremacy Clause, Florida cannot take action against federal contractors for activities that are expressly authorized by federal law,’ reads the letter from Mark Greenberg, deputy general counsel of U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, referring to the U.S. Constitution. Greenberg added that a letter from Newman had made clear that Florida did not intend to enter any cooperative agreement so the federal

government could resettle children. ‘The state of Florida will no longer participate in a federal program that encourages child trafficking,’ the Department of Children and Families told the Miami Herald, ‘The federal government should not place children in unlicensed facilities unless it plans to provide oversight.’” [Tampa Bay Times, 2/25/22]

- **The Florida Department Of Children And Families: “The State Of Florida Will No Longer Participate In A Federal Program That Encourages Child Trafficking ... The Federal Government Should Not Place Children In Unlicensed Facilities Unless It Plans To Provide Oversight.”** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “The Biden administration sent a letter Tuesday telling DeSantis’ general counsel, Ryan Newman, that state-issued licenses are not a requirement to receive money from the federal government, and that Florida cannot penalize the service providers for operating through the federal contracts. ‘Under the Supremacy Clause, Florida cannot take action against federal contractors for activities that are expressly authorized by federal law,’ reads the letter from Mark Greenberg, deputy general counsel of U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, referring to the U.S. Constitution. Greenberg added that a letter from Newman had made clear that Florida did not intend to enter any cooperative agreement so the federal government could resettle children. ‘The state of Florida will no longer participate in a federal program that encourages child trafficking,’ the Department of Children and Families told the Miami Herald, ‘The federal government should not place children in unlicensed facilities unless it plans to provide oversight.’” [Tampa Bay Times, 2/25/22]
- **A Joint Statement From Hispanic Evangelical Church Leaders And The Florida Council Of Churches, Which Provided Services To Immigrant Children, Said That They Saw DeSantis’s Executive Action And The Pending Legislation As “Religious Persecution And Restriction On Our Freedom To Worship.”** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “A group of service providers, immigration advocates, attorneys and religious leaders attended the virtual hearing. [...] Nate Bult, senior vice president of public and government affairs from Bethany Christian Services, a nationwide organization that places unaccompanied youth with foster families in Florida, said the department was unable to answer key questions about the proposed rule. He pointed out that groups like his were set up around religious tenets that emphasize caring for the vulnerable. ‘We’re called by our faith to welcome the stranger and to love our neighbor. And so that’s why we started unaccompanied children programs. So the state of Florida is essentially telling us that we have to pick and choose which population of vulnerable kids we want to help,’ he said. The concerns echo those from a Jan. 24 joint statement from Hispanic evangelical church leaders and the Florida Council of Churches, which said they see the executive action and the pending legislation as ‘religious persecution and restriction on our freedom to worship.’” [Tampa Bay Times, 2/25/22]

### ***Business And Advocacy Groups Urged DeSantis To Reverse His Order Targeting Shelters For Migrant Children***

**February 2022: The American Business Immigration Coalition Wrote A Letter Alongside A Group Of Florida Business Leaders And Immigration Advocates, Asking DeSantis To Reverse His Order Targeting Shelters That Housed Migrant Children.** The Miami Herald reported, “A group of Florida business leaders and immigration advocates, including some who came to the U.S. from Cuba as unaccompanied children under ‘Operation Pedro Pan,’ are asking Gov. Ron DeSantis to reverse a new rule that targets shelters licensed to house unaccompanied migrant children. The letter, which was led by the American Business Immigration Coalition, is the latest backlash from pro-immigration advocates and religious leaders who oppose the orders proposed by DeSantis to fight federal immigration policies, including two bills currently being considered by the Legislature.” [Miami Herald, 2/2/22]

- **Signatories To The Letter Included Some Cubans Who Came To The U.S. Through “Operation Pedro Pan.”** The Miami Herald reported, “A group of Florida business leaders and immigration advocates, including some who came to the U.S. from Cuba as unaccompanied children under ‘Operation Pedro Pan,’ are asking Gov. Ron DeSantis to reverse a new rule that targets shelters licensed to house unaccompanied migrant children. The letter, which was led by the American Business Immigration Coalition, is the latest backlash from pro-immigration advocates and religious leaders who oppose the orders proposed by DeSantis to fight federal immigration policies, including two bills currently being considered by the Legislature.” [Miami Herald,

2/2/22]

- **The Signatories Stated, “We Urge You To Reverse This Emergency Order Which Would Lead To The Unconscionable And Immoral Result Of Innocent Children Being Harmed And Left Without Care.”** The Miami Herald reported, “A group of Florida business leaders and immigration advocates, including some who came to the U.S. from Cuba as unaccompanied children under ‘Operation Pedro Pan,’ are asking Gov. Ron DeSantis to reverse a new rule that targets shelters licensed to house unaccompanied migrant children. The letter, which was led by the American Business Immigration Coalition, is the latest backlash from pro-immigration advocates and religious leaders who oppose the orders proposed by DeSantis to fight federal immigration policies, including two bills currently being considered by the Legislature . [...] As members of the IMPAC Fund, the Florida Chapter of the American Business Immigration Coalition, we urge you to reverse this emergency order which would lead to the unconscionable and immoral result of innocent children being harmed and left without care,’ the group said.” [Miami Herald, 2/2/22]

**February 2022: DeSantis Faced Criticism From Prominent Democrats, Including Rep. Charlie Crist And Biden Press Secretary Jen Psaki, On His Policies Targeting Shelters For Unaccompanied Migrant Children.**

The Miami Herald reported, “The proposed measures, a key component of DeSantis’ immigration wish list as he seeks reelection, are being fast-tracked in the final weeks of the legislative session. [...] The bills are moving toward the finish line as DeSantis’ administration moves forward with a hearing on Thursday to consider a rule that would direct state child-care regulators to deny licenses to shelters that house unaccompanied migrant children for the federal government, unless there is a resettlement agreement between the state and the feds. Ahead of that administrative hearing, nine Democrats from Florida’s congressional delegation—including Rep. Charlie Crist, who is seeking the Democratic gubernatorial nomination this year—sent a letter to DeSantis, urging his administration to rescind its immigration policies. [...] President Joe Biden’s press secretary Jen Psaki on Wednesday said the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, whose scope includes caring for unaccompanied migrant children, is ‘examining all legal options.’” [Miami Herald, 2/23/22]

- **Rep. Crist Signed A Letter Alongside Eight Other U.S. Congressmembers From Florida That Stated, “Endangering Unaccompanied Children’s Access To Care From Providers Who Are Trained To Ensure The Safety And Welfare Of Children In Their Custody And Subject To Rigorous Oversight Is Needlessly Cruel.”** The Miami Herald reported, “The proposed measures, a key component of DeSantis’ immigration wish list as he seeks reelection, are being fast-tracked in the final weeks of the legislative session. [...] The bills are moving toward the finish line as DeSantis’ administration moves forward with a hearing on Thursday to consider a rule that would direct state child-care regulators to deny licenses to shelters that house unaccompanied migrant children for the federal government, unless there is a resettlement agreement between the state and the feds. Ahead of that administrative hearing, nine Democrats from Florida’s congressional delegation—including Rep. Charlie Crist, who is seeking the Democratic gubernatorial nomination this year—sent a letter to DeSantis, urging his administration to rescind its immigration policies. ‘Endangering unaccompanied children’s access to care from providers who are trained to ensure the safety and welfare of children in their custody and subject to rigorous oversight is needlessly cruel,’ the letter said.” [Miami Herald, 2/23/22]
- **Biden Press Secretary Jen Psaki Stated, “We’re Obviously Looking At Legal Options Here, But I Also Would Say This Really Flies In The Face Of What Should Be A Moral View Of Anyone That ... The Safe Care Of Unaccompanied Children Should Be A Part Of What We All Want To Be Active Participants In.”** The Miami Herald reported, “The proposed measures, a key component of DeSantis’ immigration wish list as he seeks reelection, are being fast-tracked in the final weeks of the legislative session. [...] The bills are moving toward the finish line as DeSantis’ administration moves forward with a hearing on Thursday to consider a rule that would direct state child-care regulators to deny licenses to shelters that house unaccompanied migrant children for the federal government, unless there is a resettlement agreement between the state and the feds. Ahead of that administrative hearing, nine Democrats from Florida’s congressional delegation—including Rep. Charlie Crist, who is seeking the Democratic gubernatorial nomination this year—sent a letter to DeSantis, urging his administration to rescind its immigration policies. [...] President Joe Biden’s press secretary Jen Psaki on Wednesday said the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, whose scope

includes caring for unaccompanied migrant children, is ‘examining all legal options.’ ‘We’re obviously looking at legal options here, but I also would say this really flies in the face of what should be a moral view of anyone that ... the safe care of unaccompanied children should be a part of what we all want to be active participants in,’ Psaki said.” [Miami Herald, 2/23/22]

## **January 2022: Under DeSantis, Florida Joined Other States In Filing Suit Against The Biden Administration For Reinstating The Central America Minors Program**

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**January 2022: Florida Joined Other States, Including Texas, Indiana, Missouri, Montana, Oklahoma, Arkansas And Alaska, In Filing Suit Against The Biden Administration For Reinstating The Central America Minors Program.** According to a press release from the Office of the Governor of Florida, “Today, Florida joined states from across the nation, including Texas, Indiana, Missouri, Montana, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Alaska in filing suit against the Biden Administration for reinstating the Central America Minors (CAM) Program. This program is another example of the Biden Administration’s utter contempt for the faithful enforcement of our nation’s immigration laws. [...] It allows foreign nationals from the Northern Triangle – El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras – many of whom are already in the country illegally, to bring their children (including adult children up to the age of 21) and other family members into the country, even if they do not qualify for asylum or refugee status. The Federal Government’s parole authority is only meant to be exercised on a case-by-case basis for urgent humanitarian reasons and significant public benefit. Granting broad based parole without individualized findings is a blatant violation of federal immigration law. This illegal program should be terminated immediately.” [Office of the Governor of Florida, Press Release, [1/28/22](#)]

**The CAM Program Provided Certain Children From El Salvador, Guatemala And Honduras With The Opportunity To Seek Refugee Status And Resettlement In The United States.** According to USCIS, “The CAM program provides certain qualified children who are nationals of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, as well as certain family members of those children an opportunity to seek refugee status and possible resettlement in the United States. Only certain parents or legal guardians who are lawfully present in the United States may request access to the program for qualifying children. A qualified child must be unmarried, under the age of 21, and a national of El Salvador, Guatemala, or Honduras. In some cases, an in-country parent of the qualifying child may also qualify for access. Children of a qualifying child or of other eligible family members may also qualify if those children are under the age of 21 and unmarried.” [USCIS, accessed [4/27/23](#)]

- **The Children’s Parents, If They Were Lawfully Present In The United States, Could Request Access To The Program For Their Children.** According to USCIS, “The CAM program provides certain qualified children who are nationals of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, as well as certain family members of those children an opportunity to seek refugee status and possible resettlement in the United States. Only certain parents or legal guardians who are lawfully present in the United States may request access to the program for qualifying children. A qualified child must be unmarried, under the age of 21, and a national of El Salvador, Guatemala, or Honduras. In some cases, an in-country parent of the qualifying child may also qualify for access. Children of a qualifying child or of other eligible family members may also qualify if those children are under the age of 21 and unmarried.” [USCIS, accessed [4/27/23](#)]

## **DeSantis Signed SB 1808, Which Prohibited Contracts With Companies That Transported Undocumented Immigrants Into Florida And Required Local Law Enforcement To Work With ICE**

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***DeSantis Signed SB 1808 To Prohibit State & Local Contracts With Companies That Transported Undocumented Immigrants Into Florida And To Require Local Law Enforcement To Work With ICE***



**February 2022: DeSantis Proposed A Bill To Prohibit The State From Contracting With Transportation Companies That Brought Immigrants Into Florida On Behalf Of The Federal Government.** The Miami Herald reported, “RON DESANTIS' LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD: [...] Immigration bill: The governor’s proposal to prohibit the state from contracting with transportation companies that bring immigrants into Florida on behalf of the federal government is on the fast track for Senate approval. The proposal would also expand the scope of a 2019 law that barred so-called sanctuary cities in the state, five months after a federal judge in Miami deemed portions of the law unconstitutional and tinged with ‘discriminatory motives.’” [Miami Herald, 2/28/22]

- **DeSantis’s Proposed Bill Would Also Expand The Scope Of A 2019 Law That Barred Sanctuary Cities In The State, Five Months After A Federal Judge In Miami Deemed That Portions Of The 2019 Law Were Unconstitutional And Contained “Discriminatory Motives.”** The Miami Herald reported, “RON DESANTIS' LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD: [...] Immigration bill: The governor’s proposal to prohibit the state from contracting with transportation companies that bring immigrants into Florida on behalf of the federal government is on the fast track for Senate approval. The proposal would also expand the scope of a 2019 law that barred so-called sanctuary cities in the state, five months after a federal judge in Miami deemed portions of the law unconstitutional and tinged with ‘discriminatory motives.’” [Miami Herald, 2/28/22]

**DeSantis’s Proposed Bill Would Target Companies That Transported People Who Were “Unlawfully” In The Country Into Florida.** The Miami Herald reported, “Florida Republicans are poised to bar the state from doing business with companies that bring undocumented immigrants into the state, a move that Democrats and faith leaders across the state worry will complicate the resettlement of unaccompanied minors who come to Florida to be reunified with their families. The proposal—approved by the Senate on Thursday along party lines—seeks to cramp the flow of undocumented immigrants into the state by targeting companies that transport people who are ‘unlawfully’ in the country into Florida. Unaccompanied migrant children, who under federal immigration law have ‘no lawful immigration status,’ would be included, according to immigration attorneys. ‘We are making decisions in a state that are going to affect a lot of people, including unaccompanied children,’ said Sen. Annette Taddeo, D-Miami. ‘We should not be passing a bill that is going to create more division, more hate and create two types of children, those who are accepted and those who are not.’ Republican lawmakers tried to quell concerns that the proposal would have an impact on children by narrowing the definition of who would be considered an ‘unauthorized alien’ under state law. The change came after the issue drew criticism from Miami faith leaders and created division among Cubans who came to Florida through Operation Pedro Pan in the 1960s.” [Miami Herald, 3/3/22]

- **According To Immigration Attorneys, Unaccompanied Migrant Children, Who Under Federal Immigration Law Had “No Lawful Immigration Status,” Would Fall Under The Purview Of The Bill.** The Miami Herald reported, “Florida Republicans are poised to bar the state from doing business with companies that bring undocumented immigrants into the state, a move that Democrats and faith leaders across the state worry will complicate the resettlement of unaccompanied minors who come to Florida to be reunified with their families. The proposal—approved by the Senate on Thursday along party lines—seeks to cramp the flow of undocumented immigrants into the state by targeting companies that transport people who are ‘unlawfully’ in the country into Florida. Unaccompanied migrant children, who under federal immigration law have ‘no lawful immigration status,’ would be included, according to immigration attorneys. ‘We are making decisions in a state that are going to affect a lot of people, including unaccompanied children,’ said Sen. Annette Taddeo, D-Miami. ‘We should not be passing a bill that is going to create more division, more hate and create two types of children, those who are accepted and those who are not.’ Republican lawmakers tried to quell concerns that the proposal would have an impact on children by narrowing the definition of who would be considered an ‘unauthorized alien’ under state law. The change came after the issue drew criticism from Miami faith leaders and created division among Cubans who came to Florida through Operation Pedro Pan in the 1960s.” [Miami Herald, 3/3/22]
- **Florida Democrats And Faith Leaders Worried That The Bill Would Complicate The Resettlement Of Unaccompanied Minors Who Came To Florida To Be Reunified With Their Families.** The Miami Herald reported, “Florida Republicans are poised to bar the state from doing business with companies that bring undocumented immigrants into the state, a move that Democrats and faith leaders across the state worry will

complicate the resettlement of unaccompanied minors who come to Florida to be reunified with their families. The proposal—approved by the Senate on Thursday along party lines—seeks to cramp the flow of undocumented immigrants into the state by targeting companies that transport people who are ‘unlawfully’ in the country into Florida. Unaccompanied migrant children, who under federal immigration law have ‘no lawful immigration status,’ would be included, according to immigration attorneys. ‘We are making decisions in a state that are going to affect a lot of people, including unaccompanied children,’ said Sen. Annette Taddeo, D-Miami. ‘We should not be passing a bill that is going to create more division, more hate and create two types of children, those who are accepted and those who are not.’ Republican lawmakers tried to quell concerns that the proposal would have an impact on children by narrowing the definition of who would be considered an ‘unauthorized alien’ under state law. The change came after the issue drew criticism from Miami faith leaders and created division among Cubans who came to Florida through Operation Pedro Pan in the 1960s.” [Miami Herald, 3/3/22]

**DeSantis’s Bill Would Not Allow Local Authorities To Enact Policies And Procedures That Would Prohibit Them From Sharing Information With State Agencies About The Immigration Status Of People In Their Custody.** The Miami Herald reported, “Some Republican senators defended the proposal by saying it is about ‘transparency’ and ‘law and order.’ The bill, for example, would not allow local authorities to enact policies and procedures that would prohibit them from sharing information with state agencies about the immigration status of people in their custody. ‘What this bill does is asking the federal government for transparency and accountability,’ said Sen. Ileana Garcia, R-Miami. Trying to fix sanctuary cities law The proposed legislation would also expand the scope of a 2019 law that barred sanctuary cities in the state, after a federal judge in Miami ruled portions of the law were unconstitutional and ‘discriminatory.’ ‘We know that a federal court ruled that that bill unconstitutional because of its discriminatory motives that rely on an immigrant threat narrative. I don’t know why we are addressing something here that has already been ruled unconstitutional,’ said Sen. Lori Berman, D-Boynton Beach.” [Miami Herald, 3/3/22]

- **Florida Law Enforcement Officials Would Be Required To Participate In The 287(G) Federal Immigration Program, Which Was Designed To Identify And Catch Undocumented Immigrants In County Jails After They Were Arrested.** The Miami Herald reported, “All Florida law enforcement officials that operate a county detention center would be required to participate in a federal immigration program, known as the 287(g), designed to identify and catch undocumented immigrants in county jails after they are arrested. Currently, 48 Florida sheriffs are taking part in the program—a number that has soared under the DeSantis administration. The proposal would require county detention facilities that have yet to participate to enter into a cooperative agreement with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement by January 1, 2023. In practice, that means that within the next year, more county-level correctional officers could be traveling to Charleston, South Carolina, to be trained by ICE, at the expense of local jurisdictions. Officers would be trained to identify, interrogate and turn over inmates for being in the country illegally—including some who may still be awaiting trial on criminal charges. They would be working under the supervision of ICE. In order to be certified and allowed to perform immigration officers’ functions, local officers need to pass a test with a minimum score of 70%. ICE may require additional training.” [Miami Herald, 3/9/22]

**June 2022: DeSantis Announced The Signing Of Senate Bill 1808, Which Prohibited A Governmental Entity From Executing, Amending, Or Renewing A Contract With A Common Carrier If The Carrier Was Willfully Providing Service In Transporting An “Unauthorized Alien” Into Florida.** According to a press release from the Office of the Governor of Florida, “Third, Governor DeSantis signed Senate Bill 1808, sweeping legislation he proposed to further protect Floridians from the Biden Border Crisis. [...] Senate Bill (SB) 1808 prohibits a governmental entity from executing, amending, or renewing a contract with a common carrier if the carrier is willfully providing any service in furtherance of transporting an unauthorized alien into the State of Florida knowing that he or she is an unauthorized alien, except to facilitate the detention, removal, or departure of the unauthorized person from Florida or the United States.” [Office of the Governor of Florida, Press Release, [6/17/22](#)]

**DeSantis Directed The Department Of Management Services To Implement The Provisions Of Senate Bill 1808 And Directed Executive Agencies To Notify Any Vendors Transporting “Illegal Aliens” Into Florida That Their Contracts Would Not Be Renewed Unless They Complied With Florida Law.** According to a press

release from the Office of the Governor of Florida, “On Friday, June 17, 2022, Governor Ron DeSantis signed Senate Bill 1808, which prohibits governmental entities, including state agencies and local governments, from contracting with common carriers who knowingly transport illegal aliens into Florida. Today, Governor DeSantis has directed the Department of Management Services (DMS) to immediately enter into rulemaking to implement the provisions of the new law. Additionally, Governor DeSantis has directed executive agencies to review all current contracts, notify all applicable vendors of the new law, and provide written communication to any vendors currently transporting illegal aliens into Florida that their contracts will not be renewed or amended unless they comply with Florida law. [...] Effective October 1, 2022, all contracts, including grant agreements and economic incentive programs, between governmental entities and common carriers or contracted carriers must include an attestation that the carrier will comply with the new law and a provision for termination of the contract for cause if the carrier violates the new law. Governor DeSantis has directed DMS to immediately develop by rule a common carrier and contracted carrier attestation form.” [Office of the Governor of Florida, Press Release, [6/23/22](#)]

- **DeSantis Directed The Department Of Management Services To Develop By Rule A Common Carrier And Contracted Carrier Attestation Form, Which Would Go Into Effect On October 1, 2022.** According to a press release from the Office of the Governor of Florida, “On Friday, June 17, 2022, Governor Ron DeSantis signed Senate Bill 1808, which prohibits governmental entities, including state agencies and local governments, from contracting with common carriers who knowingly transport illegal aliens into Florida. Today, Governor DeSantis has directed the Department of Management Services (DMS) to immediately enter into rulemaking to implement the provisions of the new law. Additionally, Governor DeSantis has directed executive agencies to review all current contracts, notify all applicable vendors of the new law, and provide written communication to any vendors currently transporting illegal aliens into Florida that their contracts will not be renewed or amended unless they comply with Florida law. [...] Effective October 1, 2022, all contracts, including grant agreements and economic incentive programs, between governmental entities and common carriers or contracted carriers must include an attestation that the carrier will comply with the new law and a provision for termination of the contract for cause if the carrier violates the new law. Governor DeSantis has directed DMS to immediately develop by rule a common carrier and contracted carrier attestation form.” [Office of the Governor of Florida, Press Release, [6/23/22](#)]

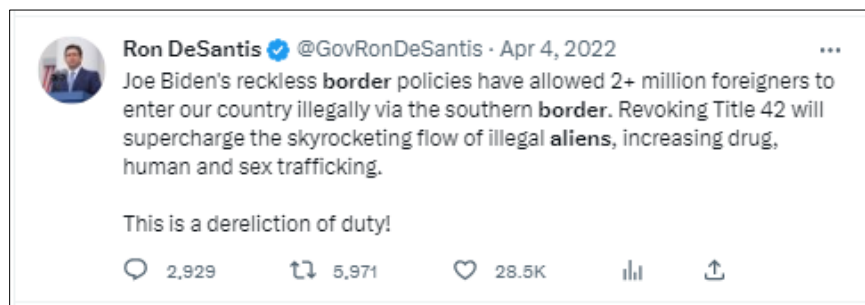
### ***The ACLU Of Florida Described Senate Bill 1808 As “An Anti-Immigrant Bill That Insidiously Encourages Racial Profiling”***

**The ACLU Of Florida Described Senate Bill 1808 As “An Anti-Immigrant Bill That Insidiously Encourages Racial Profiling.”** According to a blog post by the ACLU Florida, “Earlier this year, the Governor also signed Senate Bill 1808, an anti-immigrant bill that insidiously encourages racial profiling. The law prohibits government contracts with private entities and charitable nonprofits that provide transportation to what the Florida legislature misleadingly describes as ‘unauthorized aliens.’” [ACLU Florida, Blog, [10/6/22](#)]

### ***DeSantis Argued That The Biden Administration’s Attempt To Revoke Title 42 Was “A Dereliction Of Duty”***

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**April 2022: DeSantis Called Biden’s Border Policies “Reckless” And “A Dereliction Of Duty,” Tweeting, “Revoking Title 42 Will Supercharge The Skyrocketing Flow Of Illegal Aliens, Increasing Drug, Human And Sex Trafficking.”** According to a Twitter post from Ron DeSantis, “Joe Biden’s reckless border policies have allowed 2+ million foreigners to enter our country illegally via the southern border. Revoking Title 42 will supercharge the skyrocketing flow of illegal aliens, increasing drug, human and sex trafficking. This is a dereliction of duty!” [Twitter, @GovRonDeSantis, [4/4/22](#)]



[Twitter, @GovRonDeSantis, [4/4/22](#)]

## **DeSantis Took \$100,000 From GEO, A Private Prison Operator That Profited Off Immigration Detention Contracts, And He Later Signed A Bill To Give The Company A Prison Contract**

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### ***2018: DeSantis Received Over \$100,000 In Donations From GEO, The Nation's Largest Private Prison Operator, Which Was Based In Florida And Made Significant Profits From Immigration Detention Contracts***

**2018: DeSantis's Gubernatorial Campaign Received \$100,000 In Donations From GEO, The Nation's Largest Private Prison Operator, Which Was Based In Florida And Made Significant Profits From Immigration Detention Contracts.** The Miami Herald reported, "The nation's largest private-prison operator is based in Florida, and they're big donors to the GOP, nationwide and in the state. You might have heard of them back when they were Wackenhut, founded in Coral Gables by a former FBI agent with deep roots in the Republican Party. But it's now The GEO Group—and its government contracts, handled out of Boca Raton/Highland Beach operations, according to the Sludge investigation 'Who is Making Money from ICE in Your State,' amount to \$48,224,145. That's a lot of digits at stake—and, judging by donation records, GEO knows how to grease the pockets of the state's politicians. Immigration detention is big business for them - and, under President Donald Trump, profits are up. [...] While DeSantis was running for governor in 2018, GEO and its chairman wrote out a check to his political action committee for a total of \$100,000. They also were faithful contributors when he was a congressman." [Miami Herald, 5/2/19]

**2018: The Geo Group Received \$471 Million In ICE Contracts, More Than Any Other Company In The Country.** The South Florida Sun-Sentinel reported, "Geo Group makes more money than any other company from Immigration and Customs Enforcement contracts, hauling in nearly \$471 million in ongoing ICE contracts as of July 5, according to a report by the investigative reporting website Sludge. Geo Group has sought to deflect public scrutiny on its business, and its annual report on file with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission stresses that public resistance to private prisons could pose a 'material adverse effect on our business.' Geo issued a 'cease-and-desist demand' letter this month to the Dream Defenders, accusing the civil rights group of posting 'false and defamatory' statements on its website. The Dream Defenders dismissed the claim as 'laughable, at best' in its response, and the American Civil Liberties Union defended the group. on its website." [South Florida Sun-Sentinel, 8/19/18]

### ***2022: Florida Bill HB 7071 Gave The GEO Group A Contract To Operate A \$645 Million, 4,500 Bed Prison***

**April 2022: HB 7071 Gave The GEO Group A Contract To Operate A \$645 Million, 4,500 Bed Prison.** According to an editorial in the Orlando Sentinel, "In a year in which Florida had billions of extra one-time money courtesy of the federal government, stingy lawmakers included only \$59 million more to reduce chronic waiting lists for services for families with special-needs children. They could have given motorists a much-needed break by reducing the gasoline tax for six months or longer, but they voted to reduce it for a single month in October. That's

just before the election, when legislative leaders say tax receipts show gas taxes are paid the most by full-time residents and not tourists. In an 89-page tax bill stuffed with corporate giveaways (HB 7071), NASCAR gets a \$6 million sales tax break from the Legislature on tickets to the Daytona 500, and the billionaire owner of the Miami Dolphins, Stephen Ross, receives a \$5.8 million tax break for tickets to Formula One Grand Prix races. FPL is in line for a \$300,000-a-year tax break for a new 'green hydrogen' power plant, and private prison operator The Geo Group is poised to operate a new \$645 million, 4,500-bed prison." [Orlando Sentinel, Editorial, 4/21/22]

### ***The GEO Group Faced Repeated Accusations Of Neglect And Abuse***

**2011: The ACLU Said The Geo Group's "Record Of Neglect And Abuse Is Second To None," And Had Its Contract To Operate Mississippi's Walnut Grove Youth Correctional Institution Terminated Due To Violent Conditions At The Facility.** The Miami Herald reported, "CoreCivic, a public company based in Nashville, Tenn. and the private Management & Training Corporation (MTC), based near Salt Lake City, Utah, are Geo Group's chief competitors. All three companies have been repeatedly accused of abusing prisoners and providing inadequate food, sanitation and healthcare. In a 2011 report called, 'Prison Profiteers,' the American Civil Liberties Union blasted The Geo Group claiming, 'the company's record of neglect and abuse is second to none.' After a National Public Radio investigation revealed violent conditions at Mississippi's Walnut Grove youth correctional institution in 2011, The Geo Group's contract with the facility and others in Mississippi was terminated." [Miami Herald, 4/22/19]

**2019: ThinkProgress Reported That The Geo Group Was Subject To A Number Of Lawsuits For Dangerous Conditions At Its Facilities, Including "Physical And Sexual Abuse, Insufficient Food, Lack Of Health Care And Unsanitary Cells."** The Miami Herald reported, "The Geo Group is a defendant in dozens of lawsuits, according to the news site ThinkProgress. The company faces allegations that it permits deplorable conditions at some of its facilities including physical and sexual abuse, insufficient food, lack of health care and unsanitary cells. The company faces a class action lawsuit alleging that mentally disabled inmates at a correctional facility in New Castle, Indiana were forced to work without pay under threat of punishment." [Miami Herald, 4/22/19]

**May 2020: The Geo Group Operated South Bay Correctional Facility Had The Highest Number Of Employees Test Positive For COVID-19 Out Of Any Correctional Facility In Florida, With 42 Cases Out Of A Total Of 167 Cases Amongst Correctional Facility Employees.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, "As coronavirus outbreaks continue to flare up at Florida prisons, people who work inside are terrified and worried that their jobs are starting to take a psychological toll, union officials say. At least 167 Florida corrections workers had tested positive for the virus as of Monday, exacerbating some facilities' low staffing levels, increasing the workloads of some guards and escalating tensions as employees worry about bringing the virus home. [...] The largest number of employee positive test results, 42, has occurred at South Bay Correctional Facility, which is operated by The Geo Group, Inc.," [Tampa Bay Times, 5/5/20]

**May 2021: The Geo Group Was The Subject Of A Lawsuit From An Inmate At Its South Bay Correctional Facility In Palm Beach County, FL Who Claimed That Two Guards Left His Cell Open At Night, Which Resulted In Him Getting Stabbed By Another Inmate.** BocaNewsNow reported, "Boca Raton-based Geo Group, which runs private prisons and lockup facilities, is facing a lawsuit after an inmate was allegedly beaten at a facility in Palm Beach County. Roque Calafell says he was an inmate at the South Bay Correctional Facility in Palm Beach County when guards inexplicably — and apparently violating policy — left the door to his two person cell open at night. While Calafell slept, another inmate entered the cell and violently attacked Calafell, stabbing him. [...] The suit also alleges: 'This duty of care required GEO Group to maintain the premises at the South Bay Correctional Facility in a reasonably safe condition to prevent attacks on inmates by other inmates that are reasonably foreseeable, and to act reasonably or otherwise placing inmates in an unsafe and vulnerable position rendering them defenseless from attacks from other inmates.'" [BocaNewsNow, 5/6/21]

**2015: The Department Of Justice Found That The GEO Group Misused At Least \$3 Million In Federal Funds While Operating The Reeves Detention Center In Texas, Including \$1.95 Million To Provide "Fringe Benefits" To Its Own Employees.** The Broward Palm Beach New Times reported, "Local activists last week protested Boca Raton-based GEO Group for abuses in the highly profitable private prisons it runs. Meanwhile, the

company is under scrutiny by the Department of Justice for wasting at least \$3 million while operating a troubled rural Texas prison that has seen riots and death in the past few years. An audit says GEO Group has understaffed the facility and mistreated inmates, all of whom are immigrants. [...] The DOJ's Office of Inspector General audited the private prison behemoth's Reeves County Detention Center outside of Pecos, Texas and recently released the findings. The contract under review is worth \$493 million over ten years — the second-largest private contract awarded by the Bureau of Prisons. The contract was actually awarded to the governmental body of Reeves County, which then hired GEO Group to run the prison and Correct Care Solutions, based in Tennessee, to handle health-care services. [...] on, \$1.95 million was spent on fringe benefits that GEO employees were not supposed to receive, which ranged from payroll bonuses to miscalculated workers' compensation. There were also underpayments to 12 employees." [Broward Palm Beach New Times, [4/27/15](#)]

**As Of 2018, The Geo Group Had Been Sued Multiple Times For Forcing Inmates To Work Against Their Will For As Low As \$1 Per Day.** The Miami New Times reported, "Boca Raton's GEO Group is the second-largest private-prison company in America and makes a huge portion of its income imprisoning people on behalf of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). It has repeatedly denied inmates in its facilities are forced to work against their will. The company rejected those claims in 2014, when a group of former detainees from Colorado filed a lawsuit alleging GEO forced them to work. The company refuted those claims again when the Washington state attorney general sued the company this past September. [...] Last week, California inmate Raul Novoa filed a legal complaint against the South Florida company, alleging that he and other inmates were forced to labor inside a GEO facility and that the company 'maintains a corporate policy and uniform practice' of forcing inmates to work for \$1 per day, which they need to buy basic necessities such as 'food, water, and hygiene products.'" [Miami New Times, [1/7/18](#)]

## **The DeSantis Administration Sought Information On How Much Money State Hospitals Spent On Caring For Undocumented Immigrants**

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**May 2022: One Of DeSantis's Top Health Officials, Agency For Health Care Administration Secretary Simone Marstiller, Wrote A Letter To The Head Of The Florida Hospital Association Inquiring How Much Money State Hospitals Had Spent In 2021 On Caring For People Living In The Country Illegally.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, "TALLAHASSEE - One of Gov. Ron DeSantis' top health officials on Thursday wrote a letter to the head of the Florida Hospital Association to ask how much money state hospitals spent last year on caring for people living in the country illegally. The letter, written by Agency for Health Care Administration Secretary Simone Marstiller, is part of a broader effort by the DeSantis administration to account for the ways in which the state is paying to support immigrants who are in the country illegally. In September, DeSantis signed an executive order directing state agencies to, among other things, issue a monthly report on the number of 'illegal aliens' who have been criminally charged and account for taxpayer dollars spent caring for immigrants who entered the country illegally. 'As illegal aliens continue to cross the southern border unchecked in record numbers, hardworking Floridians pay the price, footing the bill for their medical care,' Marstiller wrote in her Thursday letter to Mary Mayhew, the CEO of the Florida Hospital Association. The letter, which was first reported by Florida Politics, gave the hospital association a deadline of May 23 to submit the data, which it said will eventually be posted on the agency's website. Hospitals received a formal data request from the agency this week." [Tampa Bay Times, [5/6/22](#)]

- **Marstiller's Letter Gave The Florida Hospital Association A Deadline Of May 23 To Submit The Data.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, "TALLAHASSEE - One of Gov. Ron DeSantis' top health officials on Thursday wrote a letter to the head of the Florida Hospital Association to ask how much money state hospitals spent last year on caring for people living in the country illegally. The letter, written by Agency for Health Care Administration Secretary Simone Marstiller, is part of a broader effort by the DeSantis administration to account for the ways in which the state is paying to support immigrants who are in the country illegally. In September, DeSantis signed an executive order directing state agencies to, among other things, issue a monthly report on the number of 'illegal aliens' who have been criminally charged and account for taxpayer dollars spent caring for immigrants who entered the country illegally. 'As illegal aliens continue to cross the southern border unchecked in record numbers, hardworking Floridians pay the price, footing the bill for their medical

care,' Marsteller wrote in her Thursday letter to Mary Mayhew, the CEO of the Florida Hospital Association. The letter, which was first reported by Florida Politics, gave the hospital association a deadline of May 23 to submit the data, which it said will eventually be posted on the agency's website. Hospitals received a formal data request from the agency this week." [Tampa Bay Times, 5/6/22]

- **The Florida Hospitals Association Was Asked To Report “All Costs And Expenditures, Including Those That Are Written Off As Uncollected Debt” Related To The Inpatient Treatment Of People Living In The Country Illegally.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “TALLAHASSEE - One of Gov. Ron DeSantis' top health officials on Thursday wrote a letter to the head of the Florida Hospital Association to ask how much money state hospitals spent last year on caring for people living in the country illegally. The letter, written by Agency for Health Care Administration Secretary Simone Marsteller, is part of a broader effort by the DeSantis administration to account for the ways in which the state is paying to support immigrants who are in the country illegally. In September, DeSantis signed an executive order directing state agencies to, among other things, issue a monthly report on the number of 'illegal aliens' who have been criminally charged and account for taxpayer dollars spent caring for immigrants who entered the country illegally. [...] The facilities have been asked to report 'all costs and expenditures, including those that are written off as uncollected debt,' related to the inpatient treatment of people living in the country illegally. In a statement, Mayhew said her organization had received the letter and would communicate with its member organizations. Mayhew served as DeSantis' Agency for Health Care Administration secretary before Marsteller.” [Tampa Bay Times, 5/6/22]

**Rep. Duran, D-Miami: “Our Hospitals Have Been Serving Undocumented Individuals For Years. [...] This Isn't Some New Trend. And It Feels Like [DeSantis] Is Going To Try To Weaponize The Data To Show That Undocumented [Immigrants] Are Pouring Into Our Health Care System.”** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “TALLAHASSEE - One of Gov. Ron DeSantis' top health officials on Thursday wrote a letter to the head of the Florida Hospital Association to ask how much money state hospitals spent last year on caring for people living in the country illegally. [...] Mayhew served as DeSantis' Agency for Health Care Administration secretary before Marsteller. State Rep. Nick Duran, D-Miami, who served on the board of trustees of Jackson Health System until last year, said hospitals would likely be able to comply with the request. But he said the data would not be helpful without knowing what the health care figures were in previous years. ‘This is really just red-meat politics. Our hospitals have been serving undocumented individuals for years,’ Duran wrote in a text message. ‘This isn't some new trend. And it feels like (DeSantis) is going to try to weaponize the data to show that undocumented (immigrants) are pouring into our health care system.’” [Tampa Bay Times, 5/6/22]

## **DeSantis's Statewide Prosecutor Accused The Federal Government Of Human Trafficking And Criminal Child Neglect**

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### ***June 2022: DeSantis Asked The Florida Supreme Court To Impanel A Statewide Grand Jury To Investigate Whether Families, Local Governments And International Criminal Organizations Were Conspiring To Illegally Bring Migrants To Florida***

**June 2022: DeSantis Asked The Florida Supreme Court To Impanel A Statewide Grand Jury To Investigate Whether Families, Local Governments And International Criminal Organizations Were Conspiring To Illegally Bring Migrants To Florida.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “Gov. Ron DeSantis on Friday asked the Florida Supreme Court to impanel a statewide grand jury to investigate whether families, local governments and international criminal organizations are conspiring to illegally bring migrants to Florida. ‘The purpose of the grand jury will be to investigate individuals and organizations that are actively working with foreign nationals, drug cartels and coyotes to illegally smuggle minors, some as young as 2 years old, across the border and into Florida,’ DeSantis said at a news conference in Pensacola. It's a rare use of a statewide grand jury, which has only been impaneled 20 times in more than 40 years. [...] At the news conference on Friday, DeSantis also said the state has quietly assembled a police force with state and local law enforcement officers with the goal of targeting drug smugglers and migrants who are carrying guns illegally. The governor then signed into law a measure that aims to disrupt the federal resettlement of migrants, including unaccompanied minors, in Florida. The move to assemble a

grand jury, however, could have statewide implications. DeSantis said he wants the grand jury - which could issue subpoenas and indictments - to have jurisdiction over the entire state. He wants the presiding judge to be in the 10<sup>th</sup> Circuit, which includes Hardee, Highlands and Polk counties, because of its 'central' location" [Tampa Bay Times, 6/17/22]

- **DeSantis: “The Purpose Of The Grand Jury Will Be To Investigate Individuals And Organizations That Are Actively Working With Foreign Nationals, Drug Cartels And Coyotes To Illegally Smuggle Minors, Some As Young As 2 Years Old, Across The Border And Into Florida.”** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “Gov. Ron DeSantis on Friday asked the Florida Supreme Court to impanel a statewide grand jury to investigate whether families, local governments and international criminal organizations are conspiring to illegally bring migrants to Florida. ‘The purpose of the grand jury will be to investigate individuals and organizations that are actively working with foreign nationals, drug cartels and coyotes to illegally smuggle minors, some as young as 2 years old, across the border and into Florida,’ DeSantis said at a news conference in Pensacola. It’s a rare use of a statewide grand jury, which has only been impaneled 20 times in more than 40 years. [...] At the news conference on Friday, DeSantis also said the state has quietly assembled a police force with state and local law enforcement officers with the goal of targeting drug smugglers and migrants who are carrying guns illegally. The governor then signed into law a measure that aims to disrupt the federal resettlement of migrants, including unaccompanied minors, in Florida. The move to assemble a grand jury, however, could have statewide implications. DeSantis said he wants the grand jury - which could issue subpoenas and indictments - to have jurisdiction over the entire state. He wants the presiding judge to be in the 10<sup>th</sup> Circuit, which includes Hardee, Highlands and Polk counties, because of its ‘central’ location” [Tampa Bay Times, 6/17/22]
- **DeSantis Said He Wanted The Grand Jury, Which Could Issue Subpoenas And Indictments, To Have Jurisdiction Over The Entire State.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “Gov. Ron DeSantis on Friday asked the Florida Supreme Court to impanel a statewide grand jury to investigate whether families, local governments and international criminal organizations are conspiring to illegally bring migrants to Florida. ‘The purpose of the grand jury will be to investigate individuals and organizations that are actively working with foreign nationals, drug cartels and coyotes to illegally smuggle minors, some as young as 2 years old, across the border and into Florida,’ DeSantis said at a news conference in Pensacola. It’s a rare use of a statewide grand jury, which has only been impaneled 20 times in more than 40 years. [...] At the news conference on Friday, DeSantis also said the state has quietly assembled a police force with state and local law enforcement officers with the goal of targeting drug smugglers and migrants who are carrying guns illegally. The governor then signed into law a measure that aims to disrupt the federal resettlement of migrants, including unaccompanied minors, in Florida. The move to assemble a grand jury, however, could have statewide implications. DeSantis said he wants the grand jury - which could issue subpoenas and indictments - to have jurisdiction over the entire state. He wants the presiding judge to be in the 10<sup>th</sup> Circuit, which includes Hardee, Highlands and Polk counties, because of its ‘central’ location” [Tampa Bay Times, 6/17/22]
- **DeSantis Said He Wanted The Grand Jury To Look At Whether “Parents, Guardians, Or Other Family Members Of Unaccompanied Alien Children” Had Conspired With Transnational Criminal Organizations Or Other Groups To Smuggle, Traffic Or Endanger Migrant Children.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “DeSantis is making the case that the state has a ‘public interest’ to have a grand jury examine whether the state needs to take further action on immigration. The request emphasizes the need to examine how migrant children are coming into Florida and possibly being endangered by ‘illicit actors.’ DeSantis also wants the grand jury to look at whether ‘parents, guardians, or other family members of unaccompanied alien children’ have conspired with transnational criminal organizations or other groups to smuggle, traffic or endanger migrant children. ‘Because the foregoing activities occur or have effects across the state, a statewide grand jury is an appropriate vehicle to examine these matters, to identify any deficiencies in current laws and enforcement methods, and to recommend new or revised laws and enforcement methods,’ according to the DeSantis administration petition. The grand jury, DeSantis said, would examine whether local governments are violating the state’s immigration laws, including a ban on so-called sanctuary cities, which is currently the subject of legal challenges. In its petition, the administration singled out Miami-Dade County as a possible target. The administration claims Miami-Dade County has refused to honor federal requests to take custody of



migrants who are in the country illegally in local detention facilities, though it does not cite specific sources other than ‘reports from federal law enforcement.’” [Tampa Bay Times, 6/17/22]

- **DeSantis Said The Grand Jury Would Examine Whether Local Governments Were Violating The State’s Immigration Laws, Including The Ban On “Sanctuary Cities.”** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “DeSantis is making the case that the state has a ‘public interest’ to have a grand jury examine whether the state needs to take further action on immigration. The request emphasizes the need to examine how migrant children are coming into Florida and possibly being endangered by ‘illicit actors.’ DeSantis also wants the grand jury to look at whether ‘parents, guardians, or other family members of unaccompanied alien children’ have conspired with transnational criminal organizations or other groups to smuggle, traffic or endanger migrant children. ‘Because the foregoing activities occur or have effects across the state, a statewide grand jury is an appropriate vehicle to examine these matters, to identify any deficiencies in current laws and enforcement methods, and to recommend new or revised laws and enforcement methods,’ according to the DeSantis administration petition. The grand jury, DeSantis said, would examine whether local governments are violating the state’s immigration laws, including a ban on so-called sanctuary cities, which is currently the subject of legal challenges. In its petition, the administration singled out Miami-Dade County as a possible target. The administration claims Miami-Dade County has refused to honor federal requests to take custody of migrants who are in the country illegally in local detention facilities, though it does not cite specific sources other than ‘reports from federal law enforcement.’” [Tampa Bay Times, 6/17/22]
- **DeSantis’s Grand Jury Petition Claimed That Miami-Dade County Refused To Honor Federal Requests To Take Custody Of Migrants Who Were In The Country Illegally In Local Detention Facilities, Though It Did Not Cite Specific Sources Other Than “Reports From Federal Law Enforcement.”** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “DeSantis is making the case that the state has a ‘public interest’ to have a grand jury examine whether the state needs to take further action on immigration. The request emphasizes the need to examine how migrant children are coming into Florida and possibly being endangered by ‘illicit actors.’ DeSantis also wants the grand jury to look at whether ‘parents, guardians, or other family members of unaccompanied alien children’ have conspired with transnational criminal organizations or other groups to smuggle, traffic or endanger migrant children. ‘Because the foregoing activities occur or have effects across the state, a statewide grand jury is an appropriate vehicle to examine these matters, to identify any deficiencies in current laws and enforcement methods, and to recommend new or revised laws and enforcement methods,’ according to the DeSantis administration petition. The grand jury, DeSantis said, would examine whether local governments are violating the state’s immigration laws, including a ban on so-called sanctuary cities, which is currently the subject of legal challenges. In its petition, the administration singled out Miami-Dade County as a possible target. The administration claims Miami-Dade County has refused to honor federal requests to take custody of migrants who are in the country illegally in local detention facilities, though it does not cite specific sources other than ‘reports from federal law enforcement.’” [Tampa Bay Times, 6/17/22]

### ***March 2023: Florida’s Statewide Prosecutor Issued A Report That Accused Federal Immigration Authorities Of “Human Trafficking” In Their Oversight Of Unaccompanied Migrant Children In The State***

**March 2023: Florida’s Statewide Prosecutor Accused Federal Immigration Authorities Of “Human Trafficking” In Their Oversight Of Unaccompanied Migrant Children In The State, Releasing A Grand Jury Report That Suggested That The Policy By DHS Amounted To Criminal Child Neglect.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “In a stunning report that may spark [sic] new hostilities between the Biden Administration and Gov. Ron DeSantis, Florida’s statewide prosecutor Thursday explicitly accused federal immigration authorities of ‘human trafficking’ in their oversight of unaccompanied migrant children in the state. The Statewide Prosecutors’ Office released an acerbic, 46-page grand jury report that denounces the federal Department of Homeland Security’s Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), for leaving vulnerable migrant children with unvetted caregivers, or ‘sponsors’ - and then abdicating all oversight of their welfare. The report suggests the policy amounts to criminal child neglect. The Statewide Grand Jury, which is an arm of Attorney General Ashley Moody’s office, also accused the federal government of covering up its alleged misdeeds. [New York Times, 3/30/23]

- **The Statewide Grand Jury, An Arm Of Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody’s Office, Accused The Federal Government Of Covering Up Its Alleged “Misdeeds” Of Leaving Migrant Children With Unvetted Caregivers And “Abdicating All Oversight Of Their Welfare.”** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “In a stunning report that may spark [sic] new hostilities between the Biden Administration and Gov. Ron DeSantis, Florida’s statewide prosecutor Thursday explicitly accused federal immigration authorities of ‘human trafficking’ in their oversight of unaccompanied migrant children in the state. The Statewide Prosecutors’ Office released an acerbic, 46-page grand jury report that denounces the federal Department of Homeland Security’s Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), for leaving vulnerable migrant children with unvetted caregivers, or ‘sponsors’ - and then abdicating all oversight of their welfare. The report suggests the policy amounts to criminal child neglect. The Statewide Grand Jury, which is an arm of Attorney General Ashley Moody’s office, also accused the federal government of covering up its alleged misdeeds. [New York Times, 3/30/23]

***The Report Recommended Additional Oversight Measures, Such As Requiring Shelters To Report Unaccompanied Children To Welfare Authorities And Requiring That A “Purported Biological Parent” Be Confirmed With A Birth Certificate Or DNA Testing***

**The Report Recommended That Shelters And Sponsors Be Required To Report All Unaccompanied Children To Child Welfare Authorities And To Initiate Legal Proceedings To Determine The Legal Custody Of The Children.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “In a stunning report that may spark [sic] new hostilities between the Biden Administration and Gov. Ron DeSantis, Florida’s statewide prosecutor Thursday explicitly accused federal immigration authorities of ‘human trafficking’ in their oversight of unaccompanied migrant children in the state. [...] Among the recommendations: Requiring shelters and sponsors to report all unaccompanied children living in the state to child welfare authorities, and to initiate legal proceedings to determine legal custody of the youngsters. Failure to do so would be a felony offense, with investigation of such crimes spearheaded by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and prosecuted by the Office of Statewide Prosecution. Requiring organizations that place undocumented migrant children with a ‘purported biological parent’ to document the relationship with either a birth certificate or DNA testing. Lawmakers should create new criminal penalties for harboring undocumented immigrants - a recommendation that the Republican-led Legislature is considering this year with the backing of the governor.” [Tampa Bay Times, 3/30/23]

**The Report Recommended That Organizations That Place Undocumented Migrant Children With A “Purported Biological Parent” Be Required To Document The Relationship With Either A Birth Certificate Or DNA Testing.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “In a stunning report that may spark [sic] new hostilities between the Biden Administration and Gov. Ron DeSantis, Florida’s statewide prosecutor Thursday explicitly accused federal immigration authorities of ‘human trafficking’ in their oversight of unaccompanied migrant children in the state. [...] Among the recommendations: Requiring shelters and sponsors to report all unaccompanied children living in the state to child welfare authorities, and to initiate legal proceedings to determine legal custody of the youngsters. Failure to do so would be a felony offense, with investigation of such crimes spearheaded by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and prosecuted by the Office of Statewide Prosecution. Requiring organizations that place undocumented migrant children with a ‘purported biological parent’ to document the relationship with either a birth certificate or DNA testing. Lawmakers should create new criminal penalties for harboring undocumented immigrants - a recommendation that the Republican-led Legislature is considering this year with the backing of the governor.” [Tampa Bay Times, 3/30/23]

**The Report Recommended That Lawmakers Create New Criminal Penalties For Harboring Undocumented Immigrants.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “In a stunning report that may spark [sic] new hostilities between the Biden Administration and Gov. Ron DeSantis, Florida’s statewide prosecutor Thursday explicitly accused federal immigration authorities of ‘human trafficking’ in their oversight of unaccompanied migrant children in the state. [...] Among the recommendations: Requiring shelters and sponsors to report all unaccompanied children living in the state to child welfare authorities, and to initiate legal proceedings to determine legal custody of the youngsters.

Failure to do so would be a felony offense, with investigation of such crimes spearheaded by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and prosecuted by the Office of Statewide Prosecution. Requiring organizations that place undocumented migrant children with a ‘purported biological parent’ to document the relationship with either a birth certificate or DNA testing. Lawmakers should create new criminal penalties for harboring undocumented immigrants - a recommendation that the Republican-led Legislature is considering this year with the backing of the governor.” [Tampa Bay Times, 3/30/23]

## **DeSantis Oversaw A Controversial Program To Transport Undocumented Immigrants From Florida To “Sanctuary” Jurisdictions**

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### ***December 2021: DeSantis Proposed An \$8 Million Program To Transport Undocumented Immigrants To Delaware Or Martha’s Vineyard***

**December 2021: DeSantis Sought To Create An \$8 Million Program To Transport Undocumented Immigrants Out Of Florida And Into Other Parts Of The U.S.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “Now, the Republican governor wants \$8 million to create a new program that would allow the state to contract with private companies to transport ‘unauthorized aliens’ out of Florida. The proposed program, which the governor wants to pay for with interest accrued from federal funds, and a ‘series’ of incoming legislative bills that he says will fight ‘back against the Biden border crisis’ are the latest battle lines drawn by a governor who appears to be drumming up a potential challenge against President Joe Biden in 2024. ‘One of the priorities that we’ve been working on for many months now and we’ll continue to work with the Legislature when they get back is dealing with the fallout from the reckless border policies of the Biden administration,’ DeSantis said at a news conference in Jacksonville on Friday. DeSantis has said that Florida should be able to use buses to transport migrants to other parts of the country, like Delaware, a state Biden calls home. ‘It’s somewhat tongue in cheek, but it is true,’ DeSantis said Friday. ‘If you sent them to Delaware or Martha’s Vineyard or some of these places, that border would be secure the next day.’ Martha’s Vineyard is an island south of Cape Cod, Massachusetts.” [Tampa Bay Times, 12/10/21]

- **DeSantis Stated, “If You Sent Them To Delaware Or Martha’s Vineyard Or Some Of These Places, That Border Would Be Secure The Next Day.”** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “Now, the Republican governor wants \$8 million to create a new program that would allow the state to contract with private companies to transport ‘unauthorized aliens’ out of Florida. The proposed program, which the governor wants to pay for with interest accrued from federal funds, and a ‘series’ of incoming legislative bills that he says will fight ‘back against the Biden border crisis’ are the latest battle lines drawn by a governor who appears to be drumming up a potential challenge against President Joe Biden in 2024. ‘One of the priorities that we’ve been working on for many months now and we’ll continue to work with the Legislature when they get back is dealing with the fallout from the reckless border policies of the Biden administration,’ DeSantis said at a news conference in Jacksonville on Friday. DeSantis has said that Florida should be able to use buses to transport migrants to other parts of the country, like Delaware, a state Biden calls home. ‘It’s somewhat tongue in cheek, but it is true,’ DeSantis said Friday. ‘If you sent them to Delaware or Martha’s Vineyard or some of these places, that border would be secure the next day.’ Martha’s Vineyard is an island south of Cape Cod, Massachusetts.” [Tampa Bay Times, 12/10/21]

**Some Florida Democrats Objected To This Plan, And Orlando Rep. Anna Eskamani Raised Human Rights Concerns And Called The Proposal “\$8 Million For [DeSantis’s] Political Campaign.”** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “But some Democrats see the proposed taxpayer-funded immigration program as another example of using the governor’s mansion to boost his political ambitions. ‘This is basically \$8 million for his political campaign,’ Orlando Rep. Anna Eskamani said in response to the budget decision. ‘There are some serious human rights concerns. Are you going to put someone in a car and drive them to Delaware? ... State officials are not trained on any type of immigration enforcement.’” [Tampa Bay Times, 12/10/21]

## ***April 2022: DeSantis's Proposed Budget Included \$12 Million For The State To Transport Immigrants Out Of Florida***

**April 2022: DeSantis Proposed \$12 Million As Part Of His Budget To Bus Migrants Living In Florida Illegally To Martha's Vineyard, Delaware And Other "Progressive" Sanctuary Cities.** The Boston Herald reported, "The tony Massachusetts island of Martha's Vineyard could soon see an influx of migrants this summer if Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis gets his way. The conservative firebrand and likely 2024 presidential contender is proposing busing migrants living in Florida illegally out of the state and sending them to the Vineyard, Delaware and possibly other 'progressive' states whose governors endorse violations of immigration law. 'If Biden is dumping people, which he has dumped people, we now have money where we can reroute them to sanctuary states like Delaware,' DeSantis said. 'It is not the responsibility of Floridians to subsidize aliens to reside in our state unlawfully, we did not consent to Biden's open-borders agenda,' DeSantis's office said. The tough move by DeSantis, who is raising tens of millions of dollars to fund his likely presidential campaign, comes as Texas is also busing illegal immigrants out of the state to Washington, D.C. A bus from Texas filled with migrants just arrived in the nation's capital this week as part of Gov. Greg Abbott's get tough policy to mitigate the border crisis in his state. The White House is calling the move by Abbott and DeSantis a 'political stunt.' But Florida says this is real—it's no stunt. The proposal to bus migrants out of Florida is part of DeSantis's budget, which includes \$12 million for the state to transport and relocate them out of the Sunshine State. Maybe they'll include tickets on the ferry." [Boston Herald, 4/14/22]

- **DeSantis's Office: "We Now Have Money Where We Can Reroute Them To Sanctuary States Like Delaware. [...] It Is Not The Responsibility Of Floridians To Subsidize Aliens To Reside In Our State Unlawfully, We Did Not Consent To Biden's Open-Borders Agenda."** The Boston Herald reported, "The tony Massachusetts island of Martha's Vineyard could soon see an influx of migrants this summer if Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis gets his way. The conservative firebrand and likely 2024 presidential contender is proposing busing migrants living in Florida illegally out of the state and sending them to the Vineyard, Delaware and possibly other 'progressive' states whose governors endorse violations of immigration law. 'If Biden is dumping people, which he has dumped people, we now have money where we can reroute them to sanctuary states like Delaware,' DeSantis said. 'It is not the responsibility of Floridians to subsidize aliens to reside in our state unlawfully, we did not consent to Biden's open-borders agenda,' DeSantis's office said. The tough move by DeSantis, who is raising tens of millions of dollars to fund his likely presidential campaign, comes as Texas is also busing illegal immigrants out of the state to Washington, D.C. A bus from Texas filled with migrants just arrived in the nation's capital this week as part of Gov. Greg Abbott's get tough policy to mitigate the border crisis in his state. The White House is calling the move by Abbott and DeSantis a 'political stunt.' But Florida says this is real—it's no stunt. The proposal to bus migrants out of Florida is part of DeSantis's budget, which includes \$12 million for the state to transport and relocate them out of the Sunshine State. Maybe they'll include tickets on the ferry." [Boston Herald, 4/14/22]

## ***September 2022: DeSantis Sent Two Planes With Migrants To Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts***

**September 2022: DeSantis's Office Took Credit For Sending Two Planes With Migrants To Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts.** The Miami Herald reported, "In a surprise announcement Wednesday evening, Gov. Ron DeSantis' office took credit for sending two planes with migrants to Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, apparently jump-starting an immigration program without revealing any details. The governor told reporters three weeks ago that the program was on standby, and the Florida Department of Transportation, which is overseeing the immigrant relocation program, said it had no details about how it would work yet. Things changed on Wednesday—on DeSantis' birthday. 'Florida can confirm that two planes with illegal immigrants that arrived in Martha's Vineyard today were part of the state's relocation program to transport illegal immigrants to sanctuary cities,' Taryn Fenske, the governor's communication director, said in a statement. Martha's Vineyard is an island south of Cape Cod, popular for summer vacations and accessible only by plane or ferry." [Miami Herald, 9/14/22]

- **Taryn Fenske, DeSantis’s Communication Director: “Florida Can Confirm That Two Planes With Illegal Immigrants That Arrived In Martha’s Vineyard Today Were Part Of The State’s Relocation Program To Transport Illegal Immigrants To Sanctuary Cities.”** The Miami Herald reported, “In a surprise announcement Wednesday evening, Gov. Ron DeSantis’ office took credit for sending two planes with migrants to Martha’s Vineyard, Massachusetts, apparently jump-starting an immigration program without revealing any details. The governor told reporters three weeks ago that the program was on standby, and the Florida Department of Transportation, which is overseeing the immigrant relocation program, said it had no details about how it would work yet. Things changed on Wednesday—on DeSantis’ birthday. ‘Florida can confirm that two planes with illegal immigrants that arrived in Martha’s Vineyard today were part of the state’s relocation program to transport illegal immigrants to sanctuary cities,’ Taryn Fenske, the governor’s communication director, said in a statement. Martha’s Vineyard is an island south of Cape Cod, popular for summer vacations and accessible only by plane or ferry.” [Miami Herald, 9/14/22]

**September 2022 - DeSantis On Sending Immigrants To Martha’s Vineyard: “If You Have Folks That Are Inclined To Think Florida Is A Good Place, Our Message To Them Is We Are Not A Sanctuary State, And It’s Better To Be Able To Go Into A Sanctuary Jurisdiction.”** The Miami Herald reported, “Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis followed the lead of fellow Republican governors Greg Abbott of Texas and Doug Ducey of Arizona when he claimed responsibility for sending a plane carrying 50 immigrants to Martha’s Vineyard, Massachusetts, on Wednesday. Abbott and Ducey, who govern states that share a border with Mexico, have sent thousands of immigrants, largely asylum seekers from Central America, to the mostly Democratic locales of Washington, D.C., New York and Chicago. Now, Martha’s Vineyard, a wealthy enclave, has been added. Critics have called the flights and bus trips a case of cruel political theatrics aimed at calling attention to GOP opposition to what Republicans call ‘Biden’s Border Crisis.’ The Republicans say border states like theirs shoulder an inordinate share of the burden of caring for asylum seekers. ‘If you have folks that are inclined to think Florida is a good place, our message to them is we are not a sanctuary state, and it’s better to be able to go into a sanctuary jurisdiction,’ DeSantis said Thursday at a press conference in Niceville, in the Florida Panhandle. ‘And yes, we will help facilitate that transport for you, to be able to go to greener pastures.’” [Miami Herald, 9/15/22]

- **DeSantis: “And Yes, We Will Help Facilitate That Transport For You, To Be Able To Go To Greener Pastures.”** The Miami Herald reported, “Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis followed the lead of fellow Republican governors Greg Abbott of Texas and Doug Ducey of Arizona when he claimed responsibility for sending a plane carrying 50 immigrants to Martha’s Vineyard, Massachusetts, on Wednesday. Abbott and Ducey, who govern states that share a border with Mexico, have sent thousands of immigrants, largely asylum seekers from Central America, to the mostly Democratic locales of Washington, D.C., New York and Chicago. Now, Martha’s Vineyard, a wealthy enclave, has been added. Critics have called the flights and bus trips a case of cruel political theatrics aimed at calling attention to GOP opposition to what Republicans call ‘Biden’s Border Crisis.’ The Republicans say border states like theirs shoulder an inordinate share of the burden of caring for asylum seekers. ‘If you have folks that are inclined to think Florida is a good place, our message to them is we are not a sanctuary state, and it’s better to be able to go into a sanctuary jurisdiction,’ DeSantis said Thursday at a press conference in Niceville, in the Florida Panhandle. ‘And yes, we will help facilitate that transport for you, to be able to go to greener pastures.’” [Miami Herald, 9/15/22]

**The State Of Florida Paid Vertol Systems More Than \$1.56 Million For Transporting Migrants From San Antonio To Martha’s Vineyard.** The Boston Globe reported, “The documents reveal that the Florida Department of Transportation’s general counsel began discussions with potential vendors in July. According to the documents, the state told bidders their role would be to... ‘assist in the voluntary relocation of Unauthorized Aliens who are found in Florida and have agreed to be relocated to another state in the United States or the District of Columbia.’ [...] The state has so far paid Vertol Systems more than \$1.56 million for its involvement in transporting the migrants from San Antonio to Martha’s Vineyard last month.” [The Boston Globe, 10/8/22]

## ***A 27-Year-Old Venezuelan Migrant Named Emmanuel Who Was Unable To Legally Work In The United States Was Paid \$700 To Recruit Passengers For DeSantis's Migrant Flight Program***

**A 27-Year-Old Venezuelan Migrant Named Emmanuel Who Was Unable To Legally Work In The United States Was Paid \$700 To Recruit Passengers For DeSantis's Migrant Flight Program.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, "A Venezuelan migrant unable to legally work in the United States was paid to help coordinate Gov. Ron DeSantis' migrant flight program, putting the Republican governor's high-profile political gambit in conflict with his long-standing push to crack down on labor from people in the country illegally. The migrant, a 27-year-old named Emmanuel, told the Miami Herald he helped find passengers to fill planes that DeSantis wanted to send from Texas to Democratic strongholds in northern states. He was recruited by Perla Huerta, a 43-year-old former U.S. Army counterintelligence agent working for Vertol Systems Company - which has been paid more than \$1.5 million by the DeSantis administration to execute the operation. Emmanuel ended up receiving three cash payments totaling \$700 from Huerta for his work on behalf of DeSantis' relocation program, he told the Miami Herald. Text messages reviewed by the Herald corroborate his account." [Tampa Bay Times, 10/18/22]

- **By Hiring A Migrant Who Was Not Authorized To Work In The U.S., DeSantis Could Face Compliance Issues As State Law Required All Government Contractors And Subcontractors To Use The Federal E-Verify System To Confirm That All Newly Hired Employees Were Legally Allowed To Work In The U.S.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, "Such compensation would appear to be a blemish on the governor's public stance against the hiring of immigrants living in the country illegally, and could present a compliance issue with an immigration law that DeSantis campaigned on in 2018, championed as governor in 2020 and continues to tout as he runs for reelection in November. That law requires all government contractors, such as Vertol Systems, and all subcontractors to be registered with and use the federal E-Verify system to confirm that all newly hired employees are legally allowed to work in the U.S. If a contractor enters into a contract with a subcontractor, the subcontractors must provide an affidavit stating that the 'subcontractor does not employ, contract with, or subcontract with an unauthorized alien,' state law says." [Tampa Bay Times, 10/18/22]

## ***The Flights Carrying Migrants From San Antonio To Martha's Vineyard Made A 30-Minute Pit Stop In Crestview, Florida***

**The Flights Carrying Migrants From San Antonio To Martha's Vineyard Made A 30-Minute Pit Stop In Crestview, Florida To Allow The Migrants Picked Up In Texas To Be Treated As If They Were Based In Florida, And Thus Eligible To Be Airlifted Out.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, "The records obtained by the Florida Center for Government Accountability show, among other revelations, that the president of Destin-based Vertol Systems Company Inc. was not only on the plane when his company flew migrants out of Texas to Massachusetts on Sept. 14, but he and the governor's 'public safety czar,' Larry Keefe, were intimately involved in the plan to justify using Florida funds for the Texas covert op. The flights carrying migrants from San Antonio to Martha's Vineyard made a 30-minute pit stop in the Panhandle town of Crestview. It was a convenient spot for Keefe, a former U.S. attorney and his former client in private practice, Vertol President James Montgomerie, who would be dropped off in the vicinity of their homes. But it also served another purpose: To allow the Venezuelan and Peruvian migrants picked up in Texas to be treated as if they were Florida-based migrants and thus eligible to be airlifted out under the secretive program." [Tampa Bay Times, 11/1/22]

## ***The Migrants Were Given Consent Forms That Lacked Complete Spanish Translations And Were Told That They Would Receive Housing And Jobs In Martha's Vineyard***

**September 2022: The "Consent Forms" DeSantis Provided To Migrants To Prove That They Boarded The Plane To Martha's Vineyard Willingly Did Not Mention The State Of Massachusetts In Their Spanish Translations And Lacked Key Information About How And Where Relocation Would Occur.** The Boston Globe reported, "Also Wednesday, lawyers for some of the migrants criticized the 'consent forms' that DeSantis' office said migrants signed to prove they boarded the planes willingly and were not duped into relocating. The

governor's office released a copy of the form Tuesday night. It contained a few short paragraphs in English and a Spanish translation below. The English section states they would be transported to 'locations in sanctuary states,' and that the final destination of their flight was Massachusetts. But the Spanish translation makes no mention of the state. Moreover, the form does not mention any work or housing opportunities awaiting the migrants, nor does it contain any identifying information about the sponsor of the trip, such as a letterhead or contact information." [Boston Globe, 9/22/22]

**Rep. Dylan Fernandes On The Arriving Migrants: "Some Of Them Were Told Lies ... They Were Told They Would Receive Housing And Jobs Immediately Upon Arrival."** The Miami Herald reported, "According to The Martha's Vineyard Times, local officials at one point said they believed planes were coming from Texas, Florida and Alabama. 'Some of them were told lies ... they were told they would receive housing and jobs immediately upon arrival,' Rep. Dylan Fernandes, D-Falmouth, told the Times. Fernandez joined the relief effort in Martha's Vineyard. No details on publicly funded state program The Florida program was funded starting July 1 after DeSantis signed this year's state budget, which included \$12 million for the initiative. Under the Legislature-approved guidelines, the state can contract with private transportation companies to bus people to other parts of the country. DeSantis had talked about sending them to Delaware, the state Biden calls home." [Miami Herald, 9/14/22]

**The Migrants Said They Had Agreed To Fly To Massachusetts After They Were Promised Jobs, And Alleged That They'd Been Given Falsified U.S. Addresses By Immigration Officials.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, "On his 44<sup>th</sup> birthday, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis took credit for chartering two flights paid for with state money to fly undocumented immigrants to Martha's Vineyard - a path that took the small group from Texas to the Massachusetts coast. [...] The migrants said they had agreed to fly to Massachusetts after they were promised jobs and help but didn't realize they were bound for Martha's Vineyard, some told the Miami Herald. No one on the island knew they were coming and, according to their attorneys, they'd been given falsified U.S. addresses by immigration officials, according to the Herald. 'They were told there was a surprise present for them, and that there would be jobs and housing awaiting for them when they arrived,' Rachel Self, a Boston immigration attorney who was assisting with the migrants' cases, told the Herald. 'This was obviously a sadistic lie.' The group on Friday was being taken to a military base in Massachusetts." [Tampa Bay Times, 9/16/22]

**Rachel Self, An Immigration Attorney Who Assisted With The Migrants' Cases: "They Were Told There Was A Surprise Present For Them, And That There Would Be Jobs And Housing Awaiting For Them When They Arrived ... This Was Obviously A Sadistic Lie."** The Tampa Bay Times reported, "On his 44<sup>th</sup> birthday, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis took credit for chartering two flights paid for with state money to fly undocumented immigrants to Martha's Vineyard - a path that took the small group from Texas to the Massachusetts coast. The immigrants - around 50 of them mainly from Venezuela who were not living in Florida - say they were promised jobs, housing and a future in the U.S. after fleeing one of the poorest countries in Latin America. [...] The migrants said they had agreed to fly to Massachusetts after they were promised jobs and help but didn't realize they were bound for Martha's Vineyard, some told the Miami Herald. No one on the island knew they were coming and, according to their attorneys, they'd been given falsified U.S. addresses by immigration officials, according to the Herald. 'They were told there was a surprise present for them, and that there would be jobs and housing awaiting for them when they arrived,' Rachel Self, a Boston immigration attorney who was assisting with the migrants' cases, told the Herald. 'This was obviously a sadistic lie.' The group on Friday was being taken to a military base in Massachusetts." [Tampa Bay Times, 9/16/22]

### ***DeSantis's Migrant Relocation Program Could Create Additional Challenges For People To Comply With Their Immigration Responsibilities***

**September 2022: Legal Experts Said DeSantis's Migrant Relocation Program Could Create Additional Challenges For People To Comply With Their Immigration Responsibilities As Mandated By Federal Authorities, With Repercussions Ranging From Additional Paperwork To Detainment And Deportation.** The Miami Herald reported, "On Wednesday, Florida's governor took credit for chartering two planes to carry 48 migrants from Texas to Martha's Vineyard, the wealthy vacation island off Massachusetts' coast. The Herald spoke to half a dozen South Florida legal experts, who said that the cross-country relocations of migrants that Texas

and Florida have undertaken isolates migrants from their U.S.-based support networks. It could also create challenges for people to comply with their immigration responsibilities as mandated by federal authorities, with repercussions ranging from additional paperwork to detainment and deportation. ‘When the states are interfering with a federal process that corresponds to the Department of Homeland Security,’ said Miami immigration attorney Angel Leal, ‘it creates a number of issues.’ One of the reasons Homeland Security asks for a destination city when people are released and placed in immigration proceedings is to see if they have a support network that will help them as recently arrived immigrants. It also allows the agency to pin down an address where they can be found, said immigration lawyers. But being far away from their intended destinations—where they might know of available resources or have family and friends that can aid them—can make things much harder, especially if people are sent to places where there are no lawyers and groups who offer services to immigrants. Studies have shown that people with legal representation fare better at every stage of their immigration case compared to those who do not.” [Miami Herald, 9/16/22]

- **Former ICE Counsel And Immigration Attorney Rebeca Sanchez-Roig Said That When Migrants Were Relocated By Programs Like The Ones Undertaken By Texas And Florida And Did Not Notify The Government About Their Address Change, They Would Not Receive Critical Documents.** The Miami Herald reported, “On Wednesday, Florida’s governor took credit for chartering two planes to carry 48 migrants from Texas to Martha’s Vineyard, the wealthy vacation island off Massachusetts’ coast. The Herald spoke to half a dozen South Florida legal experts, who said that the cross-country relocations of migrants that Texas and Florida have undertaken isolates migrants from their U.S.-based support networks. It could also create challenges for people to comply with their immigration responsibilities as mandated by federal authorities, with repercussions ranging from additional paperwork to detainment and deportation. [...] When the federal government loses track of where people are it can be a serious issue for both sides, said former ICE counsel and immigration attorney Rebeca Sanchez-Roig. And if they are relocated by a program like the ones Texas and Florida are undertaking and don’t notify the government about their address change, they will not receive critical documents. ‘What DeSantis has done is setting up the steps that will result quite likely in these individuals being deported because they will not get notices,’ she said. Undocumented immigrants could also miss federal court hearings if they are thousands of miles away. A lack of money can prevent them from traveling. Failing to appear at an immigration hearing can result in a judge issuing a deportation order.” [Miami Herald, 9/16/22]
- **Sanchez-Roig: “What DeSantis Has Done Is Setting Up The Steps That Will Result Quite Likely In These Individuals Being Deported Because They Will Not Get Notices.”** The Miami Herald reported, “On Wednesday, Florida’s governor took credit for chartering two planes to carry 48 migrants from Texas to Martha’s Vineyard, the wealthy vacation island off Massachusetts’ coast. The Herald spoke to half a dozen South Florida legal experts, who said that the cross-country relocations of migrants that Texas and Florida have undertaken isolates migrants from their U.S.-based support networks. It could also create challenges for people to comply with their immigration responsibilities as mandated by federal authorities, with repercussions ranging from additional paperwork to detainment and deportation. [...] Studies have shown that people with legal representation fare better at every stage of their immigration case compared to those who do not. [...] When the federal government loses track of where people are it can be a serious issue for both sides, said former ICE counsel and immigration attorney Rebeca Sanchez-Roig. And if they are relocated by a program like the ones Texas and Florida are undertaking and don’t notify the government about their address change, they will not receive critical documents. ‘What DeSantis has done is setting up the steps that will result quite likely in these individuals being deported because they will not get notices,’ she said.” [Miami Herald, 9/16/22]
- **Undocumented Immigrants Could Also Miss Federal Court Hearings If They Are Thousands Of Miles Away From Their Intended Destination, And Failure To Appear At An Immigration Hearing Could Result In A Judge Issuing A Deportation Order.** The Miami Herald reported, “On Wednesday, Florida’s governor took credit for chartering two planes to carry 48 migrants from Texas to Martha’s Vineyard, the wealthy vacation island off Massachusetts’ coast. The Herald spoke to half a dozen South Florida legal experts, who said that the cross-country relocations of migrants that Texas and Florida have undertaken isolates migrants from their U.S.-based support networks. It could also create challenges for people to comply with their immigration responsibilities as mandated by federal authorities, with repercussions ranging from



additional paperwork to detainment and deportation. [...] When the federal government loses track of where people are it can be a serious issue for both sides, said former ICE counsel and immigration attorney Rebeca Sanchez-Roig. And if they are relocated by a program like the ones Texas and Florida are undertaking and don't notify the government about their address change, they will not receive critical documents. 'What DeSantis has done is setting up the steps that will result quite likely in these individuals being deported because they will not get notices,' she said. Undocumented immigrants could also miss federal court hearings if they are thousands of miles away. A lack of money can prevent them from traveling. Failing to appear at an immigration hearing can result in a judge issuing a deportation order." [Miami Herald, 9/16/22]

## ***DeSantis's Faced Significant Criticism For His Stunt And Was Accused Of Violating The Law***

**Ade Ferro, Director Of The Venezuelan American Caucus: "The Governor's Attitude Does Not Surprise Us, But The Cruelty, Inhumanity And Lack Of Empathy With Venezuelan Brothers And Sisters ... Fleeing In Terror From A Cruel And Criminal Dictatorship... Never Ceases To Impact Us."** The Miami Herald reported, "According to The Martha's Vineyard Times, local officials at one point said they believed planes were coming from Texas, Florida and Alabama. 'Some of them were told lies ... they were told they would receive housing and jobs immediately upon arrival,' Rep. Dylan Fernandes, D-Falmouth, told the Times. Fernandez joined the relief effort in Martha's Vineyard. No details on publicly funded state program The Florida program was funded starting July 1 after DeSantis signed this year's state budget, which included \$12 million for the initiative. Under the Legislature-approved guidelines, the state can contract with private transportation companies to bus people to other parts of the country. DeSantis had talked about sending them to Delaware, the state Biden calls home. DeSantis' administration has not said whether the program in Florida would work like the one in Texas, which would mean migrants who were transported to Martha's Vineyard volunteered to be taken there at taxpayer expense. Some Florida Democratic state lawmakers were quick to react to the news and point out that the program was publicly funded. 'Your tax dollars at work...,' state Rep. Michael Grieco, D-Miami Beach, posted on Twitter. Ade Ferro, the director of the Venezuelan American Caucus, was dismayed by the news. 'The governor's attitude does not surprise us, but the cruelty, inhumanity and lack of empathy with Venezuelan brothers and sisters, immigrants who are arriving in this country, fleeing in terror from a cruel and criminal dictatorship... never ceases to impact us,' Ferro said." [Miami Herald, 9/14/22]

**September 2022 – A Statement From The Lawyers For Civil Rights Group On DeSantis Sending Immigrants To Martha's Vineyard: "It Is Unconscionable To Treat Human Beings—Especially Members Of Such A Vulnerable Population—Like Pawns To Make A Political Point."** The Miami Herald reported, "The day after Florida took credit for sending two planeloads of undocumented immigrants to Martha's Vineyard, Gov. Ron DeSantis suggested the flights were to 'protect' the state while the backlash swelled, with critics decrying the flights as an inhumane political stunt. The political furor mounted as human-rights advocates rushed to the popular Massachusetts island vacation spot to help the mostly Venezuelan migrants who, for now, were being housed in a church. 'It is unconscionable to treat human beings—especially members of such a vulnerable population—like pawns to make a political point,' said a statement by Boston-based group Lawyers for Civil Rights, which announced it was gathering immigration specialists, social-service providers and attorneys to meet with the migrants free of charge, and would be investigating whether they were the victims of 'human trafficking and kidnapping.' [...] The White House ripped the flights, with Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre calling them 'cruel.' 'There's a legal way of doing this and for managing migrants,' Jean-Pierre said. 'Republican governors interfering in that process and using migrants as political pawns, is, is shameful, is reckless, and just plain wrong.' [...] Maria Corina Vegas, deputy state director of the bipartisan American Business Immigration Coalition, decried the demonization of immigrants needed to fill labor shortages. 'The governor likes to pander to communities like mine, traumatized by political persecution and violence,' said Vegas, who is of Venezuelan descent. 'This is a new low, even for this governor.'" [Miami Herald, 9/15/22]

**White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre: "There's A Legal Way Of Doing This And For Managing Migrants. [...] Republican Governors Interfering In That Process And Using Migrants As Political Pawns, Is, Is Shameful, Is Reckless, And Just Plain Wrong."** The Miami Herald reported, "The day after Florida took credit for sending two planeloads of undocumented immigrants to Martha's Vineyard, Gov. Ron DeSantis suggested the

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**Maria Corina Vegas, Deputy State Director Of The Bipartisan American Business Immigration Coalition: “The Governor Likes To Pandor To Communities Like Mine, Traumatized By Political Persecution And Violence ... This Is A New Low, Even For This Governor.”** The Miami Herald reported, “The day after Florida took credit for sending two planeloads of undocumented immigrants to Martha’s Vineyard, Gov. Ron DeSantis suggested the flights were to ‘protect’ the state while the backlash swelled, with critics decrying the flights as an inhumane political stunt. The political furor mounted as human-rights advocates rushed to the popular Massachusetts island vacation spot to help the mostly Venezuelan migrants who, for now, were being housed in a church. ‘It is unconscionable to treat human beings—especially members of such a vulnerable population—like pawns to make a political point,’ said a statement by Boston-based group Lawyers for Civil Rights, which announced it was gathering immigration specialists, social-service providers and attorneys to meet with the migrants free of charge, and would be investigating whether they were the victims of ‘human trafficking and kidnapping.’ [...] The White House ripped the flights, with Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre calling them ‘cruel.’ ‘There’s a legal way of doing this and for managing migrants,’ Jean-Pierre said. ‘Republican governors interfering in that process and using migrants as political pawns, is, is shameful, is reckless, and just plain wrong.’ [...] Maria Corina Vegas, deputy state director of the bipartisan American Business Immigration Coalition, decried the demonization of immigrants needed to fill labor shortages. ‘The governor likes to pander to communities like mine, traumatized by political persecution and violence,’ said Vegas, who is of Venezuelan descent. ‘This is a new low, even for this governor.’” [Miami Herald, 9/15/22]

**September 2022 - Jared Kushner On DeSantis Sending Migrants To Martha’s Vineyard: “We Have To Remember These Are Human Beings, They’re People ... So Seeing Them Being Used As Political Pawns One Way Or The Other Is Very Troubling To Me.”** The Miami Herald reported, “Jared Kushner, former President Donald Trump’s son-in-law and adviser, appeared on Fox News this week and criticized the use of undocumented immigrants as ‘political pawns.’ The implied criticism of Gov. Ron DeSantis, who has dominated headlines recently after Florida chartered two flights of Venezuelan migrants from Texas to Martha’s Vineyard in Massachusetts, comes as talk continues to ramp up that DeSantis could rival Trump for the White House in 2024. A Fox News host posed the question about immigration to Kushner during a Tuesday appearance on the cable news channel. It was directly preceded by a clip of DeSantis defending the flights, saying they have exposed the hypocrisy of liberals who had ‘a freak-out’ over his actions but ignore the humanitarian crisis at the border. ‘Two million across the border ... where is the outrage—but 48 in Martha’s Vineyard and all of a sudden, Democrats seem to wake up?’ the Fox host then asked Kushner. ‘I personally watch what’s happening, and it’s very hard to see at the southern border. I also—we have to remember these are human beings, they’re people,’ Kushner said. ‘So seeing them being used as political pawns one way or the other is very troubling to me.’” [Miami Herald, 9/22/22]

**September 2022: Senator Ed Markey And Fellow Members Of The Massachusetts Congressional Delegation Accused DeSantis In A Letter Of Improperly Using The Interest Earned On Federal COVID-19 Relief Dollars For To Fly Migrants To Martha’s Vineyard And Called For A Federal Investigation.** The Daily News reported, “Vertol received the payment on Sept. 8 as part of a new \$12 million program established to relocate immigrants without permanent legal status, according to state records. That fund was established in part with

money accrued through the American Rescue Plan, a roughly \$1.9 trillion stimulus law adopted by Congress last year. The legislation set aside \$350 billion for cities and states to boost their economies and respond to the COVID-19 health crisis. While the funds did not come without restrictions, there were virtually no set rules on how interest generated from unspent money must be used. U.S. Sen. Ed Markey and fellow members of the Massachusetts congressional delegation called for a federal investigation into how Florida paid for the charter flights. The lawmakers accused DeSantis of improperly using the interest earned on federal COVID-19 relief dollars for what they dubbed an ‘inhumane program’ in a letter sent to the U.S. Department of the Treasury’s Office of Inspector General. ‘If true, we believe this program misuses federal COVID-19 relief funds and violates federal law,’ it reads.” [Daily News, 9/18/22]

- **The Letter From Senator Markey And Fellow Members Of The Massachusetts Congressional Delegation: “If True, We Believe This Program Misuses Federal COVID-19 Relief Funds And Violates Federal Law.”** The Daily News reported, “Vertol received the payment on Sept. 8 as part of a new \$12 million program established to relocate immigrants without permanent legal status, according to state records. That fund was established in part with money accrued through the American Rescue Plan, a roughly \$1.9 trillion stimulus law adopted by Congress last year. The legislation set aside \$350 billion for cities and states to boost their economies and respond to the COVID-19 health crisis. While the funds did not come without restrictions, there were virtually no set rules on how interest generated from unspent money must be used. U.S. Sen. Ed Markey and fellow members of the Massachusetts congressional delegation called for a federal investigation into how Florida paid for the charter flights. The lawmakers accused DeSantis of improperly using the interest earned on federal COVID-19 relief dollars for what they dubbed an ‘inhumane program’ in a letter sent to the U.S. Department of the Treasury’s Office of Inspector General. ‘If true, we believe this program misuses federal COVID-19 relief funds and violates federal law,’ it reads.” [Daily News, 9/18/22]

**September 2022: Bexar County Texas Sheriff Javier Salazar Announced At A News Conference That His Office Was Investigating Whether Migrants Sent By DeSantis To Martha’s Vineyard Were The Victims Of A Crime And Suggested Were “Lured Under False Pretenses.”** The Miami Herald reported, “Authorities in Texas have opened a criminal investigation into Gov. Ron DeSantis’ operation to fly roughly 50 Venezuelan migrants from Texas to Martha’s Vineyard last week. Bexar County Sheriff Javier Salazar announced at a news conference Monday that his office is investigating whether the migrants were the victims of a crime, saying they were ‘lured under false pretenses.’ Many migrants said they agreed to fly from San Antonio to the Massachusetts island after being promised jobs. But there was no work waiting. ‘I believe people need to be held accountable for it to the extent possible,’ Salazar said. ‘At this point, I’m not able to definitively say here’s the statute that they broke, either federal, state or local, but what I can tell you is it’s wrong. Just from a human rights perspective, what was done to these folks is wrong.’ DeSantis took responsibility for the two charter flights last week, saying they were part of a state program to relocate migrants from Florida, although the group of Venezuelans was in San Antonio. Salazar, a Democrat, called the flights ‘political theater.’ He did not name DeSantis. He also said his office was working with a private attorney for the migrants, as well as advocacy groups, and was preparing to cooperate with federal agencies ‘should the need arise.’ One potential lead: Salazar said he believed a Venezuelan migrant had been paid a ‘bird dog fee’ to recruit other migrants in San Antonio for the flights.” [Miami Herald, 9/19/22]

- **Sheriff Salazar Said He Believed A Venezuelan Migrant Had Been Paid A “Bird Dog Fee” To Recruit Other Migrants In San Antonio For The Flights To Martha’s Vineyard.** The Miami Herald reported, “Authorities in Texas have opened a criminal investigation into Gov. Ron DeSantis’ operation to fly roughly 50 Venezuelan migrants from Texas to Martha’s Vineyard last week. Bexar County Sheriff Javier Salazar announced at a news conference Monday that his office is investigating whether the migrants were the victims of a crime, saying they were ‘lured under false pretenses.’ Many migrants said they agreed to fly from San Antonio to the Massachusetts island after being promised jobs. But there was no work waiting. ‘I believe people need to be held accountable for it to the extent possible,’ Salazar said. ‘At this point, I’m not able to definitively say here’s the statute that they broke, either federal, state or local, but what I can tell you is it’s wrong. Just from a human rights perspective, what was done to these folks is wrong.’ DeSantis took responsibility for the two charter flights last week, saying they were part of a state program to relocate migrants from Florida, although the group of Venezuelans was in San Antonio. Salazar, a Democrat, called the flights

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**September 2022: The Fort Worth Star-Telegram Editorial Board Criticized DeSantis’s Migrant Relocation Program And His Treatment Of Migrants, Noting That The Response To Immigration And Workforce Issues Required “Leaders Serious About Governing.”** According to the Editorial Board of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, “Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis recently took a page from Texas Gov. Greg Abbott’s playbook and sent asylum seekers to Martha’s Vineyard, sparking charges of fraud, cheers from the right and a hearty debate over the difference between influencing an issue and proving a point. [...] The frustrating irony is that the U.S. needs young workers. Participation in the workforce hasn’t bounced back enough since the pandemic. Long-term, the U.S. needs smarter ways to match up businesses with the kind of workers they need. That means a rational, orderly process, not a game of who can best the smugglers and nature to get across the border. But those are complex situations that will require leaders serious about governing. It’s not enough to troll or try to express moral superiority when confronted with a tiny fraction of a problem the whole nation should be addressing as the crisis that it is.” [Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Editorial, 9/23/22]

- **Fort Worth Star-Telegram Editorial Board: “It’s Not Enough To Troll Or Try To Express Moral Superiority When Confronted With A Tiny Fraction Of A Problem The Whole Nation Should Be Addressing As The Crisis That It Is.”** According to the Editorial Board of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, “Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis recently took a page from Texas Gov. Greg Abbott’s playbook and sent asylum seekers to Martha’s Vineyard, sparking charges of fraud, cheers from the right and a hearty debate over the difference between influencing an issue and proving a point. [...] The frustrating irony is that the U.S. needs young workers. Participation in the workforce hasn’t bounced back enough since the pandemic. Long-term, the U.S. needs smarter ways to match up businesses with the kind of workers they need. That means a rational, orderly process, not a game of who can best the smugglers and nature to get across the border. But those are complex situations that will require leaders serious about governing. It’s not enough to troll or try to express moral superiority when confronted with a tiny fraction of a problem the whole nation should be addressing as the crisis that it is.” [Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Editorial, 9/23/22]

**September 2022: In A New York Times Op-Ed, Immigration Reporter Dara Lind Wrote, “By Refusing To Articulate What America Ought To Be Doing On The...Border, Mr. DeSantis Is Painting Himself...Into A Corner — Where The Only Acceptable Position Will Be Rejecting The Principle Of Asylum Entirely.”** According to an op-ed by immigration reporter Dara Lind in the New York Times, “The broader the attacks by the Republican governors, the narrower the space of alternative policies they could support. By refusing to articulate what America ought to be doing on the U.S.-Mexico border, Mr. DeSantis is painting himself and his party into a corner — where the only acceptable position will be rejecting the principle of asylum entirely. [...] What’s at stake, though no one is willing to articulate it, is the idea of asylum itself: Does America still embrace its obligation under international law to provide sanctuary to at least some unauthorized immigrants? The answer is no longer obvious. By continuing to insist that the status quo is ‘open borders,’ Mr. Abbott and Mr. DeSantis are sending the message that the asylum law the United States has had for 42 years is intolerable — without openly calling for its repeal.” [New York Times, Op-Ed, 9/27/22]

- **Immigration Reporter Dara Lind: “By Continuing To Insist That The Status Quo Is ‘Open Borders,’ Mr. Abbott And Mr. DeSantis Are Sending The Message That The Asylum Law The United States Has Had For 42 Years Is Intolerable — Without Openly Calling For Its Repeal.”** According to an op-ed by immigration reporter Dara Lind in the New York Times, “The broader the attacks by the Republican governors, the narrower the space of alternative policies they could support. By refusing to articulate what America ought to be doing on the U.S.-Mexico border, Mr. DeSantis is painting himself and his party into a corner — where the only acceptable position will be rejecting the principle of asylum entirely. [...] What’s at stake, though no one is willing to articulate it, is the idea of asylum itself: Does America still embrace its obligation under international law to provide sanctuary to at least some unauthorized immigrants? The answer is no longer obvious. By continuing to insist that the status quo is ‘open borders,’ Mr. Abbott and Mr. DeSantis are sending

the message that the asylum law the United States has had for 42 years is intolerable — without openly calling for its repeal.” [New York Times, Op-Ed, 9/27/22]

**September 2022: Sen. Ed Markey And Reps. Bill Keating, Lori Trahan, Stephen F. Lynch, Jake Auchincloss And Seth Moulton Asked Transportation Secretary Buttigieg To Investigate The Flight To Martha’s Vineyard, Noting That The “Conduct...May Have Violated DOT’s Charter-Broker Rule.”** According to an editorial in the Boston Herald, “For Congressional Democrats from Massachusetts, rules are meant to be enforced, not broken. But only when it’s politically convenient. Hence the generous side of irony served with a letter to Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg from Sen. Ed Markey and Reps. Bill Keating, Lori Trahan, Stephen F. Lynch, Jake Auchincloss and Seth Moulton. The lawmakers are asking Buttigieg to investigate Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis’s flight of some 50 migrants to Martha’s Vineyard this month, according to The Hill. In the letter, first reported by Politico, the lawmakers said that the ‘conduct ... may have violated DOT’s Charter-Broker Rule.’ The Trump-era regulation bars those who arrange charter air transportation from misrepresenting the route of a flight. When rules and regulations are broken, these Dems want no stone left unturned: ‘We urge DOT to swiftly investigate the company and individuals responsible for these representations and take all necessary action to protect migrants from such dishonest behavior,’ they wrote.” [Boston Herald, Editorial, 9/30/22]

- **Congressional Democrats From Massachusetts: “We Urge DOT To Swiftly Investigate The Company And Individuals Responsible For These Representations And Take All Necessary Action To Protect Migrants From Such Dishonest Behavior.”** According to an editorial in the Boston Herald, “For Congressional Democrats from Massachusetts, rules are meant to be enforced, not broken. But only when it’s politically convenient. Hence the generous side of irony served with a letter to Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg from Sen. Ed Markey and Reps. Bill Keating, Lori Trahan, Stephen F. Lynch, Jake Auchincloss and Seth Moulton. The lawmakers are asking Buttigieg to investigate Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis’s flight of some 50 migrants to Martha’s Vineyard this month, according to The Hill. In the letter, first reported by Politico, the lawmakers said that the ‘conduct ... may have violated DOT’s Charter-Broker Rule.’ The Trump-era regulation bars those who arrange charter air transportation from misrepresenting the route of a flight. When rules and regulations are broken, these Dems want no stone left unturned: ‘We urge DOT to swiftly investigate the company and individuals responsible for these representations and take all necessary action to protect migrants from such dishonest behavior,’ they wrote.” [Boston Herald, Editorial, 9/30/22]

**October 2022: The Boston Globe’s Editorial Board Slammed DeSantis For Flying Out Migrants When The Budget Document Issued By His Office Back In June Stated, “Florida Stands Against Illegal Human Trafficking Whether It is Being Carried Out By Common Criminals Or By The Federal Government...”** According to the editorial board of the Boston Globe, “No question that as far back as June, when DeSantis signed the state’s \$109.9 billion budget — the ‘Freedom First Budget,’ it was called by his office — he was planning to use immigration issues to advance his presidential ambitions. The Republican-dominated Legislature was more than willing to go along, approving \$12 million to create a program ‘within the Florida Department of Transportation to facilitate the transport of unauthorized aliens out of Florida.’ ‘Florida stands against illegal human trafficking whether it is being carried out by common criminals or by the federal government by prohibiting contracts and cooperation,’ the budget document issued by DeSantis’ office said. No doubt the irony of loading up two planes of men, women, and children and dropping them on an island off the Massachusetts coast — an act that itself raises substantial legal issues possibly related to trafficking — is lost on the governor’s office.” [Boston Globe, Editorial, 10/4/22]

**October 2022: The League Of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) Filed A Complaint With The DOJ, Calling For An Investigation Into The Transit Of Migrants From San Antonio To Martha’s Vineyard And The Involvement Of DeSantis.** The Dallas Morning News reported, “The League of United Latin American Citizens has filed a complaint with the Department of Justice, calling for an investigation into the transit of migrants last month from San Antonio to Martha’s Vineyard, specifically the involvement of Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, who took credit for the move. In a news conference in Washington, D.C., on Wednesday, LULAC’s national president, Domingo García of Dallas, announced the organization was filing the complaint and increasing the reward for information about the whereabouts of Perla Huerta to \$10,000. Huerta has been identified as the woman who allegedly arranged the flights to Martha’s Vineyard and misled migrants about the flight’s destination.

[...] García said the allegations against Huerta include misuse of Florida taxpayer funds, human trafficking, violating multiple immigration laws and making false promises leading to possible kidnapping.” [Dallas Morning News, 10/6/22]

- **LULAC’s President Domingo García Announced A \$10,000 Reward For Information About The Whereabouts Of Perla Huerta, The Woman Who Allegedly Mised Migrants About The Flight’s Destination.** The Dallas Morning News reported, “The League of United Latin American Citizens has filed a complaint with the Department of Justice, calling for an investigation into the transit of migrants last month from San Antonio to Martha’s Vineyard, specifically the involvement of Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, who took credit for the move. In a news conference in Washington, D.C., on Wednesday, LULAC’s national president, Domingo García of Dallas, announced the organization was filing the complaint and increasing the reward for information about the whereabouts of Perla Huerta to \$10,000. Huerta has been identified as the woman who allegedly arranged the flights to Martha’s Vineyard and misled migrants about the flight’s destination. [...] García said the allegations against Huerta include misuse of Florida taxpayer funds, human trafficking, violating multiple immigration laws and making false promises leading to possible kidnapping.” [Dallas Morning News, 10/6/22]
- **LULAC’s President Domingo García Accused Perla Huerta Of Misusing Florida Taxpayer Funds, Human Trafficking, Violating Multiple Immigration Laws And Making False Promises Leading To Possible Kidnapping.** The Dallas Morning News reported, “The League of United Latin American Citizens has filed a complaint with the Department of Justice, calling for an investigation into the transit of migrants last month from San Antonio to Martha’s Vineyard, specifically the involvement of Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, who took credit for the move. In a news conference in Washington, D.C., on Wednesday, LULAC’s national president, Domingo García of Dallas, announced the organization was filing the complaint and increasing the reward for information about the whereabouts of Perla Huerta to \$10,000. Huerta has been identified as the woman who allegedly arranged the flights to Martha’s Vineyard and misled migrants about the flight’s destination. [...] García said the allegations against Huerta include misuse of Florida taxpayer funds, human trafficking, violating multiple immigration laws and making false promises leading to possible kidnapping.” [Dallas Morning News, 10/6/22]

**October 2022: The Spanish-Language Weekly Newspaper, El Venezolano, Ran A Full-Page Ad Condemning DeSantis’s Migrant Relocation Program, Which Read “Con Los Venezolanos No Se Juega” Or “You Don’t Play With Venezuelans.”** The Miami Herald reported, “In October, the Spanish-language weekly newspaper, El Venezolano, ran a full-page ad condemning the migrant relocation program, which sent 48 migrants—most of them Venezuelan—to Martha’s Vineyard. The ad, paid for by The Venezuelan American Caucus, read: Con los Venezolanos no se juega. In English, that translates to ‘You don’t play with Venezuelans.’” [Miami Herald, 10/26/22]

**February 2023: The Miami Herald Editorial Board Criticized DeSantis For Taking “A Sizeable Chunk” Of State Funds And Using It To Relocate Migrants To “Sanctuary Cities,” Noting That It Was “Nothing More Than An Empty Gesture” Used To “Give The Governor More Headlines.”** According to the Editorial Board of The Miami Herald, “A bill approved by the Legislature during the special session last week and signed into law by DeSantis on Wednesday allows him to take a sizable chunk of our money and use it to relocate migrants from Florida and other states to so-called ‘sanctuary’ areas. It’ll mean more flights like one he authorized in September, flying about 50 migrants from Texas to Martha’s Vineyard in Massachusetts. [...] Maybe you believe the Southern border is too porous. Fine. But the solution isn’t taking one state’s money and using it on what is surely nothing more than an empty gesture, simply to give the governor more headlines. [...] We pay the costs while he gets the publicity, all in his single-minded drive for the Republican nomination. In a Twitter post, DeSantis said that, ‘Florida is using all tools available to protect our citizens from [President] Biden’s open-border policies.’ By ‘all tools,’ he apparently meant ‘your money.’” [Miami Herald, Editorial, 2/16/23]

- **The Miami Herald Editorial Board: “In A Twitter Post, DeSantis Said That, ‘Florida Is Using All Tools Available To Protect Our Citizens From [President] Biden’s Open-Border Policies.’ By ‘All Tools,’ He Apparently Meant ‘Your Money.’”** According to the Editorial Board of The Miami Herald, “A bill approved

by the Legislature during the special session last week and signed into law by DeSantis on Wednesday allows him to take a sizable chunk of our money and use it to relocate migrants from Florida and other states to so-called ‘sanctuary’ areas. It’ll mean more flights like one he authorized in September, flying about 50 migrants from Texas to Martha’s Vineyard in Massachusetts. [...] Maybe you believe the Southern border is too porous. Fine. But the solution isn’t taking one state’s money and using it on what is surely nothing more than an empty gesture, simply to give the governor more headlines. [...] We pay the costs while he gets the publicity, all in his single-minded drive for the Republican nomination. In a Twitter post, DeSantis said that, ‘Florida is using all tools available to protect our citizens from [President] Biden’s open-border policies.’ By ‘all tools,’ he apparently meant ‘your money.’” [Miami Herald, Editorial, 2/16/23]

## ***DeSantis Was The Defendant In Multiple Lawsuits Brought By Or In Response To Migrants Flown To Martha’s Vineyard***

**September 2022: Three Of The Migrants Flown By DeSantis To Martha’s Vineyard Sued DeSantis And Alleged That He, Florida’s Transportation Department Secretary And Others Tricked Migrants Into Leaving Texas By Offering Them McDonald’s Gift Cards, Assistance And Employment.** The Miami Herald reported, “Three of the nearly 50 migrants who were flown to Martha’s Vineyard last week by the state of Florida are suing Gov. Ron DeSantis and other state officials, alleging they were duped into traveling to an island in the northeast as part of a scheme to benefit the governor’s political career. The suit, filed in federal court in Massachusetts, alleges that DeSantis, Florida’s Transportation Department secretary and others tricked migrants into leaving Texas by offering them McDonald’s gift cards and other items to board the flights, and by promising them assistance and employment. The lawsuit names five other people as defendants, including a man and woman believed by attorneys to have recruited migrants in San Antonio to board the planes. The plaintiffs include three anonymous Venezuelan migrants and Alianza Americas, a transnational organization that advocates on behalf of immigrants’ rights. ‘These immigrants, who are pursuing the proper channels for lawful immigration status in the United States, experienced cruelty akin to what they fled in their home country,’ the lawsuit alleges. The three migrants, who asked the court Tuesday for permission to use pseudonyms, say they suffered emotionally from the scheme.” [Miami Herald, 9/20/22]

- **The Suit Alleged That “Defendants Manipulated Them, Stripped Them Of Their Dignity, Deprived Them Of Their Liberty, Bodily Autonomy, Due Process, And Equal Protection Under Law.”** The Miami Herald reported, “Three of the nearly 50 migrants who were flown to Martha’s Vineyard last week by the state of Florida are suing Gov. Ron DeSantis and other state officials, alleging they were duped into traveling to an island in the northeast as part of a scheme to benefit the governor’s political career. The suit, filed in federal court in Massachusetts, alleges that DeSantis, Florida’s Transportation Department secretary and others tricked migrants into leaving Texas by offering them McDonald’s gift cards and other items to board the flights, and by promising them assistance and employment. The lawsuit names five other people as defendants, including a man and woman believed by attorneys to have recruited migrants in San Antonio to board the planes. The plaintiffs include three anonymous Venezuelan migrants and Alianza Americas, a transnational organization that advocates on behalf of immigrants’ rights. [...] ‘Defendants manipulated them, stripped them of their dignity, deprived them of their liberty, bodily autonomy, due process, and equal protection under law, and impermissibly interfered with the Federal Government’s exclusive control over immigration in furtherance of an unlawful goal and a personal political agenda,’ the suit reads.” [Miami Herald, 9/20/22]
- **The Lawsuit By The Plaintiffs Who Claimed They Were Unknowingly Flown To Martha’s Vineyard Said They Were Kept In Hotel Rooms For As Long As Five Days And Were Separated From Any Legitimate Migrant Assistance Workers.** The LA Times reported, “The lawsuit says they kept the migrants in hotel rooms for as long as five days, separated from any legitimate migrant assistance workers, while they rounded up enough passengers to fill the planes. Only during the flight were the passengers told they would be landing on Martha’s Vineyard. They were handed a packet of information about refugee resettlement programs in Massachusetts, which the passengers, in fact, didn’t qualify for. Perla and Emanuel didn’t travel on the flights, according to the lawsuit. Their phone numbers weren’t answered, the suit says. The passengers were dropped off on Martha’s Vineyard ‘in the evening, with no food, water or shelter,’ the lawsuit asserts. ‘No one on Martha’s Vineyard—or ... anywhere in Massachusetts—knew they were coming.’” [LA Times, 9/25/22]

- **The Plaintiffs Said That The Passengers Were Told They Would Be Landing In Martha’s Vineyard Only During The Flight And Were Handed Information About Refugee Settlement Programs In Massachusetts, Which They Did Not Qualify For.** The LA Times reported, “The lawsuit says they kept the migrants in hotel rooms for as long as five days, separated from any legitimate migrant assistance workers, while they rounded up enough passengers to fill the planes. Only during the flight were the passengers told they would be landing on Martha’s Vineyard. They were handed a packet of information about refugee resettlement programs in Massachusetts, which the passengers, in fact, didn’t qualify for. Perla and Emanuel didn’t travel on the flights, according to the lawsuit. Their phone numbers weren’t answered, the suit says. The passengers were dropped off on Martha’s Vineyard ‘in the evening, with no food, water or shelter,’ the lawsuit asserts. ‘No one on Martha’s Vineyard—or ... anywhere in Massachusetts—knew they were coming.’” [LA Times, 9/25/22]
- **The Lawsuit Asserted That The Passengers Were Dropped Off On Martha’s Vineyard “In The Evening, With No Food, Water Or Shelter” And “No One On Martha’s Vineyard—Or ... Anywhere In Massachusetts—Knew They Were Coming.”** The LA Times reported, “The lawsuit says they kept the migrants in hotel rooms for as long as five days, separated from any legitimate migrant assistance workers, while they rounded up enough passengers to fill the planes. Only during the flight were the passengers told they would be landing on Martha’s Vineyard. They were handed a packet of information about refugee resettlement programs in Massachusetts, which the passengers, in fact, didn’t qualify for. Perla and Emanuel didn’t travel on the flights, according to the lawsuit. Their phone numbers weren’t answered, the suit says. The passengers were dropped off on Martha’s Vineyard ‘in the evening, with no food, water or shelter,’ the lawsuit asserts. ‘No one on Martha’s Vineyard—or ... anywhere in Massachusetts—knew they were coming.’” [LA Times, 9/25/22]

**September 2022: Lawyers For Civil Rights Filed A “Potential” Class-Action Lawsuit Against DeSantis On Behalf Of The Asylum Seekers Flown To Martha’s Vineyard Which Sought To Block His Administration From “Inducing Immigrants To Travel Across State Lines By Fraud And Misrepresentation.”** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “The relocation of the immigrants has drawn international attention. On Tuesday, lawyers representing some of the asylum seekers flown to Massachusetts filed a potential class-action lawsuit against DeSantis, Florida Department of Transportation Secretary Jared Perdue and unidentified people who helped recruit the immigrants in Texas. The legal challenge, filed by attorneys with the Massachusetts-based Lawyers for Civil Rights, seeks unspecified monetary damages and asks a judge to block the DeSantis administration from ‘inducing immigrants to travel across state lines by fraud and misrepresentation.’ Iván Espinoza-Madrigal, executive director of Lawyers for Civil Rights, told reporters Wednesday that his organization also requested anonymity for the immigrants because they have received ‘a barrage of hate messages and death threats’ as they try to recover from daunting journeys to the U.S. and subsequent trauma from their relocation to the Northeast.” [Tampa Bay Times, 9/21/22]

**September 2022: State Senator Jason Pizzo Filed A Lawsuit Against DeSantis Over Florida’s Program To Fly Migrants From Texas To Other States And Asked A Judge To Stop Future Flights.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “A new lawsuit has been brought against Gov. Ron DeSantis and other state officials over Florida’s program to fly migrants from Texas to other states. The lawsuit - filed by state Sen. Jason Pizzo, a South Florida Democrat, in his capacity as a private citizen - alleges that the program violates state law, in part because the migrants are not being flown out of Florida. It asks a judge to stop future flights and seeks no damages. Earlier this year, the Legislature passed a bipartisan budget that included language allocating \$12 million to establish a program facilitating ‘the transport of unauthorized aliens from this state consistent with federal law.’ Last week, DeSantis tapped that money to fly 48 Venezuelan migrants on two charter flights from San Antonio to Martha’s Vineyard, a Massachusetts island. [...] Pizzo’s suit argues that DeSantis’ program violates the budget language and another law on two points. One, the migrants, who are seeking asylum and have legal status in the United States, are not ‘unauthorized aliens.’ And, two, none of them were in Florida.” [Tampa Bay Times, 9/23/22]

- **State Senator Jason Pizzo’s Suit Argued That DeSantis’s Program Violated The Law Because The Migrants Were Not “Unauthorized Aliens” And None Of Them Were Flown Out Of Florida.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “A new lawsuit has been brought against Gov. Ron DeSantis and other state officials over Florida’s program to fly migrants from Texas to other states. The lawsuit - filed by state Sen. Jason Pizzo, a



South Florida Democrat, in his capacity as a private citizen - alleges that the program violates state law, in part because the migrants are not being flown out of Florida. It asks a judge to stop future flights and seeks no damages. Earlier this year, the Legislature passed a bipartisan budget that included language allocating \$12 million to establish a program facilitating ‘the transport of unauthorized aliens from this state consistent with federal law.’ Last week, DeSantis tapped that money to fly 48 Venezuelan migrants on two charter flights from San Antonio to Martha’s Vineyard, a Massachusetts island. [...] Pizzo’s suit argues that DeSantis’ program violates the budget language and another law on two points. One, the migrants, who are seeking asylum and have legal status in the United States, are not ‘unauthorized aliens.’ And, two, none of them were in Florida.” [Tampa Bay Times, 9/23/22]

- **January 2023: A Leon County Circuit Judge Refused To Dismiss A Lawsuit Against DeSantis Brought By State Senator John Pizzo, Who Accused The Governor Of Illegally Using Taxpayer Dollars To Fund The Migrant Flight Program To Martha’s Vineyard.** The Miami Herald reported, “A Leon County Circuit Court judge on Friday refused to dismiss a lawsuit against Ron DeSantis brought by a North Miami Beach state senator who has accused Florida’s governor of illegally using taxpayer funds to fly migrants from Texas to Martha’s Vineyard in Massachusetts last September. Judge John C. Cooper set a Jan. 30 trial date to hear the constitutional challenge brought by Sen. Jason Pizzo, a Democrat who is suing in his capacity as a private citizen. Cooper rejected attempts by DeSantis’ lawyers to dismiss the case, although he did agree to release Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis as a defendant. [...] DeSantis’ lawyers argue, however, that the relocation program ‘does not regulate the flow of aliens into or out of the United States or determine anybody’s citizenship status.’ Instead, they said in a motion filed last week that the state is only making funds available to ‘facilitate the transport of consenting unauthorized aliens from Florida to other states.’” [The Miami Herald, 1/13/23]
- **February 2023: A Leon County Circuit Judge Dismissed A Lawsuit Filed By State Senator Jason Pizzo Against DeSantis’s Migrant Relocation Program After The Senator’s Attorney Acknowledged That It Should End.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “A Leon County circuit judge Wednesday dismissed a lawsuit filed after Gov. Ron DeSantis’ administration sparked a controversy in September by flying about 50 migrants from Texas to Martha’s Vineyard in Massachusetts. DeSantis administration attorneys argued that the lawsuit, filed by state Sen. Jason Pizzo, D-Hollywood, became moot when the Legislature this month passed a law aimed at bolstering efforts to transport migrants to ‘sanctuary’ areas of the country. During a late-afternoon hearing Wednesday, Circuit Judge John Cooper dismissed the lawsuit after Pizzo’s attorney, Mark Herron, acknowledged that it should end.” [Tampa Bay Times, 2/22/23]

**December 2022: Leontire & Associates, The Southern Poverty Law Center And The Criminal Justice Institute Of Harvard Law School Filed A Lawsuit Alleging That DeSantis And His Transportation Secretary Usurped “The Federal Government’s Sole Role In Regulating And Enforcing Immigration Law.”** The Boston Globe reported, “A Boston law firm and a Harvard institute have filed a federal lawsuit on behalf of immigrant groups challenging the authority of Florida Governor Ron DeSantis and his transportation secretary to send 50 Venezuelan and Peruvian migrants to Martha’s Vineyard on Sept. 14, court records show. The case, filed in US District Court for the Southern District of Florida on Thursday, alleges DeSantis and Secretary of Transportation Jared W. Perdue violated the Constitution’s Supremacy Clause ‘by usurping the federal government’s sole role in regulating and enforcing immigration law,’ and using a state appropriations act to ‘set aside \$12 million for the ‘relocation’ of ‘unauthorized aliens’ using monies derived from federal funds intended to combat a deadly pandemic.’ [...] The plaintiffs ask the court to block the implementation of the section of the appropriations act that was used to move the migrants and to declare the section unconstitutional, records show. [...] The case was brought by the Florida Immigrant Coalition Inc., Americans for Immigrant Justice Inc., and Hope CommUnity Center Inc., and the groups are represented by Boston-based law firm Leontire & Associates P.C., the Southern Poverty Law Center, and the Criminal Justice Institute of Harvard Law School.” [Boston Globe, 12/3/22]

- **The Plaintiffs Also Alleged That DeSantis And Perdue Used A State Appropriations Act To “Set Aside \$12 Million For The ‘Relocation’ Of ‘Unauthorized Aliens’ Using Monies Derived From Federal Funds Intended To Combat A Deadly Pandemic” To Send Migrants To Martha’s Vineyard.** The Boston Globe reported, “A Boston law firm and a Harvard institute have filed a federal lawsuit on behalf of immigrant groups

challenging the authority of Florida Governor Ron DeSantis and his transportation secretary to send 50 Venezuelan and Peruvian migrants to Martha's Vineyard on Sept. 14, court records show. The case, filed in US District Court for the Southern District of Florida on Thursday, alleges DeSantis and Secretary of Transportation Jared W. Perdue violated the Constitution's Supremacy Clause 'by usurping the federal government's sole role in regulating and enforcing immigration law,' and using a state appropriations act to 'set aside \$12 million for the 'relocation' of 'unauthorized aliens' using monies derived from federal funds intended to combat a deadly pandemic.' [...] The plaintiffs ask the court to block the implementation of the section of the appropriations act that was used to move the migrants and to declare the section unconstitutional, records show. [...] The case was brought by the Florida Immigrant Coalition Inc., Americans for Immigrant Justice Inc., and Hope Community Center Inc., and the groups are represented by Boston-based law firm Leontire & Associates P.C., the Southern Poverty Law Center, and the Criminal Justice Institute of Harvard Law School." [Boston Globe, 12/3/22]

### ***Despite The Criticism, DeSantis Said He Was "Proud" Of Focusing The Nation's Attention On Immigration Policy***

**At A Press Conference, DeSantis Defended The Program And Said He Had Successfully Refocused The Nation's Attention On Immigration Policy And He Was "Proud Of That."** The Tampa Bay Times reported, "Pizzo's lawsuit is not the only legal challenge facing DeSantis. Three of the Martha's Vineyard migrants, who said they'd been duped into getting on the flights with false promises of jobs, are now suing DeSantis in Massachusetts federal court for civil rights violations. And the Democratic sheriff of Bexar County, Texas, Javier Salazar, has announced a criminal investigation into the flights. [...] At a Thursday news conference in Miami, DeSantis defended the program, saying it was stopping migrants from getting to Florida in the first place. He also said he had successfully refocused the nation's attention on immigration policy. 'This was not an issue of concern two weeks ago, so we're proud of that,' he said. He did not answer questions about another charter flight set up by operatives working for him. The flight was scheduled to depart San Antonio on Tuesday carrying more Venezuelan migrants and land at an airport near President Joe Biden's summer home, according to a Miami Herald investigation. But the charter was canceled without explanation - leaving the migrants stranded once more." [Tampa Bay Times, 9/23/22]

**September 2022 – DeSantis: "All Those People In D.C. And New York Were Beating Their Chests. . . Saying How Bad It Was To Have A Secure Border... The Minute Even A Small Fraction Of What Those Border Towns Deal With Every Day Were Brought To Their Front Door, They All Of A Sudden Go Berserk."** The Boston Globe reported, "Republican politicians in border states, along with DeSantis, argue that their communities are overwhelmed by the wave of migrants, and have justified the transport of migrants to blue states as a way to both share the costs and raise awareness of the border crisis. Conservatives want the Biden administration to take a harder stance, and worry that any favorable treatment of migrants coming to the United States will encourage more people to come. 'All those people in D.C. and New York were beating their chests when Trump was president . . . saying how bad it was to have a secure border,' DeSantis said in the wake of the Vineyard flights. 'The minute even a small fraction of what those border towns deal with every day were brought to their front door, they all of a sudden go berserk.'" [Boston Globe, 10/2/22]

**DeSantis: "We Have Elites In This Country That Want To Impose Policies On You But They Don't Want To Suffer The Same Consequences That You Have To In Your Communities [...] It's Sad That It Comes To This But What We Did Put This Issue Front And Center."** The Miami Herald reported, "Quirantes moves on to illegal immigration, and asks DeSantis why he moved immigrants from Texas to Martha's Vineyard, and if he thought it was a good use of taxpayer money. [...] Crist calls it a 'political stunt' and says he does believe the U.S. has an immigration problem and that he supports comprehensive immigration reform. 'You're willing to use people like that, in this case they were Hispanics, Venezuelan in particular, and have them as props for your political gain? That's not how you change policy,' Crist says. 'You were inhumane in how you treated these people.' 'We've had millions and millions of people pour in and cross illegally, we've had record numbers of fentanyl come in, and now see it ravaging our communities like never before,' DeSantis says. 'It's only when they go to D.C., New York or, of course, Martha's Vineyard that all of a sudden this is - you know why? Because we have elites in this country that want to impose policies on you but they don't want to suffer the same consequences that you have to in your

communities.’ ‘It’s sad that it comes to this but what we did put this issue front and center,’ DeSantis adds.” [Miami Herald, 10/24/22]

## ***Two Aborted Flights Programs To Delaware And Illinois Cost Florida Taxpayers Nearly \$1 Million***

**The Total Cost Of Two Aborted Migrant Flight Programs To Delaware And Illinois Cost Florida Taxpayers \$950,000, Or About \$6,300 Per Migrant.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “[Vertol’s President James] Montgomerie emailed [FDOT purchasing agent] Baker, saying the ‘proposed Humanitarian Services’ mission would involve Project 2 - ‘the relocation of up to fifty (50) individuals to the State of Delaware or other, proximate northeastern state designated by FDOT’ and Project 3 - ‘the relocation of up to fifty (50) individuals to the State of Illinois or other, proximate northeastern state designated by FDOT.’ The total cost to Florida taxpayers: \$950,000, or about \$6,300 per migrant, which includes the cost of hotel rooms, meals and ground transportation in Texas. Those flights never happened. Williams also would not answer why the state has not asked Vertol to return some or all of the \$950,000 in payment for the aborted flights to Delaware and Illinois.” [Tampa Bay Times, 11/1/22]

- **The Migrant Flight Program To Delaware And Illinois Was Aborted But The State Of Florida Did Not Ask Vertol Systems To Return Some Or All Of The \$950,000 In Payment For The Flights.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “[Vertol’s President James] Montgomerie emailed [FDOT purchasing agent Paul] Baker, saying the ‘proposed Humanitarian Services’ mission would involve Project 2 - ‘the relocation of up to fifty (50) individuals to the State of Delaware or other, proximate northeastern state designated by FDOT’ and Project 3 - ‘the relocation of up to fifty (50) individuals to the State of Illinois or other, proximate northeastern state designated by FDOT.’ The total cost to Florida taxpayers: \$950,000, or about \$6,300 per migrant, which includes the cost of hotel rooms, meals and ground transportation in Texas. Those flights never happened. [FDOT Spokesperson Michael D.] Williams also would not answer why the state has not asked Vertol to return some or all of the \$950,000 in payment for the aborted flights to Delaware and Illinois.” [Tampa Bay Times, 11/1/22]

## ***February 2023: DeSantis Signed Legislation To Establish The “Unauthorized Alien Transport Program”***

**February 2023: DeSantis Proposed Legislation That Would Create A Statute Establishing The “Unauthorized Alien Transport Program,” Which Would Allow The State To Use Taxpayer Dollars To Transport Migrants Around The U.S.** The Miami Herald reported, “In the face of several lawsuits challenging Gov. Ron DeSantis’ covert operation to relocate migrants from the Texas border to Massachusetts, the governor’s office now wants lawmakers to revise the law to remove potentially unconstitutional provisions and give the governor more authority to use Florida taxpayer funds to transport migrants around the country. The proposed legislation would create a new statute establishing the ‘Unauthorized Alien Transport Program’ within the governor’s office that would allow the state to use taxpayer funds this fiscal year to transport people who have entered the country and have been processed and released by the U.S. government pending a final resolution of their immigration status. If approved by lawmakers during a special session next week, DeSantis would have expanded authority to use \$10 million between now and the end of June to relocate migrants anywhere in the United States. The measure also allows the governor to potentially access as much as \$500 million in emergency funds because he signed an executive order declaring an immigration emergency in January.” [Miami Herald, 2/3/23]

- **DeSantis’s Proposed Legislation Would Expand Authority To Use \$10 Million Between February And The End Of June To Relocate Migrants Anywhere In The U.S. And Allow The Governor To Access As Much As \$500 Million In Emergency Funds.** The Miami Herald reported, “In the face of several lawsuits challenging Gov. Ron DeSantis’ covert operation to relocate migrants from the Texas border to Massachusetts, the governor’s office now wants lawmakers to revise the law to remove potentially unconstitutional provisions and give the governor more authority to use Florida taxpayer funds to transport migrants around the country. The proposed legislation would create a new statute establishing the ‘Unauthorized Alien Transport Program’

within the governor’s office that would allow the state to use taxpayer funds this fiscal year to transport people who have entered the country and have been processed and released by the U.S. government pending a final resolution of their immigration status. If approved by lawmakers during a special session next week, DeSantis would have expanded authority to use \$10 million between now and the end of June to relocate migrants anywhere in the United States. The measure also allows the governor to potentially access as much as \$500 million in emergency funds because he signed an executive order declaring an immigration emergency in January.” [Miami Herald, 2/3/23]

- **DeSantis’s Proposed Legislation Would Allow Him To Use Tens Of Millions Of Dollars To Transport Migrants If They Volunteered To Be Relocated And Showed Documentation That They Had Been Processed And Released By DHS, While Florida Taxpayers Would Have To Foot The Travel Costs.** The Miami Herald reported, “If approved by lawmakers during a special session next week, DeSantis would have expanded authority to use \$10 million between now and the end of June to relocate migrants anywhere in the United States. The measure also allows the governor to potentially access as much as \$500 million in emergency funds because he signed an executive order declaring an immigration emergency in January. DeSantis, who is eyeing a run for president in 2024, would then have access to tens of millions of dollars to transport migrants if the migrants volunteer to be relocated and show documentation that they have been processed and released by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Florida taxpayers would foot the travel costs. [...] It would be a departure from what the Legislature approved less than a year ago when DeSantis first sought to transport migrants out of the state. At the moment, state law specifies that migrants have to be relocated ‘from this state’—a mandate the state has not followed. The new language would allow DeSantis to transport migrants ‘within the United States.’” [Miami Herald, 2/3/23]
- **The Language In DeSantis’s Proposed Legislation Would Allow Him To Transport Migrants “Within The United States” Instead Of Relocating Them “From This State.”** The Miami Herald reported, “If approved by lawmakers during a special session next week, DeSantis would have expanded authority to use \$10 million between now and the end of June to relocate migrants anywhere in the United States. The measure also allows the governor to potentially access as much as \$500 million in emergency funds because he signed an executive order declaring an immigration emergency in January. DeSantis, who is eyeing a run for president in 2024, would then have access to tens of millions of dollars to transport migrants if the migrants volunteer to be relocated and show documentation that they have been processed and released by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Florida taxpayers would foot the travel costs. [...] It would be a departure from what the Legislature approved less than a year ago when DeSantis first sought to transport migrants out of the state. At the moment, state law specifies that migrants have to be relocated ‘from this state’—a mandate the state has not followed. The new language would allow DeSantis to transport migrants ‘within the United States.’” [Miami Herald, 2/3/23]

**February 2023: Florida Lawmakers Gave Preliminary Approval To Expand DeSantis’s Ability To Relocate Migrants Anywhere In The U.S. And Allow Him To Hand Out Millions Of Dollars In No-Bid Contracts To Companies Carrying Out The Program Without Disclosing Details To The Public.** The Miami Herald reported, “Florida lawmakers gave preliminary approval to a measure that would not only expand Gov. Ron DeSantis’ ability to relocate migrants anywhere in the country but would allow his administration to hand out millions of dollars in no-bid contracts to companies to carry out the secretive program without disclosing details to the public. Republican lawmakers who are sponsoring the proposal have acknowledged that they do not know how the administration plans to spend \$10 million that would be set aside for the immigration program between now and the end of June. The expenses, they said, could include surveillance, reconnaissance and investigations, as well as feeding and housing migrants while they wait for a plane ride. Lawmakers admitted in hearings Monday in the House and Tuesday in the Senate that they do not have details about how the administration has spent an estimated \$2 million on the previous migrant relocation efforts—despite allegations that the covert operation misled some migrants, paid an undocumented worker to recruit passengers and shielded details from the public. But, they argue, the administration should be given ‘as much flexibility’ as possible to spend future state funds because they consider the nation’s immigration troubles a Florida emergency.” [Miami Herald, 2/7/23]

- Florida Lawmakers Admitted That They Did Not Know How The DeSantis Administration Planned To Spend \$10 Million Set Aside For The Immigration Program Between February And June And Also Admitted That They Did Not Have Details About How He Spent \$2 Million On The Previous Program.** The Miami Herald reported, “Florida lawmakers gave preliminary approval to a measure that would not only expand Gov. Ron DeSantis’ ability to relocate migrants anywhere in the country but would allow his administration to hand out millions of dollars in no-bid contracts to companies to carry out the secretive program without disclosing details to the public. Republican lawmakers who are sponsoring the proposal have acknowledged that they do not know how the administration plans to spend \$10 million that would be set aside for the immigration program between now and the end of June. The expenses, they said, could include surveillance, reconnaissance and investigations, as well as feeding and housing migrants while they wait for a plane ride. Lawmakers admitted in hearings Monday in the House and Tuesday in the Senate that they do not have details about how the administration has spent an estimated \$2 million on the previous migrant relocation efforts—despite allegations that the covert operation misled some migrants, paid an undocumented worker to recruit passengers and shielded details from the public. But, they argue, the administration should be given ‘as much flexibility’ as possible to spend future state funds because they consider the nation’s immigration troubles a Florida emergency.” [Miami Herald, 2/7/23]
- Florida Lawmakers Said The DeSantis Administration Should Be Given “As Much Flexibility” As Possible To Spend Future Funds On Dealing With The Immigration Issue.** The Miami Herald reported, “Florida lawmakers gave preliminary approval to a measure that would not only expand Gov. Ron DeSantis’ ability to relocate migrants anywhere in the country but would allow his administration to hand out millions of dollars in no-bid contracts to companies to carry out the secretive program without disclosing details to the public. Republican lawmakers who are sponsoring the proposal have acknowledged that they do not know how the administration plans to spend \$10 million that would be set aside for the immigration program between now and the end of June. The expenses, they said, could include surveillance, reconnaissance and investigations, as well as feeding and housing migrants while they wait for a plane ride. Lawmakers admitted in hearings Monday in the House and Tuesday in the Senate that they do not have details about how the administration has spent an estimated \$2 million on the previous migrant relocation efforts—despite allegations that the covert operation misled some migrants, paid an undocumented worker to recruit passengers and shielded details from the public. But, they argue, the administration should be given ‘as much flexibility’ as possible to spend future state funds because they consider the nation’s immigration troubles a Florida emergency.” [Miami Herald, 2/7/23]

**February 2023: DeSantis’s Proposed Legislation On The Migrant Relocation Program Was Approved By The Florida Legislature On A 77-37 Party-Line Vote, Authorizing His Administration To Relocate Migrants Anywhere In The U.S. In Whichever Way It “Sees Fit.”** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “Florida Republicans in the Legislature on Friday gave final approval to the expansion of a secretive immigration program that will authorize Gov. Ron DeSantis’ administration to relocate migrants anywhere in the country in whichever way it ‘sees fit.’ The proposed legislation, which DeSantis is expected to sign into law, will set aside \$10 million for the Division of Emergency Management to spend in the fiscal year ending June 30. The agency, which is part of the DeSantis administration, can set its own rules for the new migrant relocation program effort entitled, ‘Unauthorized Alien Transport Program.’ [...] The bill, which now heads to DeSantis, was approved on a 77-34 party-line vote.” [Tampa Bay Times, 2/9/23]

**February 2023: DeSantis Signed Bill SB 6-B, Which Gave Him The Authority To Create The “Unauthorized Alien Transport Program” And Provided \$10 Million To Transport Migrants From Florida And Other States To Sanctuary Areas.** The Miami Herald reported, “With little fanfare, Gov. Ron DeSantis on Wednesday signed a controversial bill expected to result in Florida transporting migrants to ‘sanctuary’ areas of the country, similar to the September flights of about 50 migrants from Texas to Martha’s Vineyard in Massachusetts. The bill (SB 6-B), which passed last week during a special legislative session, creates the ‘Unauthorized Alien Transport Program’ within the state Division of Emergency Management and provides \$10 million to transport migrants from Florida and other states to sanctuary areas. Division of Emergency Management Director Kevin Guthrie said Wednesday his agency will first spend time reviewing past actions of the Florida Department of Transportation, which helped direct the September flights.” [Miami Herald, 2/15/23]

## **January 2023: The Biden Administration Accused DeSantis Of “Creating A Problem” By Activating Florida’s National Guard In Response To Cuban Migrants Arriving In Florida**

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**January 2023: DeSantis Signed Executive Order 23-03, Which Activated The Florida National Guard And Directed State Agencies To Provide Resources And Additional Support To Local Governments Responding To Migrants Landing In The Florida Keys.** According to a press release from the Office of the Governor of Florida, “Today, Governor Ron DeSantis signed Executive Order (EO) 23- 03 (Emergency Management – Illegal Migration), activating the Florida National Guard, directing state law enforcement agencies and other state agencies to provide resources in support of local governments responding to the alarming influx of migrants landing in the Florida Keys, and providing additional support toward efforts to prevent further migrant landings on Florida’s shores. [...] The State of Florida will deploy air assets, including airplanes and helicopters from the Florida National Guard, and will bolster Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission marine patrol to support water interdictions and ensure the safety of migrants attempting to reach Florida through the Florida Straits.” [Office of the Governor of Florida, Press Release, [1/6/23](#)]

**January 2023: In Response To The Arrival Of Hundreds Of Cuban And Haitian Migrants In South Florida, DeSantis Signed An Executive Order Declaring A State Of Emergency And Called Out The State National Guard, Saying That The Surge Was “Likely To Constitute A Major Disaster.”** The Miami Herald reported, “Gov. Ron DeSantis declared a state of emergency Friday and called out the state National Guard as the arrival of hundreds of Cuban and Haitian migrants in South Florida overwhelmed local authorities and raised fears of a major migration event. DeSantis said the surge in migrant arrivals in the Florida Keys is ‘likely to constitute a major disaster’ and called on the Florida National Guard to respond. He said the state will also be using Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission vessels, and if necessary ‘support water interdiction.’ He said the state will also be sending helicopters and airplanes to help authorities reach and ‘ensure the safety’ of migrants when they attempt to reach the Florida shore. The DeSantis administration will be responding to the situation and helping with migrant arrivals as long as there is a state of emergency in place, an executive order signed by the governor Friday said.” [Miami Herald, 1/6/23]

- **DeSantis Said That The State Would Use Florida Fish And Wildlife Conservation Commission Vessels And Also Send Helicopters And Airplanes To Help Authorities Reach And “Ensure The Safety” Of Migrants Attempting To Reach The Florida Shore.** The Miami Herald reported, “Gov. Ron DeSantis declared a state of emergency Friday and called out the state National Guard as the arrival of hundreds of Cuban and Haitian migrants in South Florida overwhelmed local authorities and raised fears of a major migration event. DeSantis said the surge in migrant arrivals in the Florida Keys is ‘likely to constitute a major disaster’ and called on the Florida National Guard to respond. He said the state will also be using Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission vessels, and if necessary ‘support water interdiction.’ He said the state will also be sending helicopters and airplanes to help authorities reach and ‘ensure the safety’ of migrants when they attempt to reach the Florida shore. The DeSantis administration will be responding to the situation and helping with migrant arrivals as long as there is a state of emergency in place, an executive order signed by the governor Friday said.” [Miami Herald, 1/6/23]

**January 2023: Florida’s Emergency Operations Officials Stated That The State’s Emergency Response To Migrants Arriving By Boat From Cuba And Haiti Would Be One Of Surveillance And Not Interdiction.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “Florida’s emergency response to the influx of migrants from Cuba and Haiti arriving by boat will be one of surveillance and not interdiction as 150 to 200 troops and officers work with federal Homeland Security officials ‘to increase coastal vigilance and provide improved situational awareness on migrant activities,’ state emergency operations officials said in a statement on Tuesday. [...] The governor’s executive order gives sweeping powers to state agencies to waive and suspend rules, enter into no-bid contracts and spend unlimited amounts of money by directing that ‘sufficient funding be made available, as needed’ from the governor’s \$500 million emergency fund. The governor tasked the Division of Emergency Management with coordinating the response and gave it the authority to ask other states for assistance, with their aid being reimbursed by Florida taxpayers. Initial indications from the Department of Homeland Security and the Florida National Guard

are that the Guard's role will not involve ground troops but primarily involve aerial support, assisting with surveillance of migrants attempting to reach Florida shores." [Tampa Bay Times, 1/10/23]

- **DeSantis's Executive Order Gave Powers To State Agencies To Waive And Suspend Rules And Spend Unlimited Amounts Of Money From The Governor's \$500 Million Emergency Fund.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, "Florida's emergency response to the influx of migrants from Cuba and Haiti arriving by boat will be one of surveillance and not interdiction as 150 to 200 troops and officers work with federal Homeland Security officials 'to increase coastal vigilance and provide improved situational awareness on migrant activities,' state emergency operations officials said in a statement on Tuesday. [...] The governor's executive order gives sweeping powers to state agencies to waive and suspend rules, enter into no-bid contracts and spend unlimited amounts of money by directing that 'sufficient funding be made available, as needed' from the governor's \$500 million emergency fund. The governor tasked the Division of Emergency Management with coordinating the response and gave it the authority to ask other states for assistance, with their aid being reimbursed by Florida taxpayers. Initial indications from the Department of Homeland Security and the Florida National Guard are that the Guard's role will not involve ground troops but primarily involve aerial support, assisting with surveillance of migrants attempting to reach Florida shores." [Tampa Bay Times, 1/10/23]
- **DeSantis Gave Authority To The Division Of Emergency Management To Ask Other States For Assistance, With Their Aid Being Reimbursed By Florida Taxpayers.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, "Florida's emergency response to the influx of migrants from Cuba and Haiti arriving by boat will be one of surveillance and not interdiction as 150 to 200 troops and officers work with federal Homeland Security officials 'to increase coastal vigilance and provide improved situational awareness on migrant activities,' state emergency operations officials said in a statement on Tuesday. [...] The governor's executive order gives sweeping powers to state agencies to waive and suspend rules, enter into no-bid contracts and spend unlimited amounts of money by directing that 'sufficient funding be made available, as needed' from the governor's \$500 million emergency fund. The governor tasked the Division of Emergency Management with coordinating the response and gave it the authority to ask other states for assistance, with their aid being reimbursed by Florida taxpayers. Initial indications from the Department of Homeland Security and the Florida National Guard are that the Guard's role will not involve ground troops but primarily involve aerial support, assisting with surveillance of migrants attempting to reach Florida shores." [Tampa Bay Times, 1/10/23]
- **Initial Indications From The DHS And The Florida National Guard Were That The Guard's Role Would Not Involve Ground Troops But Mostly Aerial Support To Assist With The Surveillance Of Migrants Attempting To Reach Florida.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, "Florida's emergency response to the influx of migrants from Cuba and Haiti arriving by boat will be one of surveillance and not interdiction as 150 to 200 troops and officers work with federal Homeland Security officials 'to increase coastal vigilance and provide improved situational awareness on migrant activities,' state emergency operations officials said in a statement on Tuesday. [...] The governor's executive order gives sweeping powers to state agencies to waive and suspend rules, enter into no-bid contracts and spend unlimited amounts of money by directing that 'sufficient funding be made available, as needed' from the governor's \$500 million emergency fund. The governor tasked the Division of Emergency Management with coordinating the response and gave it the authority to ask other states for assistance, with their aid being reimbursed by Florida taxpayers. Initial indications from the Department of Homeland Security and the Florida National Guard are that the Guard's role will not involve ground troops but primarily involve aerial support, assisting with surveillance of migrants attempting to reach Florida shores." [Tampa Bay Times, 1/10/23]
- **In Response To DeSantis's Executive Order, The Florida Fish And Wildlife Conservation Commission Stationed Five More Large Vessels In The Keys And Deployed An Additional 15 Officers And One Mechanic To Provide Assistance.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, "The governor's executive order gives sweeping powers to state agencies to waive and suspend rules, enter into no-bid contracts and spend unlimited amounts of money by directing that 'sufficient funding be made available, as needed' from the governor's \$500 million emergency fund. [...] The state agency with the most frequent contact with migrants is the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. The agency uses two vessels [...] who work with federal agencies to assist with 'information gathering, humanitarian response, search and rescue efforts, critical infrastructure

protection, officer safety and assistance, emergency medical services and other similar duties,' said Ashlee Sklute, spokesperson for the agency. To assist with the migrant surge, and in response to the governor's executive order, FWC has stationed five more large vessels in the Keys and deployed an additional 15 officers and one mechanic to assist, Sklute said." [Tampa Bay Times, 1/10/23]

**January 2023 – White House Press Secretary: “We Have Seen Gov. DeSantis Do Political Stunts. [...] We’re Talking About People Coming From Countries Who Are Dealing With Political Strife, Who Are Dealing With Issues Where They’re Trying To Find Asylum. And He Treats Them Like Pawns.”** The Miami Herald reported, “The White House issued a sharp rebuke of Ron DeSantis on Wednesday after the Florida governor activated the state’s National Guard in response to a surge in Cuban migrants arriving by sea, accusing the Republican of ‘creating a problem’ as the Biden administration is attempting to crack down on border enforcement. ‘We have seen Gov. DeSantis do political stunts. That is how he perceives to fix this issue from Florida,’ White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre told reporters at a press briefing. ‘We’re talking about people coming from countries who are dealing with political strife, who are dealing with issues where they’re trying to find asylum. And he treats them like pawns,’ Jean-Pierre said. [...] ‘He’s not dealing with the problem. He’s actually creating a problem,’ Jean-Pierre said. ‘And so that’s what I have to say to that. We’ve talked about Gov. DeSantis and, again, the mockery that he’s making of a process that the president is trying to fix.’” [Miami Herald, 1/11/23]

- **The White House Press Secretary Accused DeSantis Of “Not Dealing” With The Immigration Problem And Said He Was “Creating The Problem.”** The Miami Herald reported, “The White House issued a sharp rebuke of Ron DeSantis on Wednesday after the Florida governor activated the state’s National Guard in response to a surge in Cuban migrants arriving by sea, accusing the Republican of ‘creating a problem’ as the Biden administration is attempting to crack down on border enforcement. ‘We have seen Gov. DeSantis do political stunts. That is how he perceives to fix this issue from Florida,’ White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre told reporters at a press briefing. ‘We’re talking about people coming from countries who are dealing with political strife, who are dealing with issues where they’re trying to find asylum. And he treats them like pawns,’ Jean-Pierre said. [...] ‘He’s not dealing with the problem. He’s actually creating a problem,’ Jean-Pierre said. ‘And so that’s what I have to say to that. We’ve talked about Gov. DeSantis and, again, the mockery that he’s making of a process that the president is trying to fix.’” [Miami Herald, 1/11/23]

## **May 2023: DeSantis Signed Sweeping Legislation To Impose E-Verify Requirements, Bar Drivers’ Licenses For Non-Citizens, Prevent Undocumented Immigrants From Practicing Law And More**

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### ***February 2023: DeSantis Announced A Legislative Proposal To “Take Action Against The Increasing Threats Posed By Illegal Immigration As A Result Of The Biden Administration’s Failure To Secure Our Nation’s Borders”***

**February 2023: DeSantis Announced A Legislative Proposal “To Take Action Against The Increasing Threats Posed By Illegal Immigration As A Result Of The Biden Administration’s Failure To Secure Our Nation’s Borders.”** According to a press release from the Office of the Governor of Florida, “Today, Governor Ron DeSantis announced an extensive legislative proposal to take action against the increasing threats posed by illegal immigration as a result of the Biden administration’s failure to secure our nation’s borders. By increasing penalties for human smuggling, strengthening statutes for the detention of illegal aliens, requiring universal use of E-Verify, enhancing penalties for document falsification, and prohibiting the issuance by local governments of ID cards to people who are not lawfully in the country, Florida will lead the way in protecting Americans from the deleterious effects of the Left’s open borders agenda.” [Office of the Governor of Florida, Press Release, [2/23/23](#)]

- **DeSantis’s Legislation Would Increase Penalties For Human Smuggling, Strengthen Statutes For The Detention Of “Illegal Aliens,” Require Universal Use Of E-Verify, Enhance Penalties For Document Falsification And Prohibit The Issuance Of ID Cards To Those Not Lawfully In The U.S.** According to a press release from the Office of the Governor of Florida, “Today, Governor Ron DeSantis announced an extensive legislative proposal to take action against the increasing threats posed by illegal immigration as a



result of the Biden administration's failure to secure our nation's borders. By increasing penalties for human smuggling, strengthening statutes for the detention of illegal aliens, requiring universal use of E-Verify, enhancing penalties for document falsification, and prohibiting the issuance by local governments of ID cards to people who are not lawfully in the country, Florida will lead the way in protecting Americans from the deleterious effects of the Left's open borders agenda." [Office of the Governor of Florida, Press Release, [2/23/23](#)]

- **DeSantis's Proposed Legislation Would Invalidate All Out-Of-State Licenses To "Unauthorized Aliens" And Require Those Registering To Vote To Affirm They Are U.S. Citizens And Legal Residents Of Florida.** According to a press release from the Office of the Governor of Florida, "The legislation also invalidates all out-of-state licenses to unauthorized aliens, requires those registering to vote to affirm they are United States citizens and legal residents of Florida, prevents unauthorized immigrants from being admitted to practice law, and eliminates out-of-state tuition fee waivers for undocumented immigrant students. Additionally, the proposal requires hospitals to collect data on the immigration status of patients and the costs to provide care to illegal aliens and regularly report the data to the Governor and Legislature." [Office of the Governor of Florida, Press Release, [2/23/23](#)]
- **DeSantis's Proposed Legislation Would Prevent "Unauthorized" Immigrants From Being Admitted To Practice Law And Eliminate Out-Of-State Tuition Fee Waivers For Undocumented Immigrant Students.** According to a press release from the Office of the Governor of Florida, "The legislation also invalidates all out-of-state licenses to unauthorized aliens, requires those registering to vote to affirm they are United States citizens and legal residents of Florida, prevents unauthorized immigrants from being admitted to practice law, and eliminates out-of-state tuition fee waivers for undocumented immigrant students. Additionally, the proposal requires hospitals to collect data on the immigration status of patients and the costs to provide care to illegal aliens and regularly report the data to the Governor and Legislature." [Office of the Governor of Florida, Press Release, [2/23/23](#)]
- **DeSantis's Proposed Legislation Would Require Hospitals To Collect Data On Immigration Status Of Patients And Costs To Provide Care To "Illegal Aliens" And Regularly Report The Data To The Governor.** According to a press release from the Office of the Governor of Florida, "The legislation also invalidates all out-of-state licenses to unauthorized aliens, requires those registering to vote to affirm they are United States citizens and legal residents of Florida, prevents unauthorized immigrants from being admitted to practice law, and eliminates out-of-state tuition fee waivers for undocumented immigrant students. Additionally, the proposal requires hospitals to collect data on the immigration status of patients and the costs to provide care to illegal aliens and regularly report the data to the Governor and Legislature." [Office of the Governor of Florida, Press Release, [2/23/23](#)]

**February 2023: DeSantis Proposed Addressing "The Dangers Of Biden's Border Crisis" Through Florida Laws Including "Mandatory E-Verify And Prohibiting Local Government From Issuing ID Cards To Illegal Aliens."** According to a Twitter post from Ron DeSantis, "Florida will not turn a blind eye to the dangers of Biden's Border Crisis. We are proposing additional steps to protect Floridians from these reckless federal policies, including mandatory E-Verify and prohibiting local government from issuing ID cards to illegal aliens." [Twitter, @GovRonDeSantis, [2/23/23](#)]



[Twitter, @GovRonDeSantis, [2/23/23](#)]

***DeSantis: “Florida Is A Law And Order State, And We Won’t Turn A Blind Eye To The Dangers Of Biden’s Border Crisis. We Will Continue To Take Steps To Protect Floridians From Reckless Federal Open Border Policies”***

**DeSantis: “Florida Is A Law And Order State, And We Won’t Turn A Blind Eye To The Dangers Of Biden’s Border Crisis. We Will Continue To Take Steps To Protect Floridians From Reckless Federal Open Border Policies.”** According to a press release from the Office of the Governor of Florida, “JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Today, Governor Ron DeSantis announced an extensive legislative proposal to take action against the increasing threats posed by illegal immigration as a result of the Biden administration’s failure to secure our nation’s borders. By increasing penalties for human smuggling, strengthening statutes for the detention of illegal aliens, requiring universal use of E-Verify, enhancing penalties for document falsification, and prohibiting the issuance by local governments of ID cards to people who are not lawfully in the country, Florida will lead the way in protecting Americans from the deleterious effects of the Left’s open borders agenda. To see the full proposal, [click here](#). To watch the full press conference, [click here](#). ‘With this legislation, Florida is continuing to crack down on the

smuggling of illegal aliens, stopping municipalities from issuing ID cards to people here illegally, and ensuring that employers are hiring American citizens or those here legally,’ said Governor Ron DeSantis. ‘Florida is a law and order state, and we won’t turn a blind eye to the dangers of Biden’s Border Crisis. We will continue to take steps to protect Floridians from reckless federal open border policies.’” [Office of the Governor of Florida, Press Release, [2/23/23](#)]

### ***Critics Accused DeSantis Of Xenophobia And Claimed The Policies Would Lead To “Unfair Targeting And Racial Profiling”***

**A.J. Hernández Anderson, Senior Supervising Attorney Of The Southern Poverty Law Center, On DeSantis’s Legislative Proposal: “DeSantis’ Xenophobic Policies Place Florida Residents — Regardless Of Immigration Status — In Danger Of Unfair Targeting And Racial Profiling.”** City & State Florida reported, “Continuing to criticize federal border and immigration policies, Gov. Ron DeSantis on Thursday called for state lawmakers to pass a series of proposals that include stiffer penalties for smuggling people into Florida and expanding use of the E-Verify employment eligibility system. DeSantis, who is a potential 2024 Republican presidential candidate, wants lawmakers to pass the measures during the legislative session that will start March 7. ‘I think we’re going to be able to do more in the next couple of months, when the Legislature reconvenes, than anyone’s been able to do in the modern history of Florida,’ DeSantis said during an appearance in Jacksonville. But the proposals likely will be controversial, with the Southern Poverty Law Center Action Fund quickly blasting DeSantis on Thursday. ‘DeSantis’ xenophobic policies place Florida residents — regardless of immigration status — in danger of unfair targeting and racial profiling,’ A.J. Hernández Anderson, senior supervising attorney for the organization, said in a prepared statement. ‘DeSantis’ political posturing will have a chilling effect on cooperation between law enforcement and immigrant communities, resulting in serious consequences for immigrant families, children and persons of color across the state.’” [City & State Florida, [2/24/23](#)]

- **A.J. Hernández Anderson: “DeSantis’ Political Posturing Will Have A Chilling Effect On Cooperation Between Law Enforcement And Immigrant Communities, Resulting In Serious Consequences For Immigrant Families, Children And Persons Of Color Across The State.”** City & State Florida reported, “Continuing to criticize federal border and immigration policies, Gov. Ron DeSantis on Thursday called for state lawmakers to pass a series of proposals that include stiffer penalties for smuggling people into Florida and expanding use of the E-Verify employment eligibility system. DeSantis, who is a potential 2024 Republican presidential candidate, wants lawmakers to pass the measures during the legislative session that will start March 7. ‘I think we’re going to be able to do more in the next couple of months, when the Legislature reconvenes, than anyone’s been able to do in the modern history of Florida,’ DeSantis said during an appearance in Jacksonville. But the proposals likely will be controversial, with the Southern Poverty Law Center Action Fund quickly blasting DeSantis on Thursday. ‘DeSantis’ xenophobic policies place Florida residents — regardless of immigration status — in danger of unfair targeting and racial profiling,’ A.J. Hernández Anderson, senior supervising attorney for the organization, said in a prepared statement. ‘DeSantis’ political posturing will have a chilling effect on cooperation between law enforcement and immigrant communities, resulting in serious consequences for immigrant families, children and persons of color across the state.’” [City & State Florida, [2/24/23](#)]

**ACLU Of Florida Executive Director Tiffani Lennon Called DeSantis’s Proposal “Cruel And Inhumane,” Adding, “State Policies That Harm People Simply For Being Immigrants Or For Supporting Immigrants Under The Assumption That They Threaten Communities Are Hateful And Palpably Racist.”** According to a press release from the ACLU of Florida, “In a press conference Thursday, Gov. DeSantis outlined an egregious proposal to prevent immigrant Floridians from accessing education and health care while also criminalizing those who provide transportation or shelter to immigrants, including those who are legally authorized to be in Florida. [...] Tiffani Lennon, executive director at the ACLU of Florida, responded to Gov. DeSantis’ press conference with the following statement: ‘This extreme proposal by Gov. DeSantis is cruel and inhumane. State policies that harm people simply for being immigrants or for supporting immigrants under the assumption that they threaten communities are hateful and palpably racist. With this announcement, DeSantis continues to escalate his effort to inflame public sentiment against immigrants by distorting reality and conflating issues to serve his personal

political agenda at the expense of Florida families, communities, and employers.” [ACLU of Florida, Press Release, [2/23/23](#)]

### ***DeSantis Opposed Providing Tuition Waivers To Undocumented Students, Though The Measure Was Supported By Education & Business Leaders***

**DeSantis: “If We Want To Hold The Line On Tuition, Then You Have Got To Say ‘You Need To Be A US Citizen Living In Florida. [...] Why Would We Subsidize A Non-US Citizen When We Want To Make Sure We Can Keep It Affordable For Our Own People?’”** Mother Jones reported, “Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis announced a legislative proposal to ‘fight against Biden’s border crisis.’ The bill, if approved by the Republican-dominated legislature, would make it a third-degree felony to ‘knowingly transport, conceal, or harbor’ an undocumented migrant ‘within or into the state,’ punishable by up to five years in prison and a \$5,000 fine. If the migrant is a minor, it would be a second-degree felony, with even harsher punishments. ‘Transported individuals will be detained by law enforcement as material witnesses,’ the proposal says [...] Also included in the new proposal is the repeal of a law from 2014 allowing undocumented students who had arrived in the state as children and attended a Florida high school for three years to pay in-state-tuition rates. ‘If we want to hold the line on tuition, then you have got to say ‘you need to be a US citizen living in Florida,’” DeSantis said at a press conference. ‘Why would we subsidize a non-US citizen when we want to make sure we can keep it affordable for our own people?’ Senator Rick Scott, who signed the bill at the time as the governor, recently said he would do it again today.” [Mother Jones, [2/28/23](#)]

**Eduardo Padrón, Former Board Chair Of The Association of American Colleges and Universities On DeSantis’s Decision To Repeal Tuition Waivers For Dreamers: “If You Put Roadblocks At A Time When There Is Great Need In Fields Like Engineering, Doctors, Nursing, It’s An Ill-Advised And Ill-Conceived Idea.”** NBC News reported, “MIAMI — A group of employers, students and community leaders expressed alarm Thursday over Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis’ proposal to reverse a law that allows undocumented immigrants to pay in-state college and university tuition. DeSantis, who is expected to launch a bid for president, has proposed reversing the 2014 measure as part of a package of legislation cracking down on illegal immigration. ‘It never occurred to me in 2014 that we would be convening again to deal with the issue of in-state tuition,’ Eduardo Padrón, former president of Miami Dade College, said Thursday at a news conference in Miami. The news conference was organized by the American Business Immigration Coalition, or ABIC, a bipartisan group that advocates for immigration reform. ‘This is an issue of fairness and common sense and it’s good for our economy. If you put roadblocks at a time when there is great need in fields like engineering, doctors, nursing, it’s an ill-advised and ill-conceived idea,’ said Padrón, a former board chair of the Association of American Colleges and Universities.” [NBC News, [3/2/23](#)]

**Mike Fernandez, Chairman Of MBF Healthcare Partners On DeSantis’s Decision To Repeal Tuition Waivers For Dreamers: “Florida Would Only Be Handicapping Itself By Taking Away In-State Tuition Rates For Undocumented Young People That The State Has Already Invested In For Their K-12 Years.”** NBC News reported, “MIAMI — A group of employers, students and community leaders expressed alarm Thursday over Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis’ proposal to reverse a law that allows undocumented immigrants to pay in-state college and university tuition. DeSantis, who is expected to launch a bid for president, has proposed reversing the 2014 measure as part of a package of legislation cracking down on illegal immigration. ‘It never occurred to me in 2014 that we would be convening again to deal with the issue of in-state tuition,’ Eduardo Padrón, former president of Miami Dade College, said Thursday at a news conference in Miami. The news conference was organized by the American Business Immigration Coalition, or ABIC, a bipartisan group that advocates for immigration reform. ‘This is an issue of fairness and common sense and it’s good for our economy. If you put roadblocks at a time when there is great need in fields like engineering, doctors, nursing, it’s an ill-advised and ill-conceived idea,’ said Padrón, a former board chair of the Association of American Colleges and Universities. [...] In-state tuition and affordability for Dreamers has been backed by moderate Republicans and the business sector, as well as Democrats and immigrant groups who argue that expanding educational opportunities is better for the overall economy. ‘Florida would only be handicapping itself by taking away in-state tuition rates for undocumented young people that the state has already invested in for their K-12 years,’ Mike Fernandez, chairman of MBF Healthcare Partners and co-chair of ABIC, said in a news release.” [NBC News, [3/2/23](#)]

## ***May 2023: DeSantis Signed SB 1718 Into Law, Imposing Penalties And Restrictions On Undocumented Immigrants***

**May 2023: DeSantis Signed SB 1718, A Sweeping Immigration Bill, Into Law.** The Pensacola News Journal Online reported, “Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis signed Florida’s sweeping immigration bill, SB 1718, into law on Wednesday. Immigration bill SB 1718 has made headlines as it aims to obstruct the flow of illegal immigration and imposes some of the toughest penalties and restrictions in the country by strengthening employment requirements, requiring hospitals that accept Medicaid to ask patients about their citizenship and appropriating \$12 million from the General Revenue Fund for the governor’s ‘unauthorized alien transport program.’” [Pensacola News Journal Online, 5/10/23]

**Pensacola News Journal: “The New Legislation Includes Nearly Every Requirement, Penalty Or Limit On Undocumented Immigrants That DeSantis Has Pushed For Except For An In-State Tuition Ban For Children Of Immigrants.”** The Pensacola News Journal reported, “Florida Governor Ron DeSantis is poised to sign tough penalties and restrictions that aims to obstruct the flow of illegal immigration to the state after the House approved the measure, (CS/SB 1718), in a mostly party line, 83-36 vote on Tuesday. [...] What is the new immigration bill? The new legislation includes nearly every requirement, penalty or limit on undocumented immigrants that DeSantis has pushed for except for an in-state tuition ban for children of immigrants.” [Pensacola News Journal, [5/2/23](#)]

**SB 1718 Increased Criminal Penalties For Human Smuggling By Imposing Third-Degree Felony Charges On Anyone Who “Knowingly” And “Willingly” Transported Undocumented Immigrants Across State Lines Into Florida.** The Tallahassee Democrat reported, “The bill (CS/SB 1718) signed by DeSantis strengthens employment requirements and allows state law enforcement officials to conduct random audits of businesses suspected of hiring undocumented workers. [...] Under the new law, which takes effect July 1, criminal penalties are increased for human smuggling, with third-degree felony charges imposed on anyone caught ‘knowingly’ and ‘willingly’ transporting anyone illegally in the country across state lines into Florida. Transporting a minor or more than five undocumented people into the state carries a second-degree felony penalty. Illegal migrants also could face felony charges by displaying a false ID to obtain employment. In addition, all businesses with 25 or more employees would be required to use the federal E-Verify system to check the immigration status of new workers. Under the legislation, local governments also would be banned from contributing money to organizations that create identification cards for undocumented immigrants and driver’s licenses issued to non-citizens in other states would be barred from use in Florida, a provision critics say may cause confusion and law enforcement profiling, especially in a diverse, visitor-filled state. Hospitals receiving state and federal Medicaid reimbursements would be required to track how much money is spent on undocumented immigrants in emergency rooms.” [Tallahassee Democrat, [5/10/23](#)]

- **Transporting A Minor Or More Than Five Undocumented People Carried A Second-Degree Felony Penalty.** The Tallahassee Democrat reported, “The bill (CS/SB 1718) signed by DeSantis strengthens employment requirements and allows state law enforcement officials to conduct random audits of businesses suspected of hiring undocumented workers. [...] Under the new law, which takes effect July 1, criminal penalties are increased for human smuggling, with third-degree felony charges imposed on anyone caught ‘knowingly’ and ‘willingly’ transporting anyone illegally in the country across state lines into Florida. Transporting a minor or more than five undocumented people into the state carries a second-degree felony penalty. Illegal migrants also could face felony charges by displaying a false ID to obtain employment. In addition, all businesses with 25 or more employees would be required to use the federal E-Verify system to check the immigration status of new workers. Under the legislation, local governments also would be banned from contributing money to organizations that create identification cards for undocumented immigrants and driver’s licenses issued to non-citizens in other states would be barred from use in Florida, a provision critics say may cause confusion and law enforcement profiling, especially in a diverse, visitor-filled state. Hospitals receiving state and federal Medicaid reimbursements would be required to track how much money is spent on undocumented immigrants in emergency rooms.” [Tallahassee Democrat, [5/10/23](#)]

- **The Bill Made It A Felony For Undocumented Immigrants To Display A False ID To Obtain Employment.** The Tallahassee Democrat reported, “The bill (CS/SB 1718) signed by DeSantis strengthens employment requirements and allows state law enforcement officials to conduct random audits of businesses suspected of hiring undocumented workers. [...] Under the new law, which takes effect July 1, criminal penalties are increased for human smuggling, with third-degree felony charges imposed on anyone caught ‘knowingly’ and ‘willingly’ transporting anyone illegally in the country across state lines into Florida. Transporting a minor or more than five undocumented people into the state carries a second-degree felony penalty. Illegal migrants also could face felony charges by displaying a false ID to obtain employment. In addition, all businesses with 25 or more employees would be required to use the federal E-Verify system to check the immigration status of new workers. Under the legislation, local governments also would be banned from contributing money to organizations that create identification cards for undocumented immigrants and driver’s licenses issued to non-citizens in other states would be barred from use in Florida, a provision critics say may cause confusion and law enforcement profiling, especially in a diverse, visitor-filled state. Hospitals receiving state and federal Medicaid reimbursements would be required to track how much money is spent on undocumented immigrants in emergency rooms.” [Tallahassee Democrat, [5/10/23](#)]
- **The Bill Required All Businesses With 25 Or More Employees To Use The Federal E-Verify System To Check The Immigration Status Of New Workers.** The Tallahassee Democrat reported, “The bill (CS/SB 1718) signed by DeSantis strengthens employment requirements and allows state law enforcement officials to conduct random audits of businesses suspected of hiring undocumented workers. [...] Under the new law, which takes effect July 1, criminal penalties are increased for human smuggling, with third-degree felony charges imposed on anyone caught ‘knowingly’ and ‘willingly’ transporting anyone illegally in the country across state lines into Florida. Transporting a minor or more than five undocumented people into the state carries a second-degree felony penalty. Illegal migrants also could face felony charges by displaying a false ID to obtain employment. In addition, all businesses with 25 or more employees would be required to use the federal E-Verify system to check the immigration status of new workers. Under the legislation, local governments also would be banned from contributing money to organizations that create identification cards for undocumented immigrants and driver’s licenses issued to non-citizens in other states would be barred from use in Florida, a provision critics say may cause confusion and law enforcement profiling, especially in a diverse, visitor-filled state. Hospitals receiving state and federal Medicaid reimbursements would be required to track how much money is spent on undocumented immigrants in emergency rooms.” [Tallahassee Democrat, [5/10/23](#)]
- **The Bill Barred Driver’s Licenses Issued To Non-Citizens In Other States From Being Used In Florida.** The Tallahassee Democrat reported, “The bill (CS/SB 1718) signed by DeSantis strengthens employment requirements and allows state law enforcement officials to conduct random audits of businesses suspected of hiring undocumented workers. [...] Under the new law, which takes effect July 1, criminal penalties are increased for human smuggling, with third-degree felony charges imposed on anyone caught ‘knowingly’ and ‘willingly’ transporting anyone illegally in the country across state lines into Florida. Transporting a minor or more than five undocumented people into the state carries a second-degree felony penalty. Illegal migrants also could face felony charges by displaying a false ID to obtain employment. In addition, all businesses with 25 or more employees would be required to use the federal E-Verify system to check the immigration status of new workers. Under the legislation, local governments also would be banned from contributing money to organizations that create identification cards for undocumented immigrants and driver’s licenses issued to non-citizens in other states would be barred from use in Florida, a provision critics say may cause confusion and law enforcement profiling, especially in a diverse, visitor-filled state. Hospitals receiving state and federal Medicaid reimbursements would be required to track how much money is spent on undocumented immigrants in emergency rooms.” [Tallahassee Democrat, [5/10/23](#)]
- **The Bill Required Hospitals Receiving State And Federal Medicaid Reimbursements To Ask Patients If They Were In The Country Legally And Track How Much Money Was Spent On Undocumented Immigrants In Emergency Rooms.** The Tallahassee Democrat reported, “The bill (CS/SB 1718) signed by DeSantis strengthens employment requirements and allows state law enforcement officials to conduct random audits of businesses suspected of hiring undocumented workers. [...] Under the new law, which takes effect July 1, criminal penalties are increased for human smuggling, with third-degree felony charges imposed on

anyone caught ‘knowingly’ and ‘willingly’ transporting anyone illegally in the country across state lines into Florida. [...] Hospitals receiving state and federal Medicaid reimbursements would be required to track how much money is spent on undocumented immigrants in emergency rooms. Hospitals also would be required to ask patients about whether they are in the country legally, a standard opponents say will discourage many people from seeking health care – even those who have been living for years in Florida cities.” [Tallahassee Democrat, [5/10/23](#)]

- **The Bill Repealed A 2014 Law Allowing Undocumented Immigrants To Practice Law In Florida.** The Tallahassee Democrat reported, “The bill (CS/SB 1718) signed by DeSantis strengthens employment requirements and allows state law enforcement officials to conduct random audits of businesses suspected of hiring undocumented workers. [...] Under the new law, which takes effect July 1, criminal penalties are increased for human smuggling, with third-degree felony charges imposed on anyone caught ‘knowingly’ and ‘willingly’ transporting anyone illegally in the country across state lines into Florida. [...] Hospitals receiving state and federal Medicaid reimbursements would be required to track how much money is spent on undocumented immigrants in emergency rooms. Hospitals also would be required to ask patients about whether they are in the country legally, a standard opponents say will discourage many people from seeking health care – even those who have been living for years in Florida cities. A 2014 law allowing undocumented immigrants to be admitted to practice law in Florida also would be repealed.” [Tallahassee Democrat, [5/10/23](#)]

## Appendix

### Nexis News

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***Researcher’s Note:** We conducted the following Nexis search in all Florida news and major U.S. news, filtered by immigration-related index topics: [(Ron w/2 DeSantis) AND DeSantis w/20 atleast3(immigrat! OR refug! OR illegal! OR border! OR dreamer! OR alien! OR migrant OR immigrant OR undocumented OR DACA OR “Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals”) AND atleast4(DeSantis)]*

### Amnesty

**April 2018: A DeSantis Spokesperson Said That DeSantis “Does Not And Has Not Supported A Pathway To Citizenship.”** The Miami Herald reported, “In 2013, the Florida House led by Weatherford voted to grant drivers’ licenses to Dreamers. Corcoran, then a regular House member who was set to become speaker himself in 2016, voted for the bill. While most other House Republicans did too, those votes haven’t aged well for GOP primary voters in today’s political climate. [...] ‘Ron DeSantis would’ve voted against’ that legislation, said Brad Herold, spokesman for that campaign. [...] ‘Ron DeSantis does not and has not supported a pathway to citizenship,’ Herold said when asked about this vote. ‘Amnesty’ is a hard-to-define political buzzword but it typically refers to pathways to citizenship.” [Miami Herald, 4/6/18]

**August 2018: DeSantis Supported Ending “Chain Migration” And Objected To Legislation Creating A Path To Citizenship For Undocumented Immigrants.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “DeSantis has called for the end of chain migration, and has sided with Trump’s efforts to crack down on immigration through deportations and more border security. He has criticized legislation allowing a path to citizenship for those undocumented aliens already here.” [Tampa Bay Times, 8/21/18]

### Birthright Citizenship

**October 2018: DeSantis Supported Ending Birthright Citizenship.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “DeSantis said he supports the idea of ending birthright citizenship, but has some questions about the legal feasibility of doing so. ‘As a matter of policy I don’t think the Constitution intended that people could come illegally in order to get citizenship,’ DeSantis said. ‘That being said, there’s been a long list of out decisions that I think you’d have to reckon with.’” [Tampa Bay Times, 10/31/18]

- **DeSantis: “As A Matter Of Policy I Don’t Think The Constitution Intended That People Could Come Illegally In Order To Get Citizenship. That Being Said, There’s Been A Long List Of Out Decisions That I Think You’d Have To Reckon With.”** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “DeSantis said he supports the idea of ending birthright citizenship, but has some questions about the legal feasibility of doing so. ‘As a matter of policy I don’t think the Constitution intended that people could come illegally in order to get citizenship,’ DeSantis said. ‘That being said, there’s been a long list of out decisions that I think you’d have to reckon with.’” [Tampa Bay Times, 10/31/18]

## ***Border Wall***

**August 2018: DeSantis Stated, “In Congress We Should Be Funding This Wall,” And Suggested That President Trump Was Right To Threaten To Shut Down The Federal Government If Congress Did Not Provide That Funding.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “But President Trump may not share that sentiment. He posted a series of tweets in the final days of July threatening to shutdown the federal government if the spending bills passed by Congress do not adequately fund his border wall, adding that he doesn’t care ‘what the political ramifications are.’ Some have dismissed the tweets as bluster, but after a campaign stop in Miami on Monday, DeSantis backed the president, saying it was a tactic to get Congress to cooperate. ‘In the Congress we should be funding this wall. Part of it is about illegal immigration but honestly for me a big part of it is the drugs coming in,’ he said in a gaggle with reporters. ‘You have fentanyl and all this stuff coming in. This is very deadly stuff.’ ‘What he (Trump) should do ... I urged him to veto the omnibus last time,’ DeSantis added. ‘Congress keeps doing the same stuff over and over again and I think if he says, ‘I’m willing to veto something,’ that actually would light a fire under someone’s rear end.’” [Tampa Bay Times, 8/7/18]

**April 2019: DeSantis Aired A Campaign Ad In Which His Young Daughter Built A “Border Wall” Out Of Toy Blocks.** The Miami Herald reported, “DeSantis—a vocal supporter of President Donald Trump who aired a campaign ad in which he helped his young daughter build a tiny border wall—has also used the examples of people killed by undocumented immigrants to make his point. ‘We do not want to be in a situation where we have more angel parents,’ DeSantis said during a March press conference. ‘I hope that the Legislature moves quickly this session to pass legislation.’” [Miami Herald, 4/26/19]

**July 2021: At The Conservative Student Action Summit, DeSantis Called On Biden To Stop “Releasing Criminal Aliens... And Yes... Finish The Border Wall.”** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “The event, called the Student Action Summit, featured prominent national figures like Donald Trump Jr. and former White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany. It was organized by Turning Point USA, an organization aimed at building an organized and active conservative presence on high school and college campuses. DeSantis greeted the crowd by welcoming everyone to the ‘free state of Florida. [...] He also mentioned his Saturday trip to the U.S.-Mexico border, where he met with Texas Gov. Greg Abbott. DeSantis had sent 50 state law enforcement officers to Texas to help with border security. ‘Governor Abbott has got a very difficult situation, you have a president, Joe Biden, who’s come in and basically embraced open borders,’ DeSantis said. ‘He reversed the policies that succeeded under Donald Trump.’ During his 30-minute speech, DeSantis said that when he spoke with those who had been detained at the border, their final destination was commonly Florida. He believes Biden needs to stop ‘releasing criminal aliens... and yes... finish the border wall.’” [Tampa Bay Times, 7/18/21]

## ***Clashes With The Biden Administration***

**September 2021: DeSantis Announced Florida Was Suing The Biden Administration Over Its Immigration Policies, Stating, “We’ve Got To Take Every Effort We Can To Make Sure That We’re Protecting The People Of Florida, And That’s What We’re Doing Here Today.”** The Miami Herald reported, “‘We’ve got to take every effort we can to make sure that we’re protecting the people of Florida, and that’s what we’re doing here today,’ DeSantis said at a press conference in Fort Myers, where he also announced the state is suing President Joe Biden’s administration over its immigration practices.” [Miami Herald, 9/28/21]

**September 2021: DeSantis Announced He Was Filing A Lawsuit Against The Biden Administration, Alleging That The Administration’s “Catch And Release” Practice And Other Immigration Policies Caused Florida**



**Harm.** The Miami Herald reported, “The lawsuit is primarily focused on the so-called ‘catch and release’ practice that former President Donald Trump and many Republicans, including DeSantis, have blamed for crimes and violence committed by undocumented immigrants. In a 23-page lawsuit filed in federal court in Pensacola, Moody alleges many of the migrants the Biden administration has ‘illegally released’ will come to Florida and cost the state money. ‘The Biden administration’s illegal border policies cause Florida harm,’ according to the complaint. ‘Many of the aliens illegally released by the Biden administration are arriving, or will arrive in Florida, harming the state’s quasi-sovereign interests and forcing it to incur millions of dollars in expenses.’ Moody also alleges that some undocumented immigrants coming to Florida could be gang members, drug traffickers and other criminals. When announcing the lawsuit, DeSantis said the crimes committed by undocumented immigrants are worse than those committed by U.S. citizens ‘in terms of the anguish that the families face’ because they could have been prevented by the federal government. ‘Had the government just done its job, this would not have happened. They would not have been in their situation,’ DeSantis said. ‘So, it’s really, really a sad thing.’” [Miami Herald, 9/28/21]

- **DeSantis Stated That Crimes Committed By Undocumented Immigrants Were Worse Than Crimes Committed By U.S. Citizens “In Terms Of The Anguish That The Families Face.”** The Miami Herald reported, “The lawsuit is primarily focused on the so-called ‘catch and release’ practice that former President Donald Trump and many Republicans, including DeSantis, have blamed for crimes and violence committed by undocumented immigrants. In a 23-page lawsuit filed in federal court in Pensacola, Moody alleges many of the migrants the Biden administration has ‘illegally released’ will come to Florida and cost the state money. ‘The Biden administration’s illegal border policies cause Florida harm,’ according to the complaint. ‘Many of the aliens illegally released by the Biden administration are arriving, or will arrive in Florida, harming the state’s quasi-sovereign interests and forcing it to incur millions of dollars in expenses.’ Moody also alleges that some undocumented immigrants coming to Florida could be gang members, drug traffickers and other criminals. When announcing the lawsuit, DeSantis said the crimes committed by undocumented immigrants are worse than those committed by U.S. citizens ‘in terms of the anguish that the families face’ because they could have been prevented by the federal government. ‘Had the government just done its job, this would not have happened. They would not have been in their situation,’ DeSantis said. ‘So, it’s really, really a sad thing.’” [Miami Herald, 9/28/21]

**October 2021: DeSantis’s Lawsuit Against The Biden Administration Demanded That The Administration Keep Asylum Seekers At The U.S. Border Instead Of Releasing Them Pending A Hearing.** The Miami Herald reported, “Texas’ border is DeSantis’ priority: Among the governor’s priorities aimed at a national audience is fighting the border war in Texas. Last week, DeSantis sued the federal government over immigration, demanding the Biden administration retain people who claim asylum at U.S. borders instead of releasing them as they await a hearing. He also signed an executive order that ‘encouraged’ Florida law enforcement officers to pull over drivers who are transporting migrants into the state if there is ‘reasonable’ suspicion of a crime. Within minutes of the news conference, the governor’s political committee sent out a fundraising email.” [Miami Herald, 10/4/21]

**January 2023: A Federal Judge Began Hearing Arguments In A Legal Battle Between The State Of Florida And The Biden Administration, Stemming From A Lawsuit That Florida’s Attorney General Ashley Moody Filed In 2021.** The Miami Herald reported, “A federal judge on Monday began hearing arguments in a legal battle between Florida and the Biden administration over immigration, a long-running political fight that in recent days has taken center stage in the Florida Keys where hundreds of migrants have arrived by boat. The trial, which is expected to go through Thursday, stems from a lawsuit Attorney General Ashley Moody filed against the Biden administration in 2021. The issue is hitting close to home simultaneously as Gov. Ron DeSantis says the migrant arrivals in the Keys are ‘likely to constitute a major disaster.’ In Pensacola this week, attorneys in Moody’s office will try to convince U.S. District Judge T.K. Wetherell that the U.S. government is violating federal law through policies that release undocumented immigrants who cross the southern border into the community, many of them hoping to reach Florida.” [Miami Herald, 1/9/23]

- **Attorney General Ashley Moody’s Office Planned To Convince U.S. District Judge T.K. Wetherell That The U.S. Government Violated Federal Law Through Policies That Released Undocumented Immigrants Crossing The Southern Border With Hopes Of Reaching Florida.** The Miami Herald reported, “A federal judge on Monday began hearing arguments in a legal battle between Florida and the Biden administration over

immigration, a long-running political fight that in recent days has taken center stage in the Florida Keys where hundreds of migrants have arrived by boat. The trial, which is expected to go through Thursday, stems from a lawsuit Attorney General Ashley Moody filed against the Biden administration in 2021. The issue is hitting close to home simultaneously as Gov. Ron DeSantis says the migrant arrivals in the Keys are ‘likely to constitute a major disaster.’ In Pensacola this week, attorneys in Moody’s office will try to convince U.S. District Judge T.K. Wetherell that the U.S. government is violating federal law through policies that release undocumented immigrants who cross the southern border into the community, many of them hoping to reach Florida.” [Miami Herald, 1/9/23]

- **U.S. Department Of Justice Attorney Erin T. Ryan Argued During Opening Statements That The Case Was “Simply A Disagreement On Policy” And Its Resolution Should Be At The “Voting Booth, Not The Courtroom.”** The Miami Herald reported, “In Pensacola this week, attorneys in Moody’s office will try to convince U.S. District Judge T.K. Wetherell that the U.S. government is violating federal law through policies that release undocumented immigrants who cross the southern border into the community, many of them hoping to reach Florida. U.S. Department of Justice attorneys, meanwhile, will argue the Biden administration—just like every other administration in the past—has discretion over whom to detain and release after they illegally enter the country. The case is ‘simply a disagreement on policy,’ DOJ attorney Erin T. Ryan argued during opening statements on Monday. Its resolution should be at the ‘voting booth, not the courtroom,’ she added. But the state contends the federal government’s policies are harming Florida and intends to prove it by showing how the flow of undocumented immigrants into the state is raising the cost of services such as education, healthcare and unemployment services. ‘Defendants caused the border crisis, and they know it,’ Florida Deputy Attorney General of Legal Policy James H. Percival said.” [Miami Herald, 1/9/23]
- **The State Alleged That Biden’s Policies Were Harming Florida As The Flow Of Undocumented Immigrants Raised The Cost Of Services Like Education And Healthcare, While The Florida Deputy Attorney General Accused The Biden Administration Of Causing The “Border Crisis.”** The Miami Herald reported, “In Pensacola this week, attorneys in Moody’s office will try to convince U.S. District Judge T.K. Wetherell that the U.S. government is violating federal law through policies that release undocumented immigrants who cross the southern border into the community, many of them hoping to reach Florida. U.S. Department of Justice attorneys, meanwhile, will argue the Biden administration—just like every other administration in the past—has discretion over whom to detain and release after they illegally enter the country. The case is ‘simply a disagreement on policy,’ DOJ attorney Erin T. Ryan argued during opening statements on Monday. Its resolution should be at the ‘voting booth, not the courtroom,’ she added. But the state contends the federal government’s policies are harming Florida and intends to prove it by showing how the flow of undocumented immigrants into the state is raising the cost of services such as education, healthcare and unemployment services. ‘Defendants caused the border crisis, and they know it,’ Florida Deputy Attorney General of Legal Policy James H. Percival said.” [Miami Herald, 1/9/23]

**March 2023: In His First State Of The State Speech Of His Second Term, DeSantis Said That His Administration Was “Suing The Biden Administration Over Its Catch And Release Policies” And Stated That Florida Had Transported “Illegal Aliens To Sanctuary Jurisdictions.”** The Miami Herald reported, “Proclaiming ‘you ain’t seen nothing yet,’ Gov. Ron DeSantis used the first state of the state speech of his second term Tuesday to aim at a national political audience and give a nod to a cooperative Republican-led Legislature that vowed to work together to pass his agenda. [...] DeSantis made no mention of President Joe Biden, except to note the administration ‘is suing the Biden administration over its catch and release policies,’ a reference to the federal practice of releasing migrants into the community as they await an immigration hearing. He noted that Florida has transported ‘illegal aliens to sanctuary jurisdictions’ but did not refer to the bill filed Tuesday that would prohibit local municipalities from providing funds to entities that issue identification to undocumented immigrants and require hospitals that accept Medicaid to ask patients whether they are ‘lawfully present in the United States. [...] He echoed many of the themes of his previous state speeches, such as declaring Florida would not be a sanctuary state for illegal immigrants, even though during his term there have never been any local governments in the state operating as sanctuary cities.” [Miami Herald, 3/7/23]

- **In His State Of The State Speech, DeSantis Said That Florida Would Not Be A Sanctuary State For Illegal Immigrants Even Though No Local Governments In The State Operated As Sanctuary Cities During His Term.** The Miami Herald reported, “Proclaiming ‘you ain’t seen nothing yet,’ Gov. Ron DeSantis used the first state of the state speech of his second term Tuesday to aim at a national political audience and give a nod to a cooperative Republican-led Legislature that vowed to work together to pass his agenda. [...] DeSantis made no mention of President Joe Biden, except to note the administration ‘is suing the Biden administration over its catch and release policies,’ a reference to the federal practice of releasing migrants into the community as they await an immigration hearing. He noted that Florida has transported ‘illegal aliens to sanctuary jurisdictions’ but did not refer to the bill filed Tuesday that would prohibit local municipalities from providing funds to entities that issue identification to undocumented immigrants and require hospitals that accept Medicaid to ask patients whether they are ‘lawfully present in the United States. [...] He echoed many of the themes of his previous state speeches, such as declaring Florida would not be a sanctuary state for illegal immigrants, even though during his term there have never been any local governments in the state operating as sanctuary cities.” [Miami Herald, 3/7/23]

**March 2023: A Federal Judge Sided With DeSantis And Ruled That The Biden Administration’s Handling Of Immigrants At The Southwest Border, Including Its Parole+ATD Process, Violated The Federal Immigration And Nationality Act.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “Siding largely with Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis and Attorney General Ashley Moody, a federal judge on Wednesday ruled that the Biden administration’s handling of immigrants at the Southwest border violates federal law. Moody’s office filed the lawsuit in 2021, alleging that the Biden administration violated immigration laws through ‘catch-and-release’ policies that led to people being released from detention after crossing the U.S. border with Mexico. The lawsuit centered, in part, on what state lawyers call the Biden administration’s ‘non-detention’ policy and a policy known as ‘Parole Plus Alternatives to Detention,’ or ‘Parole+ATD.’ [...] Wetherell, a former state appellate judge appointed to the federal bench by former President Donald Trump, found that Florida’s claims about the alleged ‘non-detention policy’ were ‘nonjusticiable’ but that the Parole+ATD process violated the federal Immigration and Nationality Act. The judge put his decision vacating the Parole+ATD policy on hold for seven days, giving the Biden administration time to appeal.” [Tampa Bay Times, 3/8/23]

## **COVID-19**

**June 2020: DeSantis Blamed “Overwhelmingly Hispanic” Agricultural Communities And Migrant Farmworkers For Florida’s Surge In COVID-19 Cases Despite Skepticism From Public Health Experts.** The Miami Herald reported, “Public health experts and aid groups are challenging Gov. Ron DeSantis’ assertion this week that migrant farmworkers are driving Florida’s record surge in COVID-19 cases—noting that state help with testing, face masks and educational outreach has been late to reach agricultural communities. After DeSantis said last week that ‘the No. 1 outbreak we’ve seen is in agricultural communities’ and followed up this week with statements that ‘overwhelmingly Hispanic’ farmworkers and day laborers were the leading source of new cases, Florida Agriculture Commissioner Nikki Fried fired back, noting that the majority of farmworkers left several weeks ago after harvests ended and that cases are spiking in non-agricultural areas. But many farmworkers live in Florida year round, and public health experts who work with those communities say the state has only recently begun to ramp up testing and public health education campaigns in agricultural communities, where cramped working and living conditions can fuel an outbreak of COVID-19.” [Miami Herald, 6/18/20]

**August 2021: According To An Column In The Miami Herald, America’s Voice, A Pro-Immigration Reform Group, Denounced DeSantis For Blaming Immigrants For COVID-19 Variants.** According to a column by Fabiola Santiago in the Miami Herald, “‘Hyping the dangerous nativist trope of immigrants as public health threats,’ America’s Voice, a pro-immigration reform group, called DeSantis’ scapegoating rhetoric. America’s Voice denounces DeSantis blaming border immigrants for COVID variant surge Instead of governing to stem infection by allowing local officials to issue mask and vaccine mandates when appropriate, the ambitious Trump clone is more interested in playing party politics with the president.” [Miami Herald, Column, 8/6/21]

**August 2021: Public Health Experts Indicated That DeSantis’s Level Of Concern About COVID-19 Variants Among Migrants Crossing The Border Was Not Supported By The Evidence.** The Tampa Bay Times reported,

“DeSantis unloaded on Biden during an Aug. 4 news conference in Panama City. ‘He’s imported more virus from around the world by having a wide-open southern border. You have hundreds of thousands of people pouring across every month,’ DeSantis said. ‘You have over 100 different countries where people are pouring through. Not only are they letting them through - they’re then farming them out all across our communities across this country. Putting them on planes, putting them on buses.’ [...] Public health experts said it’s reasonable to be concerned about coronavirus spreading among migrants, especially if they’re living in close quarters. ‘It would be fair to say that detention centers, like prisons, are likely to be ‘hotspots’ for transmission,’ said Babak Javid, a professor of medicine at the University of California-San Francisco. ‘We saw a lot of this last year,’ earlier in the pandemic. But they said there is no evidence it’s happening on the scale that DeSantis described. It may well be that immigrants coming illegally into the country are contributing to COVID-19 caseloads, ‘but given the extensive transmission already in the U.S., the immigration contribution is akin to pouring a bucket of water into a swimming pool,’ said William Schaffner, a professor of preventive medicine at Vanderbilt University. ‘It’s hard to measure and pretty trivial.’” [Tampa Bay Times, 8/8/21]

**August 2021: DeSantis Accused Biden Of “Helping Facilitate” COVID-19 By Not Securing The Border With Mexico, Stating, “Whatever Variants There Are Around The World, They’re Coming Across The Southern Border.”** The Miami Herald reported, “‘You have hundreds of thousands of people pouring across every month,’ DeSantis said. ‘Not only are they letting them through, they’re farming them out all across the country, putting them on planes, putting them on buses. Do you think they’re worrying about COVID for that? Of course not.’ He said the immigrants are crossing the border from all over the world, and ‘whatever variants there are around the world, they’re coming across that southern border.’ ‘He’s not shutting down the virus. He’s helping facilitate it,’ DeSantis said of Biden. ‘Why don’t you get this border secure?’ DeSantis added. ‘Until you do that, I don’t want to hear a blip about COVID from you.’” [Miami Herald, 8/4/21]

- **DeSantis Stated, “Not Only Are They Letting Them Through, They’re Farming Them Out All Across The Country, Putting Them On Planes, Putting Them On Buses. Do You Think They’re Worrying About COVID For That? Of Course Not.”** The Miami Herald reported, “‘You have hundreds of thousands of people pouring across every month,’ DeSantis said. ‘Not only are they letting them through, they’re farming them out all across the country, putting them on planes, putting them on buses. Do you think they’re worrying about COVID for that? Of course not.’ He said the immigrants are crossing the border from all over the world, and ‘whatever variants there are around the world, they’re coming across that southern border.’ ‘He’s not shutting down the virus. He’s helping facilitate it,’ DeSantis said of Biden. ‘Why don’t you get this border secure?’ DeSantis added. ‘Until you do that, I don’t want to hear a blip about COVID from you.’” [Miami Herald, 8/4/21]

**August 2021: Tampa Bay Times Rated As “False” DeSantis’s Assertion That Biden’s Border Policy Drove The COVID-19 Surge.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “DeSantis unloaded on Biden during an Aug. 4 news conference in Panama City. ‘He’s imported more virus from around the world by having a wide-open southern border. You have hundreds of thousands of people pouring across every month,’ DeSantis said. ‘You have over 100 different countries where people are pouring through. Not only are they letting them through - they’re then farming them out all across our communities across this country. Putting them on planes, putting them on buses.’ [...] Public health experts said it’s reasonable to be concerned about coronavirus spreading among migrants, especially if they’re living in close quarters. ‘It would be fair to say that detention centers, like prisons, are likely to be ‘hotspots’ for transmission,’ said Babak Javid, a professor of medicine at the University of California-San Francisco. ‘We saw a lot of this last year,’ earlier in the pandemic. But they said there is no evidence it’s happening on the scale that DeSantis described. It may well be that immigrants coming illegally into the country are contributing to COVID-19 caseloads, ‘but given the extensive transmission already in the U.S., the immigration contribution is akin to pouring a bucket of water into a swimming pool,’ said William Schaffner, a professor of preventive medicine at Vanderbilt University. ‘It’s hard to measure and pretty trivial.’ [...] We rate the statement False.” [Tampa Bay Times, 8/8/21]

**January 2021: Florida Instituted A Requirement That All Recipients Of The COVID-19 Vaccine Be Florida Residents, And DeSantis Stated That He Did Not Want People To “Come From Another Country Or Whatever” To Florida To Get Vaccinated.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “The advisory, signed by Florida

Surgeon General Scott Rivkees on Thursday, requires vaccine recipients to show a valid Florida driver's license or photo identification, a utility bill with a Florida address and the patient's name, or, a part-time rental agreement. Mail from a financial institution or a government agency that shows the individual's name and Florida address can also be provided as proof. Florida's new vaccine residency requirements come after reports of 'vaccine tourism,' people traveling to Florida from another country or state to get the vaccine. Gov. Ron DeSantis has previously said he approves of 'snowbirds' and full-time Florida residents getting the vaccine, but that he does not want people to 'come from another country or whatever,' flying to Florida to get inoculated." [Tampa Bay Times, 1/22/21]

- **Tampa Bay Times: "Gov. Ron DeSantis Has Previously Said He Approves Of 'Snowbirds' And Full-Time Florida Residents Getting The Vaccine, But That He Does Not Want People To 'Come From Another Country Or Whatever,' Flying To Florida To Get Inoculated."** Tampa Bay Times reported, "The advisory, signed by Florida Surgeon General Scott Rivkees on Thursday, requires vaccine recipients to show a valid Florida driver's license or photo identification, a utility bill with a Florida address and the patient's name, or, a part-time rental agreement. Mail from a financial institution or a government agency that shows the individual's name and Florida address can also be provided as proof. Florida's new vaccine residency requirements come after reports of 'vaccine tourism,' people traveling to Florida from another country or state to get the vaccine. Gov. Ron DeSantis has previously said he approves of 'snowbirds' and full-time Florida residents getting the vaccine, but that he does not want people to 'come from another country or whatever,' flying to Florida to get inoculated." [Tampa Bay Times, 1/22/21]
- **Frank O'Loughlin, A Parish Priest In Central Florida, Said Of The Vaccine Residency Requirement, "Ron DeSantis Has Determined Whose Families Deserve To Live And Whose Families Deserve To Die."** Tampa Bay Times reported, "Frank O'Loughlin, a parish priest who started working with migrant families in Indian Town in Central Florida in the 1960s, says the state, through its policies, is failing to provide vaccines to the families of the agricultural workforce. 'Ron DeSantis has determined whose families deserve to live and whose families deserve to die,' he said." [Tampa Bay Times, 1/22/21]

**April 2021: A Group Of Florida Legislators Called On DeSantis To Loosen State Residency Requirements For The COVID-19 Vaccine, Arguing That It Created A Public Health Risk By Preventing Undocumented Migrant Agricultural Workers, Who Were Already At Elevated Risk, From Receiving The Vaccine.** The Miami Herald reported, "A handful of Florida Democrats are calling on Gov. Ron DeSantis to loosen state residency requirements that have made it difficult for many undocumented immigrants to access the vaccine. The members of Congress—Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Ted Deutch, Darren Soto and Lois Frankel—sent letters to the governor's office Wednesday, citing a Miami Herald article that chronicled how undocumented migrants are being turned away at vaccination sites. 'We write with serious concerns about the lack of access to COVID-19 vaccinations for several key vulnerable populations in Florida, especially undocumented immigrants and migrant and seasonal farmworkers,' the lawmakers wrote. 'These particular populations are among the most vulnerable and hardest-hit, and they are part of our communities.' They urged DeSantis to work with the Florida Department of Health and other agencies to 'remedy this growing disparity by setting up new targeted sites, going into these communities with vaccines, and creating flexibility in Florida's residency requirements.'" [Miami Herald, 4/14/21]

## **Crime**

**September 2018: DeSantis Stated That It Was Imperative For A Governor To Work With Immigration Enforcement And Ensure The Deportation Of Any Undocumented Immigrant Convicted Of Child Molestation.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, "DeSantis said that if Gillum refused to work with immigration authorities - something the mayor never said - a convicted child molester could be released onto Florida's streets after completing his sentence rather than being sent back to his home country. 'If somebody has no right to be here and they do that and harm our community, why in the world would you want to put them back on the streets so that our children are at risk again? It is reckless. It is irresponsible, and it is dead wrong,' DeSantis declared to applauding supporters at a local GOP office. 'We're not going to let those types of policies carry the day here in Florida.'" [Tampa Bay Times, 9/16/18]

- **DeSantis: "If Somebody Has No Right To Be Here And They [Are Convicted Of Child Molestation] And**

**Harm Our Community, Why In The World Would You Want To Put Them Back On The Streets So That Our Children Are At Risk Again?”** Tampa Bay Times reported, “DeSantis said that if Gillum refused to work with immigration authorities - something the mayor never said - a convicted child molester could be released onto Florida’s streets after completing his sentence rather than being sent back to his home country. ‘If somebody has no right to be here and they do that and harm our community, why in the world would you want to put them back on the streets so that our children are at risk again? It is reckless. It is irresponsible, and it is dead wrong,’ DeSantis declared to applauding supporters at a local GOP office. ‘We’re not going to let those types of policies carry the day here in Florida.’” [Tampa Bay Times, 9/16/18]

- **DeSantis Suggested, Baselessly, That His Gubernatorial Opponent Would Refuse To Cooperate With ICE And Would Therefore Allow Convicted Child Molesters To Remain In The U.S. After Their Release From State Prison.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “DeSantis said that if Gillum refused to work with immigration authorities - something the mayor never said - a convicted child molester could be released onto Florida’s streets after completing his sentence rather than being sent back to his home country. ‘If somebody has no right to be here and they do that and harm our community, why in the world would you want to put them back on the streets so that our children are at risk again? It is reckless. It is irresponsible, and it is dead wrong,’ DeSantis declared to applauding supporters at a local GOP office. ‘We’re not going to let those types of policies carry the day here in Florida.’” [Tampa Bay Times, 9/16/18]

**November 2021: DeSantis Blamed The Biden Administration’s Immigration Policies For A Murder Allegedly Committed By An Undocumented Immigrant In Florida, Stating, “That Individual Who Died Would Be Alive Had Biden Not Been Doing This. So This Is Really Serious Stuff.”** The New York Post reported, “Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis says the Biden administration’s encouragement of ‘lawlessness’ was to blame for a murder allegedly committed by an illegal immigrant - that was first exposed by The Post. In an appearance on Fox News’ ‘Hannity’ Wednesday, DeSantis highlighted the shocking case of Yery Noel Medina Ulloa, who authorities say pretended to be 17 to get into the US and is charged with murdering the Jacksonville man who took him in. ‘Unfortunately there was a tragic situation - one of the illegals that Biden flew in committed a murder in Florida recently,’ DeSantis told host Sean Hannity. ‘That individual who died would be alive had Biden not been doing this,’ the governor said of 46-year-old victim Francisco Javier Cuellar. ‘So this is really serious stuff.’ DeSantis suggested that Ulloa came to the Sunshine State on one of dozens of secretive nighttime flights carrying immigrant minors. The Post previously reported on similar flights carrying underage migrants to Westchester County. ‘They don’t tell us when these flights are coming in - these are flights at 2 in the morning,’ DeSantis complained before adding that he was ‘looking at ways to be able to protect the state.’” [New York Post, 11/12/21]

- **New York Post: DeSantis Suggested That The Suspect Entered Florida On “One Of Dozens Of Secretive Nighttime Flights Carrying Immigrant Minors,” Stating, “They Don’t Tell Us When These Flights Are Coming In - These Are Flights At 2 In The Morning,” And Indicating That He Was “Looking At Ways To Be Able To Protect The State.”** The New York Post reported, “Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis says the Biden administration’s encouragement of ‘lawlessness’ was to blame for a murder allegedly committed by an illegal immigrant - that was first exposed by The Post. In an appearance on Fox News’ ‘Hannity’ Wednesday, DeSantis highlighted the shocking case of Yery Noel Medina Ulloa, who authorities say pretended to be 17 to get into the US and is charged with murdering the Jacksonville man who took him in. ‘Unfortunately there was a tragic situation - one of the illegals that Biden flew in committed a murder in Florida recently,’ DeSantis told host Sean Hannity. ‘That individual who died would be alive had Biden not been doing this,’ the governor said of 46-year-old victim Francisco Javier Cuellar. ‘So this is really serious stuff.’ DeSantis suggested that Ulloa came to the Sunshine State on one of dozens of secretive nighttime flights carrying immigrant minors. The Post previously reported on similar flights carrying underage migrants to Westchester County. ‘They don’t tell us when these flights are coming in - these are flights at 2 in the morning,’ DeSantis complained before adding that he was ‘looking at ways to be able to protect the state.’” [New York Post, 11/12/21]

**DeSantis Announced That The State Assembled A Police Force With State And Local Law Enforcement Officers With The Goal Of Targeting Drug Smugglers And Migrants Who Were Carrying Guns Illegally.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “Gov. Ron DeSantis on Friday asked the Florida Supreme Court to impanel a

statewide grand jury to investigate whether families, local governments and international criminal organizations are conspiring to illegally bring migrants to Florida. ‘The purpose of the grand jury will be to investigate individuals and organizations that are actively working with foreign nationals, drug cartels and coyotes to illegally smuggle minors, some as young as 2 years old, across the border and into Florida,’ DeSantis said at a news conference in Pensacola. It’s a rare use of a statewide grand jury, which has only been impaneled 20 times in more than 40 years. [...] At the news conference on Friday, DeSantis also said the state has quietly assembled a police force with state and local law enforcement officers with the goal of targeting drug smugglers and migrants who are carrying guns illegally. The governor then signed into law a measure that aims to disrupt the federal resettlement of migrants, including unaccompanied minors, in Florida. The move to assemble a grand jury, however, could have statewide implications. DeSantis said he wants the grand jury - which could issue subpoenas and indictments - to have jurisdiction over the entire state. He wants the presiding judge to be in the 10<sup>th</sup> Circuit, which includes Hardee, Highlands and Polk counties, because of its ‘central’ location” [Tampa Bay Times, 6/17/22]

**July 2022: DeSantis Highlighted That A State-Led Law Enforcement Operation In Four Northwest Florida Counties In June 2022 Was “Able To Recover These Illegal Aliens And Enough Fentanyl To Kill Off 2,000 People In The State Of Florida.”** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “Inside a packed room at the Escambia County Sheriff’s Office in June, Gov. Ron DeSantis talked about the many ways his administration is trying to ‘keep illegals out of the state of Florida’ in response to President Joe Biden’s immigration policies. He highlighted a state-led law enforcement operation, which took place June 7-9 in four counties in Northwest Florida. When talking about outcomes, the governor’s message was unmistakable: The state was doing its part to combat illegal immigration because it had arrested several ‘illegal aliens.’ ‘They were able to recover these illegal aliens and enough fentanyl to kill off 2,000 people in the state of Florida,’ DeSantis said at the news conference in Pensacola. What DeSantis did not mention is that the vast majority of the 22 arrests were not related to immigration but rather tied to men and women who live in the country legally. DeSantis also implied that undocumented migrants had been arrested on drug-related crimes, when none were, according to arrests records provided by the Florida Highway Patrol and two of the four sheriff’s offices that participated in the state’s effort. A review of the records shows seven undocumented migrants were arrested after being pulled over by police for traffic violations - including driving too slow, having excessively tinted windows and having counterfeit registration tags on their vehicles. They were arrested on suspicion of human smuggling when authorities found out they were in the country illegally and were traveling across state lines. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials have not responded to a request for information about those seven arrests and the immigration status of those people.” [Tampa Bay Times, 7/27/22]

- **According To The Florida Highway Patrol And Two Of The Four Sheriff’s Offices That Participated In The Enforcement Operation, The Vast Majority Of The 22 Arrests Were Not Related To Immigration But Rather Tied To Men And Women Who Lived In The Country Legally.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “Inside a packed room at the Escambia County Sheriff’s Office in June, Gov. Ron DeSantis talked about the many ways his administration is trying to ‘keep illegals out of the state of Florida’ in response to President Joe Biden’s immigration policies. He highlighted a state-led law enforcement operation, which took place June 7-9 in four counties in Northwest Florida. When talking about outcomes, the governor’s message was unmistakable: The state was doing its part to combat illegal immigration because it had arrested several ‘illegal aliens.’ ‘They were able to recover these illegal aliens and enough fentanyl to kill off 2,000 people in the state of Florida,’ DeSantis said at the news conference in Pensacola. What DeSantis did not mention is that the vast majority of the 22 arrests were not related to immigration but rather tied to men and women who live in the country legally. DeSantis also implied that undocumented migrants had been arrested on drug-related crimes, when none were, according to arrests records provided by the Florida Highway Patrol and two of the four sheriff’s offices that participated in the state’s effort. A review of the records shows seven undocumented migrants were arrested after being pulled over by police for traffic violations - including driving too slow, having excessively tinted windows and having counterfeit registration tags on their vehicles. They were arrested on suspicion of human smuggling when authorities found out they were in the country illegally and were traveling across state lines. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials have not responded to a request for information about those seven arrests and the immigration status of those people.” [Tampa Bay Times, 7/27/22]

- **DeSantis Implied That Undocumented Migrants Had Been Arrested On Drug-Related Crimes, But None Were; Seven Undocumented Migrants Were Arrested After Committing Traffic Violations.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “Inside a packed room at the Escambia County Sheriff’s Office in June, Gov. Ron DeSantis talked about the many ways his administration is trying to ‘keep illegals out of the state of Florida’ in response to President Joe Biden’s immigration policies. He highlighted a state-led law enforcement operation, which took place June 7-9 in four counties in Northwest Florida. When talking about outcomes, the governor’s message was unmistakable: The state was doing its part to combat illegal immigration because it had arrested several ‘illegal aliens.’ ‘They were able to recover these illegal aliens and enough fentanyl to kill off 2,000 people in the state of Florida,’ DeSantis said at the news conference in Pensacola. What DeSantis did not mention is that the vast majority of the 22 arrests were not related to immigration but rather tied to men and women who live in the country legally. DeSantis also implied that undocumented migrants had been arrested on drug-related crimes, when none were, according to arrests records provided by the Florida Highway Patrol and two of the four sheriff’s offices that participated in the state’s effort. A review of the records shows seven undocumented migrants were arrested after being pulled over by police for traffic violations - including driving too slow, having excessively tinted windows and having counterfeit registration tags on their vehicles. They were arrested on suspicion of human smuggling when authorities found out they were in the country illegally and were traveling across state lines. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials have not responded to a request for information about those seven arrests and the immigration status of those people.” [Tampa Bay Times, 7/27/22]
- **DeSantis Did Not Highlight Crimes Committed By The 15 Legal Residents Who Were Arrested And Variouslly Charged With Possession Of Fentanyl, Methamphetamine, Wanted On Grand Theft Of A Firearm Or Wanted On Domestic Battery Charges In Other Parts Of The State.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “Inside a packed room at the Escambia County Sheriff’s Office in June, Gov. Ron DeSantis talked about the many ways his administration is trying to ‘keep illegals out of the state of Florida’ in response to President Joe Biden’s immigration policies. He highlighted a state-led law enforcement operation, which took place June 7-9 in four counties in Northwest Florida. When talking about outcomes, the governor’s message was unmistakable: The state was doing its part to combat illegal immigration because it had arrested several ‘illegal aliens.’ ‘They were able to recover these illegal aliens and enough fentanyl to kill off 2,000 people in the state of Florida,’ DeSantis said at the news conference in Pensacola. What DeSantis did not mention is that the vast majority of the 22 arrests were not related to immigration but rather tied to men and women who live in the country legally. [...] One of the detainees was wanted in El Salvador, his native country, for theft and conspiracy to commit theft, records show. The police report said his family had arranged to pay someone \$3,500 to drive him from Texas, where he illegally crossed into the country, to Miami. DeSantis emphasized the details of that arrest during the press conference. The governor did not call any attention to the crimes committed by the 15 people who were arrested and were legal residents, even though they were charged with possession of fentanyl, methamphetamine, wanted on grand theft of a firearm or wanted on domestic battery charges in other parts of the state.” [Tampa Bay Times, 7/27/22]

## ***DCF Licenses***

**December 2021: DeSantis Issued An Order To Prevent Florida Child Care Regulators From Issuing New Licenses Or Renewing Existing Licenses For Facilities That Housed Unaccompanied Migrant Children Unless The Federal Government Reached An Agreement With Florida.** The Miami Herald reported, “Florida shelters that house migrant children on behalf of the federal government say they’re increasingly worried that a feud between Gov. Ron DeSantis’ administration and President Joe Biden over his immigration policies will force them to relocate hundreds of children outside the state. That’s because in mid-December, DeSantis directed Florida child care regulators to stop issuing or renewing the licenses of facilities that contract with the federal government to house migrant children and teenagers who are waiting to be reunited with their families or vetted sponsors. The order will not revoke existing licenses but will not allow Florida shelters to house more migrant children than they already do. The policy change could impact the resettlement of hundreds of migrant children in Florida, where, according to federal data, more than 11,000 unaccompanied minors were released to sponsors between October 2020 and September 2021. [...] Florida shelters that house unaccompanied minors are concerned about a new rule announced by Gov. Ron DeSantis in December that threatens to revoke the licenses of centers that care for migrant



kids, unless the federal government enters into a cooperative agreement with the state.” [Miami Herald, 1/7/22]

**February 2022: The American Business Immigration Coalition Wrote A Letter Alongside A Group Of Florida Business Leaders And Immigration Advocates, Asking DeSantis To Reverse His Order Targeting Shelters That Housed Migrant Children.** The Miami Herald reported, “A group of Florida business leaders and immigration advocates, including some who came to the U.S. from Cuba as unaccompanied children under ‘Operation Pedro Pan,’ are asking Gov. Ron DeSantis to reverse a new rule that targets shelters licensed to house unaccompanied migrant children. The letter, which was led by the American Business Immigration Coalition, is the latest backlash from pro-immigration advocates and religious leaders who oppose the orders proposed by DeSantis to fight federal immigration policies, including two bills currently being considered by the Legislature.” [Miami Herald, 2/2/22]

- **Signatories To The Letter Included Some Cubans Who Came To The U.S. Through “Operation Pedro Pan.”** The Miami Herald reported, “A group of Florida business leaders and immigration advocates, including some who came to the U.S. from Cuba as unaccompanied children under ‘Operation Pedro Pan,’ are asking Gov. Ron DeSantis to reverse a new rule that targets shelters licensed to house unaccompanied migrant children. The letter, which was led by the American Business Immigration Coalition, is the latest backlash from pro-immigration advocates and religious leaders who oppose the orders proposed by DeSantis to fight federal immigration policies, including two bills currently being considered by the Legislature.” [Miami Herald, 2/2/22]
- **The Signatories Stated, “We Urge You To Reverse This Emergency Order Which Would Lead To The Unconscionable And Immoral Result Of Innocent Children Being Harmed And Left Without Care.”** The Miami Herald reported, “A group of Florida business leaders and immigration advocates, including some who came to the U.S. from Cuba as unaccompanied children under ‘Operation Pedro Pan,’ are asking Gov. Ron DeSantis to reverse a new rule that targets shelters licensed to house unaccompanied migrant children. The letter, which was led by the American Business Immigration Coalition, is the latest backlash from pro-immigration advocates and religious leaders who oppose the orders proposed by DeSantis to fight federal immigration policies, including two bills currently being considered by the Legislature . [...] As members of the IMPAC Fund, the Florida Chapter of the American Business Immigration Coalition, we urge you to reverse this emergency order which would lead to the unconscionable and immoral result of innocent children being harmed and left without care,’ the group said.” [Miami Herald, 2/2/22]
- **The Letter Also Expressed Opposition To HB 1355 And SB 1808, Which Targeted Businesses That Transported Migrants Into Florida.** The Miami Herald reported, “A group of Florida business leaders and immigration advocates, including some who came to the U.S. from Cuba as unaccompanied children under ‘Operation Pedro Pan,’ are asking Gov. Ron DeSantis to reverse a new rule that targets shelters licensed to house unaccompanied migrant children. The letter, which was led by the American Business Immigration Coalition, is the latest backlash from pro-immigration advocates and religious leaders who oppose the orders proposed by DeSantis to fight federal immigration policies, including two bills currently being considered by the Legislature . [...] The emergency rule from September 2021 orders state agencies to stop issuing or renewing licenses for shelters that temporarily house immigrant children while they wait to be placed with a relative or sponsor. The signatories also opposed House Bill 1355 and Senate Bill 1808 that take aim at state contracts with businesses that transport migrants of all ages into Florida.” [Miami Herald, 2/2/22]

**Miami Herald: Following DeSantis’s Order Targeting Organizations That Housed Unaccompanied Migrant Children, “One Shelter Suddenly Lost Its State License And Had To Relocate 60 Children With Little Notice.”** The Miami Herald reported, “The governor is going after the Biden administration’s immigration policy that DeSantis says allows minors and hundreds of thousands of others to enter the country illegally. DeSantis refuses to renew the shelters’ state licenses, forcing them to close their doors. [...] The federally funded shelters affected have been getting the run-around since December; one shelter suddenly lost its state license and had to relocate 60 children with little notice. Others have sued to stay open. There are now 16 licensed shelters in Florida, several in South Florida.” [Miami Herald, 2/9/22]

**Miami Herald: “DeSantis Has Described The Federal Government Resettling Of Unaccompanied Children In Florida As ‘Clandestine Human Smuggling Flights.’”** The Miami Herald reported, “Looking to put teeth on a controversial mandate from Gov. Ron DeSantis, Florida’s Department of Children and Families will discuss a new rule on Thursday that would deny licenses to shelters that house unaccompanied migrant children for the federal government, unless there is a resettlement agreement between the state and the feds. [...] DeSantis has described the federal government resettling of unaccompanied children in Florida as ‘clandestine human smuggling flights.’ He has defended the measure as a way to counter what he views as President Biden’s failing on immigration policies.” [Miami Herald, 2/21/22]

**February 2022: DeSantis Faced Criticism From Prominent Democrats, Including Rep. Charlie Crist And Biden Press Secretary Jen Psaki, On His Policies Targeting Shelters For Unaccompanied Migrant Children.** The Miami Herald reported, “The proposed measures, a key component of DeSantis’ immigration wish list as he seeks reelection, are being fast-tracked in the final weeks of the legislative session. [...] The bills are moving toward the finish line as DeSantis’ administration moves forward with a hearing on Thursday to consider a rule that would direct state child-care regulators to deny licenses to shelters that house unaccompanied migrant children for the federal government, unless there is a resettlement agreement between the state and the feds. Ahead of that administrative hearing, nine Democrats from Florida’s congressional delegation—including Rep. Charlie Crist, who is seeking the Democratic gubernatorial nomination this year—sent a letter to DeSantis, urging his administration to rescind its immigration policies. [...] President Joe Biden’s press secretary Jen Psaki on Wednesday said the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, whose scope includes caring for unaccompanied migrant children, is ‘examining all legal options.’” [Miami Herald, 2/23/22]

- **Rep. Crist Signed A Letter Alongside Eight Other U.S. Congressmembers From Florida That Stated, “Endangering Unaccompanied Children’s Access To Care From Providers Who Are Trained To Ensure The Safety And Welfare Of Children In Their Custody And Subject To Rigorous Oversight Is Needlessly Cruel.”** The Miami Herald reported, “The proposed measures, a key component of DeSantis’ immigration wish list as he seeks reelection, are being fast-tracked in the final weeks of the legislative session. [...] The bills are moving toward the finish line as DeSantis’ administration moves forward with a hearing on Thursday to consider a rule that would direct state child-care regulators to deny licenses to shelters that house unaccompanied migrant children for the federal government, unless there is a resettlement agreement between the state and the feds. Ahead of that administrative hearing, nine Democrats from Florida’s congressional delegation—including Rep. Charlie Crist, who is seeking the Democratic gubernatorial nomination this year—sent a letter to DeSantis, urging his administration to rescind its immigration policies. ‘Endangering unaccompanied children’s access to care from providers who are trained to ensure the safety and welfare of children in their custody and subject to rigorous oversight is needlessly cruel,’ the letter said.” [Miami Herald, 2/23/22]
- **Biden Press Secretary Jen Psaki Stated, “We’re Obviously Looking At Legal Options Here, But I Also Would Say This Really Flies In The Face Of What Should Be A Moral View Of Anyone That ... The Safe Care Of Unaccompanied Children Should Be A Part Of What We All Want To Be Active Participants In.”** The Miami Herald reported, “The proposed measures, a key component of DeSantis’ immigration wish list as he seeks reelection, are being fast-tracked in the final weeks of the legislative session. [...] The bills are moving toward the finish line as DeSantis’ administration moves forward with a hearing on Thursday to consider a rule that would direct state child-care regulators to deny licenses to shelters that house unaccompanied migrant children for the federal government, unless there is a resettlement agreement between the state and the feds. Ahead of that administrative hearing, nine Democrats from Florida’s congressional delegation—including Rep. Charlie Crist, who is seeking the Democratic gubernatorial nomination this year—sent a letter to DeSantis, urging his administration to rescind its immigration policies. [...] President Joe Biden’s press secretary Jen Psaki on Wednesday said the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, whose scope includes caring for unaccompanied migrant children, is ‘examining all legal options.’ ‘We’re obviously looking at legal options here, but I also would say this really flies in the face of what should be a moral view of anyone that ... the safe care of unaccompanied children should be a part of what we all want to be active participants in,’ Psaki said.” [Miami Herald, 2/23/22]

**February 2022: The Biden Administration Announced That Organizations That Housed Unaccompanied Migrant Children Would Continue To Receive Federal Funding Even If Stripped Of Their State License, And The State Did Not Have The Authority To Punish Them If Their License Lapsed.** The Miami Herald reported, “As Gov. Ron DeSantis’ administration moves forward with trying to shut down shelters that provide housing and other services for unaccompanied immigrant children, the stripping of licenses might be more rhetorical than effective, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Biden administration sent a letter Tuesday to DeSantis’ general counsel, Ryan Newman, saying that state licenses aren’t required for shelter operators to continue receiving federal funds. And the state does not have the authority to punish the providers if their licenses lapse and they continue to offer services to unaccompanied immigrant children, Mark Greenberg, a deputy general counsel at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, wrote to Newman.” [Miami Herald, 2/23/22]

**Miami Herald: “DeSantis In January Told The Biden Administration That Florida ‘No Longer Wishes To Be Involved In The Federal Government’s UAC [Unaccompanied Alien Children] Resettlement Program.’”** The Miami Herald reported, “DeSantis in January told the Biden administration that Florida ‘no longer wishes to be involved in the federal government’s UAC [unaccompanied alien children] resettlement program.’ The governor, widely viewed as a top Republican contender for president in 2024, directed the Department of Children and Families to stop issuing or renewing licenses to providers that shelter unaccompanied immigrant children. The agency is holding a public hearing on the rule Thursday.” [Miami Herald, 2/23/22]

**February 2022: A Proposed Rule From DeSantis Would Require “Service Providers” To Conduct Expensive Welfare Checks Twice A Year On The Children They Placed With Sponsors And Cost Up To \$16.8 Million For Child Caring Facilities Within The First Five Years.** The Miami Herald reported, “A controversial proposed rule from Gov. Ron DeSantis that cracks down on organizations that house unaccompanied immigrant youth on behalf of the federal government could cost millions of additional dollars, according to an estimated cost analysis from the Florida Department of Children and Families. The measure directs state child care regulators to deny licenses to shelters, foster agencies, and foster homes that care for and house unaccompanied migrant children on behalf of the federal government, unless Florida agrees to a resettlement agreement with the feds. It would also require service providers to conduct twice-a-year welfare checks on the children they place with sponsors until they reach the age of 18, leave Florida, or are removed from the U.S., among other conditions. The checks would be conducted by the child-caring facilities and child-placing agencies, according to the proposed rule. The required in-person visits could rack up extra costs, according to the estimated cost analysis, which looks at the financial impact of the measure. An example of estimate costs for the in-person welfare checks, if all the staff conducting the checks live outside the provider areas, included nearly \$2 million within six months of implementation. Those numbers went up to \$16.8 million for child-caring facilities and \$2.6 million for child-placing agencies within the first five years.” [Miami Herald, 2/24/22]

**February 2022: DeSantis Proposed A Rule Which Would Direct State Childcare Regulators To Deny Licenses To Shelters, Foster Agencies, And Foster Homes That Provided Care And Housing To Unaccompanied Migrant Children On Behalf Of The Federal Government.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “Required welfare checks mandated in a controversial proposed rule from Gov. Ron DeSantis that cracks down on organizations that house unaccompanied immigrant youth on behalf of the federal government could cost millions of additional dollars, according to a cost analysis from the Florida Department of Children and Families. It directs state childcare regulators to deny licenses to shelters, foster agencies, and foster homes that care for and house unaccompanied migrant children on behalf of the federal government unless Florida agrees to a resettlement agreement with the feds. It would also require service providers to conduct twice-a-year welfare checks on the children they place with sponsors until they reach the age of 18, leave Florida, or are removed from the U.S., among other conditions. The checks would be conducted by the child-caring facilities and child-placing agencies, according to the proposed rule. It’s the required in-person visits that would rack up the extra costs, according to the estimated cost analysis, which looks at the financial impact of the measure. Examples of estimated costs for the in-person welfare checks, if all the staff conducting the checks live outside the provider areas, included nearly \$2 million within six months of implementation. Those numbers went up to \$16.8 million for child-caring facilities and \$2.6 million for child-placing agencies within the first five years. ‘The total cost to conduct welfare checks on

(unaccompanied minors) until they reach the age of 18 varies on the age of the child when they were placed with a sponsor,' acknowledges the report." [Tampa Bay Times, 2/25/22]

- **DeSantis’s Proposed Rule Would Require Child Care Facilities And Placing Agencies To Conduct Twice-A-Year Welfare Checks On The Children They Placed With Sponsors Until They Reached The Age Of 18, Left Florida, Or Were Removed From The United States.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “Required welfare checks mandated in a controversial proposed rule from Gov. Ron DeSantis that cracks down on organizations that house unaccompanied immigrant youth on behalf of the federal government could cost millions of additional dollars, according to a cost analysis from the Florida Department of Children and Families. It directs state childcare regulators to deny licenses to shelters, foster agencies, and foster homes that care for and house unaccompanied migrant children on behalf of the federal government unless Florida agrees to a resettlement agreement with the feds. It would also require service providers to conduct twice-a-year welfare checks on the children they place with sponsors until they reach the age of 18, leave Florida, or are removed from the U.S., among other conditions. The checks would be conducted by the child-caring facilities and child-placing agencies, according to the proposed rule. It’s the required in-person visits that would rack up the extra costs, according to the estimated cost analysis, which looks at the financial impact of the measure. Examples of estimated costs for the in-person welfare checks, if all the staff conducting the checks live outside the provider areas, included nearly \$2 million within six months of implementation. Those numbers went up to \$16.8 million for child-caring facilities and \$2.6 million for child-placing agencies within the first five years. ‘The total cost to conduct welfare checks on (unaccompanied minors) until they reach the age of 18 varies on the age of the child when they were placed with a sponsor,’ acknowledges the report.” [Tampa Bay Times, 2/25/22]
- **A Cost Analysis From The Florida Department Of Children And Families Estimated That In-Person Welfare Checks Could Cost “Nearly \$2 Million” Within Six Months Of Implementation.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “Required welfare checks mandated in a controversial proposed rule from Gov. Ron DeSantis that cracks down on organizations that house unaccompanied immigrant youth on behalf of the federal government could cost millions of additional dollars, according to a cost analysis from the Florida Department of Children and Families. It directs state childcare regulators to deny licenses to shelters, foster agencies, and foster homes that care for and house unaccompanied migrant children on behalf of the federal government unless Florida agrees to a resettlement agreement with the feds. It would also require service providers to conduct twice-a-year welfare checks on the children they place with sponsors until they reach the age of 18, leave Florida, or are removed from the U.S., among other conditions. The checks would be conducted by the child-caring facilities and child-placing agencies, according to the proposed rule. It’s the required in-person visits that would rack up the extra costs, according to the estimated cost analysis, which looks at the financial impact of the measure. Examples of estimated costs for the in-person welfare checks, if all the staff conducting the checks live outside the provider areas, included nearly \$2 million within six months of implementation. Those numbers went up to \$16.8 million for child-caring facilities and \$2.6 million for child-placing agencies within the first five years. ‘The total cost to conduct welfare checks on (unaccompanied minors) until they reach the age of 18 varies on the age of the child when they were placed with a sponsor,’ acknowledges the report.” [Tampa Bay Times, 2/25/22]
- **A Cost Analysis From The Florida Department Of Children And Families Estimated That In-Person Welfare Checks Could Cost Up To \$16.8 Million For Child-Caring Facilities And \$2.6 Million For Child-Placing Agencies Within The First Five Years.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “Required welfare checks mandated in a controversial proposed rule from Gov. Ron DeSantis that cracks down on organizations that house unaccompanied immigrant youth on behalf of the federal government could cost millions of additional dollars, according to a cost analysis from the Florida Department of Children and Families. It directs state childcare regulators to deny licenses to shelters, foster agencies, and foster homes that care for and house unaccompanied migrant children on behalf of the federal government unless Florida agrees to a resettlement agreement with the feds. It would also require service providers to conduct twice-a-year welfare checks on the children they place with sponsors until they reach the age of 18, leave Florida, or are removed from the U.S., among other conditions. The checks would be conducted by the child-caring facilities and child-placing agencies, according to the proposed rule. It’s the required in-person visits that would rack up the extra costs,

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- **The Biden Administration Sent A Letter To DeSantis’s General Counsel, Ryan Newman, Highlighting That State-Issued Licenses Were Not A Requirement To Receive Money From The Federal Government And That Florida Could Not Penalize Service Providers For Operating Through The Federal Contracts.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “The Biden administration sent a letter Tuesday telling DeSantis’ general counsel, Ryan Newman, that state-issued licenses are not a requirement to receive money from the federal government, and that Florida cannot penalize the service providers for operating through the federal contracts. ‘Under the Supremacy Clause, Florida cannot take action against federal contractors for activities that are expressly authorized by federal law,’ reads the letter from Mark Greenberg, deputy general counsel of U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, referring to the U.S. Constitution. Greenberg added that a letter from Newman had made clear that Florida did not intend to enter any cooperative agreement so the federal government could resettle children. ‘The state of Florida will no longer participate in a federal program that encourages child trafficking,’ the Department of Children and Families told the Miami Herald, ‘The federal government should not place children in unlicensed facilities unless it plans to provide oversight.’” [Tampa Bay Times, 2/25/22]
- **The Florida Department Of Children And Families: “The State Of Florida Will No Longer Participate In A Federal Program That Encourages Child Trafficking ... The Federal Government Should Not Place Children In Unlicensed Facilities Unless It Plans To Provide Oversight.”** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “The Biden administration sent a letter Tuesday telling DeSantis’ general counsel, Ryan Newman, that state-issued licenses are not a requirement to receive money from the federal government, and that Florida cannot penalize the service providers for operating through the federal contracts. ‘Under the Supremacy Clause, Florida cannot take action against federal contractors for activities that are expressly authorized by federal law,’ reads the letter from Mark Greenberg, deputy general counsel of U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, referring to the U.S. Constitution. Greenberg added that a letter from Newman had made clear that Florida did not intend to enter any cooperative agreement so the federal government could resettle children. ‘The state of Florida will no longer participate in a federal program that encourages child trafficking,’ the Department of Children and Families told the Miami Herald, ‘The federal government should not place children in unlicensed facilities unless it plans to provide oversight.’” [Tampa Bay Times, 2/25/22]
- **A Joint Statement From Hispanic Evangelical Church Leaders And The Florida Council Of Churches, Which Provided Services To Immigrant Children, Said That They Saw DeSantis’s Executive Action And The Pending Legislation As “Religious Persecution And Restriction On Our Freedom To Worship.”** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “A group of service providers, immigration advocates, attorneys and religious leaders attended the virtual hearing. [...] Nate Bult, senior vice president of public and government affairs from Bethany Christian Services, a nationwide organization that places unaccompanied youth with foster families in Florida, said the department was unable to answer key questions about the proposed rule. He pointed out that groups like his were set up around religious tenets that emphasize caring for the vulnerable. ‘We’re called by our faith to welcome the stranger and to love our neighbor. And so that’s why we started unaccompanied children programs. So the state of Florida is essentially telling us that we have to pick and choose which population of vulnerable kids we want to help,’ he said. The concerns echo those from a Jan. 24 joint statement from Hispanic evangelical church leaders and the Florida Council of Churches, which said they see the executive action and the pending legislation as ‘religious persecution and restriction on our freedom to worship.’” [Tampa Bay Times, 2/25/22]

## ***Drivers’ Licenses***

**April 2018: A DeSantis Spokesperson Said That DeSantis Would Have Voted Against A 2013 Florida Bill**

**Supported By Most House Republicans That Would Have Allowed Dreamers To Get Drivers' Licenses.** The Miami Herald reported, "In 2013, the Florida House led by Weatherford voted to grant drivers' licenses to Dreamers. Corcoran, then a regular House member who was set to become speaker himself in 2016, voted for the bill. While most other House Republicans did too, those votes haven't aged well for GOP primary voters in today's political climate. [...] 'Ron DeSantis would've voted against' that legislation, said Brad Herold, spokesman for that campaign. DeSantis was endorsed by Trump himself and, before that, former Arizona Sheriff Joseph Arpaio, who was convicted for contempt of court for continuing illegal racial profiling practices." [Miami Herald, 4/6/18]

## **Drugs**

**June 2021: DeSantis Claimed That Drug Trafficking And Human Trafficking Had Increased Since The Biden Administration's Shift From Trump-Era Immigration Policies.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, "DeSantis, who is increasingly being viewed as a potential Republican presidential candidate in 2024, and Moody blasted the Biden administration during Wednesday's news conference. Moody said the administration 'took a wrecking ball to the infrastructure controlling immigration.' DeSantis contended that drug trafficking and human trafficking have increased since the change in White House administrations. 'If that border was under control, we would have less meth pouring into Florida communities and particularly in the northern part of the state,' DeSantis said." [Tampa Bay Times, 6/16/21]

- **DeSantis: "If That Border Was Under Control, We Would Have Less Meth Pouring Into Florida Communities And Particularly In The Northern Part Of The State."** The Tampa Bay Times reported, "DeSantis, who is increasingly being viewed as a potential Republican presidential candidate in 2024, and Moody blasted the Biden administration during Wednesday's news conference. Moody said the administration 'took a wrecking ball to the infrastructure controlling immigration.' DeSantis contended that drug trafficking and human trafficking have increased since the change in White House administrations. 'If that border was under control, we would have less meth pouring into Florida communities and particularly in the northern part of the state,' DeSantis said." [Tampa Bay Times, 6/16/21]

**June 2021: According To A Column In The Miami Herald, DeSantis's Rhetoric Linking Meth Addiction To An Insecure Border Was A Disingenuous Political Stunt.** According to a column by Fabiola Santiago in the Miami Herald, "If Gov. Ron DeSantis really cared about the meth-addiction problem in Florida, he would not be looking for solutions among immigrants at the Texas or Arizona borders, where he has no jurisdiction to enforce immigration law or run drug stings. But demagogue DeSantis made another round of attention-grabbing headlines when he pledged to send local and state security forces to Texas and Arizona to help police the southern border. [...] Florida ranks No. 10 in seizures of meth laboratories, chemical equipment, glassware and dump sites. Sounds like DeSantis could use all that law-enforcement power right here at home. And he could better spend the money he'll throw away at the border to pay for effective drug-abuse treatment, so often only available to wealthy families while the poor rot and die from overdoses. But the drug-addicted aren't likely voters or campaign donors. It's easy for DeSantis, however, to convince loved ones that the problem lies elsewhere, and the blame rests with bad people from other nations. And here he is, a fake knight on a lame white horse who's going to deliver them from evil with the help of a police force on a field trip to the U.S. border." [Miami Herald, Column, 6/18/21]

**June 2018: DeSantis Claimed That "The Bulk Of The Problem With The Opioid Epidemic Is The Fentanyl And All The Synthetic Drugs Coming Across The Southern Border."** Tampa Bay Times reported, "Republican candidate for Florida governor Ron DeSantis has a plan to solve the opioid epidemic, and it starts with securing the southern border of the United States. That's where lethal drugs pour into the country, he said during the Westside Republican Club Reagan Day Barbecue in Callahan on June 2. 'This drug crisis is driven by a lot of the drugs that are pouring across the southern border,' DeSantis said. 'Yeah, there are problems with prescription medication and things like that, and Florida's done some stuff to rein that in. The bulk of the problem with the opioid epidemic is the fentanyl and all the synthetic drugs coming across the southern border. When you have a weak border like under (former President Barack) Obama - that's a wet kiss to the drug cartels. They love that, because they can move so much product into our country.'" [Tampa Bay Times, 6/11/18]

- **DeSantis Stated, "When You Have A Weak Border Like Under (Former President Barack) Obama -**

**That’s A Wet Kiss To The Drug Cartels.”** Tampa Bay Times reported, “Republican candidate for Florida governor Ron DeSantis has a plan to solve the opioid epidemic, and it starts with securing the southern border of the United States. That’s where lethal drugs pour into the country, he said during the Westside Republican Club Reagan Day Barbecue in Callahan on June 2. ‘This drug crisis is driven by a lot of the drugs that are pouring across the southern border,’ DeSantis said. ‘Yeah, there are problems with prescription medication and things like that, and Florida’s done some stuff to rein that in. The bulk of the problem with the opioid epidemic is the fentanyl and all the synthetic drugs coming across the southern border. When you have a weak border like under (former President Barack) Obama - that’s a wet kiss to the drug cartels. They love that, because they can move so much product into our country.’” [Tampa Bay Times, 6/11/18]

- **Tampa Bay Times Rated As “Half True” DeSantis’s Claim That The Opioid Epidemic Was Mainly Driven By Drugs Entering The U.S. Across The Southern Border.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “‘This drug crisis is driven by a lot of the drugs that are pouring across the southern border,’ DeSantis said. ‘Yeah, there are problems with prescription medication and things like that, and Florida’s done some stuff to rein that in. The bulk of the problem with the opioid epidemic is the fentanyl and all the synthetic drugs coming across the southern border.’ [...] President Donald Trump’s opioid commission seemed more concerned with shipments from China than couriers from Mexico. ‘We are miserably losing this fight to prevent fentanyl from entering our country and killing our citizens,’ the commission said. ‘We are losing this fight (predominantly) through China.’ The fentanyl found at the southern border tends to be less potent than the fentanyl shipped through the mail. ‘Large volumes of fentanyl are seized at the (southern border), although these seizures are typically low in purity - on average approximately 7 percent,’ the 2017 DEA report says. ‘Conversely, the smaller volumes seized after arriving in the mail directly from China can have purities over 90 percent and be worth much more than the fentanyl seized at the (southwest border).’ We rate DeSantis’ statement Half True.” [Tampa Bay Times, 6/11/18]

## ***Economy***

### **February 2023: In A Column, Fabiola Santiago Said DeSantis’s Immigration Policies And Employment Restrictions Would “Hurt U.S.-Born And Naturalized Small Business Owners” And “The State’s Economy Would Take A Nosedive” As Immigrants Make Up More Than A Quarter Of Florida’s Labor Force.**

According to a column by Fabiola Santiago in the Miami Herald, “In the latest iteration of his ugliness, DeSantis issued controversial new immigration policy for the state. His legislative proposals crack down on employment practices and most likely will lead not only to discrimination against immigrants, but also hurt U.S.-born and naturalized small business owners. DeSantis’ draconian employment restrictions also will impact Florida’s agriculture, tourism and construction industries—the very ones that fund his political campaigns. [...] If Florida immigrants took DeSantis and his hateful agenda seriously—and set off to make a living in perhaps better paying and friendlier pastures in the Northeast—the state’s economy would take a nosedive. Immigrants account for more than a quarter of Florida’s labor force, according to the nonpartisan American Immigration Council.” [Miami Herald, Column, 2/24/23]

## ***Employment & E-Verify***

### **July 2018: In Response To A Survey About Specific Immigration Policies, DeSantis Issued A Statement Promising To “Sign E-Verify Into Law, Ensuring A Legal Workforce And Disincentivizing Illegal Immigration In Our State.”**

Tampa Bay Times reported, “The Times asked the seven major candidates for governor in both parties five questions regarding Florida’s population of undocumented immigrants, the third largest in the country. [...] While Republicans Adam Putnam and Ron DeSantis have spent months stumping on immigration, neither responded to the questions and their campaigns instead sent a statement. [...] Response to the survey from DeSantis campaign spokesman Dave Vasquez: ‘Adam Putnam fought to kill E-Verify in Florida, supported the gang of eight amnesty deal and voted with Nancy Pelosi against securing our border with troops. Ron DeSantis will sign E-Verify into law here in Florida, ensuring a legal workforce and disincentivizing illegal immigration in our state. He will work to end sanctuary cities and remove state officials who participate in abetting sanctuary city policies here in Florida.’” [Tampa Bay Times, 7/20/18]

**November 2019: DeSantis Cited Drugs And Guns Seized In 2018 By The Government Agency That Addresses Cross-Border Crimes As Support For E-Verify Legislation.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “One of DeSantis’ most repeated campaign promises last year was that he would ensure businesses would be required to check the immigration status of new hires via an online system called ‘e-Verify.’ Support for the program has become established doctrine for the GOP. Yet during a Monday news conference, DeSantis took a hard-right turn, citing examples of violence and crime committed by undocumented immigrants as rationale for the program, an argument that immigration advocates likened to the divisive rhetoric of President Donald Trump. In one instance, DeSantis detailed the thousands of pounds of narcotics and hundreds of guns seized last year by Homeland Security Investigations, which breaks up cross-border crimes and gang activity. He cited a specific federal investigation in Jacksonville that busted fraudulent companies working to bring in undocumented workers, saying: ‘When you have those types of criminal enterprises, you end up seeing money laundering, fraud, identity theft - all of that goes to what we’re talking about here.’ ‘The law is the law and you either comply with it or you don’t,’ DeSantis added.” [Tampa Bay Times, 11/26/19]

- **DeSantis Discussed A Federal Investigation Into A Company That Brought In Undocumented Workers, Stating, “When You Have Those Types Of Criminal Enterprises, You End Up Seeing Money Laundering, Fraud, Identity Theft - All Of That Goes To What We’re Talking About Here. [...] The Law Is The Law And You Either Comply With It Or You Don’t.”** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “One of DeSantis’ most repeated campaign promises last year was that he would ensure businesses would be required to check the immigration status of new hires via an online system called ‘e-Verify.’ Support for the program has become established doctrine for the GOP. Yet during a Monday news conference, DeSantis took a hard-right turn, citing examples of violence and crime committed by undocumented immigrants as rationale for the program, an argument that immigration advocates likened to the divisive rhetoric of President Donald Trump. In one instance, DeSantis detailed the thousands of pounds of narcotics and hundreds of guns seized last year by Homeland Security Investigations, which breaks up cross-border crimes and gang activity. He cited a specific federal investigation in Jacksonville that busted fraudulent companies working to bring in undocumented workers, saying: ‘When you have those types of criminal enterprises, you end up seeing money laundering, fraud, identity theft - all of that goes to what we’re talking about here.’ ‘The law is the law and you either comply with it or you don’t,’ DeSantis added.” [Tampa Bay Times, 11/26/19]
- **To Support His Push For E-Verify Legislation, DeSantis Invoked “Angel Families” And Individuals Killed By Undocumented Immigrants.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “But such evidence wasn’t cited during Monday’s news conference, which DeSantis held in the deep red Central Florida retirement community of The Villages. Instead, as he voiced support for bills that would require employers to use e-Verify, DeSantis yielded the lectern to two so-called ‘Angel Families,’ whose loved ones were killed by undocumented immigrants. Trump has hosted White House events in the past for Angel Families to promote a build-the-wall premise supported more by outlier anecdotes than data. ‘Angel Parents do not want anyone else to share in our tragedy,’ said Vickie Lyon, who said her daughter was killed in a drunk driving accident in which the offender was undocumented. ‘Gov. DeSantis is fighting to save all of our families from this grief.’” [Tampa Bay Times, 11/26/19]

**November 2019: DeSantis Stated That E-Verify Would Benefit Working People Who Would No Longer Have To Compete With “Cheap, Illegal, Foreign Labor.”** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “In addition to public safety, DeSantis and the lawmakers who joined him in The Villages said e-Verify will benefit Florida economically, potentially raising the wages of blue-collar workers who will no longer have to compete with ‘cheap, illegal, foreign labor.’” [Tampa Bay Times, 11/26/19]

**December 2019: Some Republicans Said That The E-Verify Program DeSantis Supported Would Be Ineffective And Could Even Harm Florida’s Economy If The Agricultural And Tourism Industries Lost The Cheap Labor On Which They Depended.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “For a decade, former Gov. Rick Scott and now DeSantis campaigned on requiring the E-Verify system to identify undocumented immigrants and then pushed the Legislature to approve it. [...] But the Republican-controlled Legislature consistently has ignored the governors’ calls to extend the practice to private employers, and for good reason. First, the E-Verify system is cumbersome to use and imperfect. Critics point out that undocumented immigrants have figured out ways to avoid



detection through the use of forged documents, stolen Social Security numbers and other techniques. More importantly, large segments of the state's economy depend on cheap labor supplied by undocumented immigrants. These are often the workers picking crops in the fields, cleaning hotel rooms, building apartment buildings and working in restaurants for little pay and under conditions few American citizens with better options would accept. Who would fill those jobs?" [Tampa Bay Times, 12/19/19]

**February 2020: DeSantis Supported E-Verify Legislation In The Face Of Opposition From The Business Community.** The Miami Herald reported, "The sponsor of a controversial bill that would require Florida businesses to check the immigration status of new hires via "E-Verify" made two things clear Tuesday. First, Gov. Ron DeSantis wants the mandate. Second, the mandate is still very much 'a work in progress.' [...] The truncated debate set up what is likely to be a drawn-out fight through the second half of the legislative session, characterized by party-line votes and opposition from some of the most powerful lobbies in Tallahassee. The proposal is the strictest of its kind filed this year, as it includes both public and private employers in the mandate, crossing both the business and agriculture lobby. Two other bills, sponsored by Sen. Joe Gruters, R-Sarasota and Rep. Cord Byrd, R-Neptune Beach, exempt private employers, who serve as some of the state's biggest political campaign donors. Despite the strong business lobby against it, DeSantis has vowed to pass an E-Verify bill, even directly asking the Legislature to do so, saying it would remove an incentive for people to come to Florida illegally. Last month the Republican Party of Florida, where Gruters doubles as chairman, recently voted to back the governor's stance." [Miami Herald, 2/11/20]

- **Paul DiMare, A DeSantis Donor And Leader In Florida's Agricultural Industry, Told DeSantis That E-Verify Would "Destroy" Florida's Agriculture, Tourism And Construction Industries.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, "Paul DiMare, CEO of DiMare Fresh, a major farming business that grows tomatoes and other produce in Hillsborough County and Homestead as well as in other states, said the fact an E-Verify bill is moving in the Legislature shows DeSantis' clout. A staunch opponent of the proposal, DiMare said E-Verify would 'destroy' Florida's agriculture, tourism and construction industries, especially when low unemployment has already caused labor shortages. When DeSantis was still campaigning for governor, DiMare spoke with him about E-Verify, he said. 'He called me personally, I told him, 'Congressman DeSantis ... I'm going to help you but I'm totally against what you're trying to do with E-Verify,'" DiMare recalled, saying that DeSantis emphasized the popular support for the measure. 'I argued with him for half an hour.' Campaign finance records show that DiMare's companies donated \$35,000 to DeSantis' campaign in the fall of 2018." [Tampa Bay Times, 2/17/20]

**June 2020: DeSantis Signed An E-Verify Bill Requiring All Public Employers And Private Employers With Public Contracts Or Taxpayer-Funded Incentives To Use E-Verify.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, "While the measure expands the use of E-Verify among employers, it falls short of DeSantis' campaign promise. The bill will require all public employers --- such as local school districts, public universities and state agencies --- as well as their private contractors to use E-Verify, a system run by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Private employers are not mandated to use the system unless they have a contract with a public employer or they apply for taxpayer-funded incentives through the state Department of Economic Opportunity, beginning on July 1. Private businesses that do not use E-Verify will be required to keep a three-year record of the documents employees use to complete 'I-9' forms, which the federal government uses to verify workers' identities and legal eligibility to work in the U.S. Federal law already requires businesses and workers to fill out the forms." [Tampa Bay Times, 6/30/20]

- **Some Republican Legislators Criticized The Bill DeSantis Signed For Being Too Moderate Because The Mandate Did Not Extend To All Private Employers.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, "The measure that finally was approved by the Legislature only mandates E-Verify for public employers and private contractors that do business with the state government. Some Republican supporters of E-Verify expressed disappointment with the measure, arguing that it does not go far enough. 'This is fake E-Verify. People expected mandatory E-Verify; this is the opposite --- optional E-Verify,' Rep. Anthony Sabatini, R-Howey-in-the-Hills, told the News Service in March." [Tampa Bay Times, 6/30/20]

**October 2022: The DeSantis Administration Paid More Than \$8 Million To Archer Western-De Moya Joint Venture, A Construction Contractor That Had Hired Several Undocumented Workers, Including Two Men**

**Who Were Charged In Connection With The Death Of A Pinellas County Deputy.** The Miami Herald reported, “Gov. Ron DeSantis’ administration has paid more than \$8 million to a construction contractor since authorities found it had hired several undocumented workers—including two men who have been charged in connection with the death of a Pinellas County deputy. The state contractor, Archer Western-De Moya Joint Venture, has a standing contract with the Florida Department of Transportation to do work on the Gateway Expressway in the Tampa Bay area. Records show the payments, which are part of a multi-year half-billion dollar contract, have not stopped since the Pinellas County Sheriff’s Office announced the findings. [...] In a statement to the Herald/Times, the state agency defended the contractor. ‘The Florida Department of Transportation and its contractors follow strict hiring procedures including all federal and state laws. This is true here,’ the statement read. [...] ‘Compliant hiring procedures were followed including a federal E-Verify clearance check and the individual in question passed this federal clearance. The Department continues to support law enforcement efforts and investigations related to this case,’ the state agency told the Herald/Times.” [Miami Herald, 10/27/22]

- **Records Showed That Payments To Archer Western-De Moya Joint Venture Had Not Stopped Since The Pinellas County Sheriff’s Office Announced The Findings.** The Miami Herald reported, “Gov. Ron DeSantis’ administration has paid more than \$8 million to a construction contractor since authorities found it had hired several undocumented workers—including two men who have been charged in connection with the death of a Pinellas County deputy. The state contractor, Archer Western-De Moya Joint Venture, has a standing contract with the Florida Department of Transportation to do work on the Gateway Expressway in the Tampa Bay area. Records show the payments, which are part of a multi-year half-billion dollar contract, have not stopped since the Pinellas County Sheriff’s Office announced the findings. [...] In a statement to the Herald/Times, the state agency defended the contractor. ‘The Florida Department of Transportation and its contractors follow strict hiring procedures including all federal and state laws. This is true here,’ the statement read. [...] ‘Compliant hiring procedures were followed including a federal E-Verify clearance check and the individual in question passed this federal clearance. The Department continues to support law enforcement efforts and investigations related to this case,’ the state agency told the Herald/Times.” [Miami Herald, 10/27/22]
- **The Florida Department Of Transportation Defended The Contractor And Stated, “Compliant Hiring Procedures Were Followed Including A Federal E-Verify Clearance Check And The Individual In Question Passed This Federal Clearance.”** The Miami Herald reported, “Gov. Ron DeSantis’ administration has paid more than \$8 million to a construction contractor since authorities found it had hired several undocumented workers—including two men who have been charged in connection with the death of a Pinellas County deputy. The state contractor, Archer Western-De Moya Joint Venture, has a standing contract with the Florida Department of Transportation to do work on the Gateway Expressway in the Tampa Bay area. Records show the payments, which are part of a multi-year half-billion dollar contract, have not stopped since the Pinellas County Sheriff’s Office announced the findings. [...] In a statement to the Herald/Times, the state agency defended the contractor. ‘The Florida Department of Transportation and its contractors follow strict hiring procedures including all federal and state laws. This is true here,’ the statement read. [...] ‘Compliant hiring procedures were followed including a federal E-Verify clearance check and the individual in question passed this federal clearance. The Department continues to support law enforcement efforts and investigations related to this case,’ the state agency told the Herald/Times.” [Miami Herald, 10/27/22]

**October 2022: During A Gubernatorial Debate, DeSantis Brought Up The Incident Of A Pinellas County Deputy Who Was Killed By A “Twice-Deported Illegal Alien” But Failed To Mention That The State Of Florida Continued To Do Business With The Contractor That Employed The Suspect.** The Miami Herald reported, “‘We just had a sheriff’s deputy from Pinellas County killed by a twice-deported illegal alien who came across the border illegally six months ago. I didn’t hear any of the outrage about that,’ DeSantis said during the first and only gubernatorial debate when his Democratic opponent, Charlie Crist, criticized the governor’s migrant relocation plan. DeSantis did not mention the state continues to do business with the contractor that employed the suspect. The De Moya Group, which is listed as a partner in the contract, contributed \$32,500 to DeSantis’ political action committee, Friend of Ron DeSantis, during the 2022 election cycle, according to campaign finance records.” [Miami Herald, 10/27/22]

- **According To DeSantis’s Campaign Finance Records, The De Moya Group, Which Was Listed As A Partner In The Contract That Employed The Suspect Who Killed A Sheriff’s Deputy, Contributed \$32,500 To DeSantis’s Political Action Committee, Friend Of Ron DeSantis.** The Miami Herald reported, “‘We just had a sheriff’s deputy from Pinellas County killed by a twice-deported illegal alien who came across the border illegally six months ago. I didn’t hear any of the outrage about that,’ DeSantis said during the first and only gubernatorial debate when his Democratic opponent, Charlie Crist, criticized the governor’s migrant relocation plan. DeSantis did not mention the state continues to do business with the contractor that employed the suspect. The De Moya Group, which is listed as a partner in the contract, contributed \$32,500 to DeSantis’ political action committee, Friend of Ron DeSantis, during the 2022 election cycle, according to campaign finance records.” [Miami Herald, 10/27/22]

**February 2023: DeSantis Said That The E-Verify Law That He Pushed In 2020 “Hasn’t Been Effective Enough” And Stressed The Need To Have The Law Expanded To Include All Private Employers In Florida.** The Miami Herald reported, “Gov. Ron DeSantis on Thursday revived a push to adopt more stringent hiring protocols to prevent the employment of undocumented workers, acknowledging that a state law he championed during his first term in office has been ineffective. Florida law currently requires all government employers and their contractors to use a federal electronic system, known as E-Verify, to check the immigration status of new hires. DeSantis, however, says the mandate should be expanded to include all private employers in the state, saying the current law was a ‘compromise’ reached by the Legislature following pushback from Florida’s agriculture, tourism and construction industries. [...] At the press conference, DeSantis said the E-Verify law he championed in 2020 has allowed the state to hold some employers accountable, but said ‘it hasn’t been effective enough.’ [Miami Herald, 2/23/23]

### ***Executive Order 21-223***

**Miami Herald – September 2021: DeSantis Issued An Executive Order That “‘Encouraged’ State Law Enforcement Officers To Pull Over Drivers Who Are Transporting Migrants Into The State If There Is ‘Reasonable’ Suspicion Of A Crime.”** The Miami Herald reported, “Gov. Ron DeSantis on Tuesday ‘encouraged’ state law enforcement officers to pull over drivers who are transporting migrants into the state if there is ‘reasonable’ suspicion of a crime, as many Haitian migrants who were recently released at the U.S.-Mexico border are expected to settle in Florida. The new policy, issued as part of a broad executive order, also prohibits state executive agencies from assisting the federal government in transporting migrants from the southwestern border to Florida. Just two years ago, though, DeSantis made his top legislative priority a law that required state and local officials to fully cooperate with federal immigration agents. ‘We’ve got to take every effort we can to make sure that we’re protecting the people of Florida, and that’s what we’re doing here today,’ DeSantis said at a press conference in Fort Myers, where he also announced the state is suing President Joe Biden’s administration over its immigration practices.” [Miami Herald, 9/28/21]

- **The Executive Order Also Prohibited State Executive Agencies From Cooperating With The Federal Government To Transport Migrants From The U.S.-Mexico Border To Florida.** The Miami Herald reported, “Gov. Ron DeSantis on Tuesday ‘encouraged’ state law enforcement officers to pull over drivers who are transporting migrants into the state if there is ‘reasonable’ suspicion of a crime, as many Haitian migrants who were recently released at the U.S.-Mexico border are expected to settle in Florida. The new policy, issued as part of a broad executive order, also prohibits state executive agencies from assisting the federal government in transporting migrants from the southwestern border to Florida. Just two years ago, though, DeSantis made his top legislative priority a law that required state and local officials to fully cooperate with federal immigration agents. ‘We’ve got to take every effort we can to make sure that we’re protecting the people of Florida, and that’s what we’re doing here today,’ DeSantis said at a press conference in Fort Myers, where he also announced the state is suing President Joe Biden’s administration over its immigration practices.” [Miami Herald, 9/28/21]
- **DeSantis’s Executive Order Authorized The Florida Department Of Law Enforcement And Florida Highway Patrol “To Detain Any Aircraft, Bus, Or Other Vehicle Within The State Of Florida Reasonably Believed To Be Transporting Illegal Aliens To Florida From The Southwest Border.”** Tampa

Bay Times reported, “Florida filed suit against President Joe Biden’s administration Tuesday claiming his immigration policy is illegal, and Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis signed an order barring state agencies from assisting with the relocation of undocumented immigrants arriving in the state. DeSantis’ order authorized the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and the Florida Highway Patrol ‘to detain any aircraft, bus, or other vehicle within the State of Florida reasonably believed to be transporting illegal aliens to Florida from the Southwest Border’ - if allowed by federal and state law. The caveat that the law must be followed likely prevents them from seizing federal aircraft. He also ordered the agencies to gather information on the identities of any immigrants arriving illegally in Florida from the Mexico border and told state agencies not to spend money assisting those immigrants unless required by law.” [Tampa Bay Times, 9/29/21]

- **DeSantis Ordered Florida Agencies To Gather Information On The Identities Of Any Immigrants Arriving In Florida But Not To Spend Any Money Assisting Those Immigrants.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “Florida filed suit against President Joe Biden’s administration Tuesday claiming his immigration policy is illegal, and Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis signed an order barring state agencies from assisting with the relocation of undocumented immigrants arriving in the state. DeSantis’ order authorized the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and the Florida Highway Patrol ‘to detain any aircraft, bus, or other vehicle within the State of Florida reasonably believed to be transporting illegal aliens to Florida from the Southwest Border’ - if allowed by federal and state law. The caveat that the law must be followed likely prevents them from seizing federal aircraft. He also ordered the agencies to gather information on the identities of any immigrants arriving illegally in Florida from the Mexico border and told state agencies not to spend money assisting those immigrants unless required by law.” [Tampa Bay Times, 9/29/21]

**September 2021: DeSantis Signed An Executive Order Directing State Agencies To Issue A Monthly Report On The Number Of “Illegal Aliens” Who Had Been Criminally Charged And Account For Taxpayer Dollars Spent Caring For Immigrants Who Entered The Country Illegally.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “One of Gov. Ron DeSantis’ top health officials on Thursday wrote a letter to the head of the Florida Hospital Association to ask how much money state hospitals spent last year on caring for people living in the country illegally. The letter, written by Agency for Health Care Administration Secretary Simone Marstiller, is part of a broader effort by the DeSantis administration to account for the ways in which the state is paying to support immigrants who are in the country illegally. In September, DeSantis signed an executive order directing state agencies to, among other things, issue a monthly report on the number of ‘illegal aliens’ who have been criminally charged and account for taxpayer dollars spent caring for immigrants who entered the country illegally. ‘As illegal aliens continue to cross the southern border unchecked in record numbers, hardworking Floridians pay the price, footing the bill for their medical care,’ Marstiller wrote in her Thursday letter to Mary Mayhew, the CEO of the Florida Hospital Association. The letter, which was first reported by Florida Politics, gave the hospital association a deadline of May 23 to submit the data, which it said will eventually be posted on the agency’s website. Hospitals received a formal data request from the agency this week. The facilities have been asked to report ‘all costs and expenditures, including those that are written off as uncollected debt,’ related to the inpatient treatment of people living in the country illegally.” [Tampa Bay Times, 5/6/22]

## ***Family History***

**1917: An Immigration Law To Prohibit Illiterate Immigrants Like DeSantis’s Great-Great-Grandmother From Entering The U.S. Passed While She Was In Transit Across The Atlantic Ocean; The Law Took Effect Only Three Months After Her Arrival.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “A century ago, the door was almost closed on his great-great-grandmother from his mother’s side of the family. Luigia Colucci left Italy in early 1917 and arrived at Ellis Island on Feb. 21. While Colucci crossed the Atlantic Ocean, the U.S. Congress passed the Immigration Act of 1917. Among other restrictions on ‘undesirable’ immigrants, it barred illiterate people from entering the United States. Colucci couldn’t read or write, according to immigration documents. But she was spared; the law didn’t go into effect until May. She was allowed in. The details of Luigia Colucci’s journey were unearthed by Megan Smolenyak, a professional genealogist, and recently published on Medium. A former chief historian for Ancestry.com, Smolenyak has consulted for the U.S. Army to locate family members of more than 1,200 unaccounted for soldiers of foreign conflicts and has also worked on television shows, like the NBC series, *Who Do You Think You Are?*, where celebrities trace their heritage.” [Tampa Bay Times, 8/21/18]

## ***Family Separation***

**Tampa Bay Times: DeSantis “Vowed To Stand With President Donald Trump On His Border Policies, Even When The Separation Of Migrant Families Came Under Bipartisan Criticism.”** Tampa Bay Times reported, “Immigration came up more than education, transportation, job creation and the environment - combined - during last month’s Republican gubernatorial debate. Both Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam and U.S. Rep. Ron DeSantis have vowed to stand with President Donald Trump on his border policies, even when the separation of migrant families came under bipartisan criticism. A plurality of Republicans list immigration as the No. 1 issue facing the country, according to a June Gallup poll, even though despite an uptick in recent months, apprehensions at the border are historically low compared to the previous two decades. Trump himself has pointed this out.” [Tampa Bay Times, 7/19/18]

## ***February 2023 Legislation***

**Religious Groups Said A Legislative Proposal To Increase Penalties For Businesses That Hire Undocumented Workers And Require Hospitals To Collect Data On Whether Patients Are Undocumented Would Attack Their “Religious Freedom” And Affect The Services They Offer To Migrants.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “In a stunning report that may spark [sic] new hostilities between the Biden Administration and Gov. Ron DeSantis, Florida’s statewide prosecutor Thursday explicitly accused federal immigration authorities of ‘human trafficking’ in their oversight of unaccompanied migrant children in the state. [...] The report decries the state’s inability to exercise influence over immigration policy, which is the sole province of the federal government, but suggests the state ‘can and should regulate those living among us who seek out the responsibility of raising a child not their own.’ [...] In addition to the grand jury’s recommendation, the legislative proposal seeks to increase penalties for businesses that hire undocumented workers, would require law enforcement agencies to collect DNA samples from migrants who are in detention facilities, and would require hospitals to collect data on whether patients are undocumented. The proposal is moving slowly in the Legislature, but it is expected to gain traction in the coming weeks, even as religious groups say the legislative proposal would be an attack on their ‘religious freedom’ as it would affect the services they offer to migrants.” [Tampa Bay Times, 3/30/23]

## ***FL Law Enforcement At The Border***

**June 2021: DeSantis Announced That Florida Law Enforcement Officers Would Travel To Texas And Arizona To Help With Border Control And Immigration Enforcement.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “Gov. Ron DeSantis said Wednesday that Florida law enforcement officers will go to Texas and Arizona to help with border control as Florida continues to challenge the Biden administration in federal court about immigration enforcement. DeSantis’ announcement during a news conference in Pensacola came after Texas Gov. Greg Abbott and Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey sent a letter last week to governors of the 48 other states requesting assistance in battling illegal immigration at the border with Mexico. Details on the number of Florida officers that will be deployed, where they will go and the costs to Florida taxpayers have not been determined, DeSantis said. In addition to the Florida Highway Patrol, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the DeSantis administration said commitments to send officers have come from the Brevard, Escambia, Hillsborough, Holmes, Lee, Okaloosa, Pasco, Santa Rosa and Walton county sheriff’s offices. ‘The Biden administration ended effective policies that have been implemented by President Donald Trump to curb illegal immigration across the Southern border,’ said DeSantis, who was flanked at the news conference by Attorney General Ashley Moody and law enforcement officers. ‘They have revoked policies designed to secure our border and keep Americans safe.’” [Tampa Bay Times, 6/16/21]

- **DeSantis Stated That Details On The Program, Including Its Cost To Florida Taxpayers, Had Not Been Determined.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “Gov. Ron DeSantis said Wednesday that Florida law enforcement officers will go to Texas and Arizona to help with border control as Florida continues to challenge the Biden administration in federal court about immigration enforcement. DeSantis’ announcement during a news conference in Pensacola came after Texas Gov. Greg Abbott and Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey sent a letter

last week to governors of the 48 other states requesting assistance in battling illegal immigration at the border with Mexico. Details on the number of Florida officers that will be deployed, where they will go and the costs to Florida taxpayers have not been determined, DeSantis said. In addition to the Florida Highway Patrol, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the DeSantis administration said commitments to send officers have come from the Brevard, Escambia, Hillsborough, Holmes, Lee, Okaloosa, Pasco, Santa Rosa and Walton county sheriff's offices. 'The Biden administration ended effective policies that have been implemented by President Donald Trump to curb illegal immigration across the Southern border,' said DeSantis, who was flanked at the news conference by Attorney General Ashley Moody and law enforcement officers. 'They have revoked policies designed to secure our border and keep Americans safe.'" [Tampa Bay Times, 6/16/21]

- **DeSantis Stated That Florida Would Send Officers From The Florida Highway Patrol, The Florida Department Of Law Enforcement, The Florida Fish And Wildlife Conservation Commission And Certain Sheriff's Offices.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, "Gov. Ron DeSantis said Wednesday that Florida law enforcement officers will go to Texas and Arizona to help with border control as Florida continues to challenge the Biden administration in federal court about immigration enforcement. DeSantis' announcement during a news conference in Pensacola came after Texas Gov. Greg Abbott and Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey sent a letter last week to governors of the 48 other states requesting assistance in battling illegal immigration at the border with Mexico. Details on the number of Florida officers that will be deployed, where they will go and the costs to Florida taxpayers have not been determined, DeSantis said. In addition to the Florida Highway Patrol, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the DeSantis administration said commitments to send officers have come from the Brevard, Escambia, Hillsborough, Holmes, Lee, Okaloosa, Pasco, Santa Rosa and Walton county sheriff's offices. 'The Biden administration ended effective policies that have been implemented by President Donald Trump to curb illegal immigration across the Southern border,' said DeSantis, who was flanked at the news conference by Attorney General Ashley Moody and law enforcement officers. 'They have revoked policies designed to secure our border and keep Americans safe.'" [Tampa Bay Times, 6/16/21]
- **DeSantis: "The Biden Administration Ended Effective Policies That Have Been Implemented By President Donald Trump To Curb Illegal Immigration Across The Southern Border. They Have Revoked Policies Designed To Secure Our Border And Keep Americans Safe."** Tampa Bay Times reported, "Gov. Ron DeSantis said Wednesday that Florida law enforcement officers will go to Texas and Arizona to help with border control as Florida continues to challenge the Biden administration in federal court about immigration enforcement. DeSantis' announcement during a news conference in Pensacola came after Texas Gov. Greg Abbott and Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey sent a letter last week to governors of the 48 other states requesting assistance in battling illegal immigration at the border with Mexico. Details on the number of Florida officers that will be deployed, where they will go and the costs to Florida taxpayers have not been determined, DeSantis said. In addition to the Florida Highway Patrol, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the DeSantis administration said commitments to send officers have come from the Brevard, Escambia, Hillsborough, Holmes, Lee, Okaloosa, Pasco, Santa Rosa and Walton county sheriff's offices. 'The Biden administration ended effective policies that have been implemented by President Donald Trump to curb illegal immigration across the Southern border,' said DeSantis, who was flanked at the news conference by Attorney General Ashley Moody and law enforcement officers. 'They have revoked policies designed to secure our border and keep Americans safe.'" [Tampa Bay Times, 6/16/21]

**June 2021: According To A Column In The Miami Herald, DeSantis Sent Florida Police Officers To Defend The Border In Texas And Arizona With "No Real Plan."** According to Miami Herald columnist Fabiola Santiago, "If Gov. Ron DeSantis really cared about the meth-addiction problem in Florida, he would not be looking for solutions among immigrants at the Texas or Arizona borders, where he has no jurisdiction to enforce immigration law or run drug stings. But demagogue DeSantis made another round of attention-grabbing headlines when he pledged to send local and state security forces to Texas and Arizona to help police the southern border. Never mind that everyone knows that immigration and border security are federal government issues. DeSantis says he'll send Florida police officers to help Texas, Arizona enforce border The deployment would take place at the

expense of Florida taxpayers and, so far, DeSantis appears to have no real plan for his deputies other than, maybe, having them watch a series of revved-up Fox News reports from the U.S.-Mexico border?" [Miami Herald, Column, 6/18/21]

**June 2021: DeSantis Stated That Funding For Florida Law Enforcement's Mission In Texas "Was Still A Point Of Discussion."** Tampa Bay Times reported, "Gov. Ron DeSantis on Friday announced that Florida is sending 50 state law enforcement officers to Texas to help enforce the U.S.-Mexico border, though it remains unclear exactly what their mission will be and who will be paying for the effort. 'We are unable to share mission specifics at this time to protect the security of the missions they are working,' said Katie Strickland, a spokeswoman for the governor. DeSantis said funding the mission has also not been determined. 'That is still a point of discussion,' DeSantis said at a press conference in Pensacola. 'Typically, if someone would help us, you know, we would pick up some of their funding and so that is how we would hope that it goes. But we do not anticipate getting any federal funds.'" [Tampa Bay Times, 6/25/21]

- **DeSantis Announced That 50 Officers From FDLE, The Florida Fish And Wildlife Conservation Commission And The Florida Highway Patrol Would Go To Texas To Assist At The Border, But The Sheriff's Deputies Who Volunteered Would Remain In Florida.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, "By Friday, the plans became more clear and they also appeared to have changed. Florida is not sending any aid to Arizona yet because the state has not requested it, a need from the state, Strickland said. Texas, however, will be receiving 50 state personnel from FDLE, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the Florida Highway Patrol. Deputies with the nine sheriff's offices that volunteered to go on the mission will not be going to Texas. They will mostly be used to potentially 'back fill' the positions left vacant by the state law enforcement officers who are deployed to the border, DeSantis said, DeSantis added that locals were no longer needed in Texas because 50 state personnel were enough for Florida to 'meet the need' in Texas." [Tampa Bay Times, 6/25/21]
- **DeSantis Announced That Florida Law Enforcement Would Not Yet Go To Arizona, As The State Had Not Requested Aid.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, "By Friday, the plans became more clear and they also appeared to have changed. Florida is not sending any aid to Arizona yet because the state has not requested it, a need from the state, Strickland said. Texas, however, will be receiving 50 state personnel from FDLE, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the Florida Highway Patrol. Deputies with the nine sheriff's offices that volunteered to go on the mission will not be going to Texas. They will mostly be used to potentially 'back fill' the positions left vacant by the state law enforcement officers who are deployed to the border, DeSantis said, DeSantis added that locals were no longer needed in Texas because 50 state personnel were enough for Florida to 'meet the need' in Texas." [Tampa Bay Times, 6/25/21]

**June 2021: After Florida Law Enforcement Officers Were Deployed To Texas, DeSantis Still Would Not Say Where They Would Be Going And What They Would Be Doing.** The San Francisco Chronicle reported, "DeSantis arrived in the state's Panhandle on Friday to see off some of the departing law enforcement personnel, who will be deployed for 16-day shifts. 'They will get there and they will be ready to go on Monday,' he said, adding that he, too, would soon be headed to the border. 'We look forward to being able to see them in action.' The personnel will be at the disposal of Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey and Texas Gov. Greg Abbott, who issued a call to their fellow governors earlier this month for help - charging that the Biden administration 'has proven unwilling or unable' to secure the U.S.-Mexico border. GOP governors in Idaho, Iowa and Nebraska also have vowed to send personnel. DeSantis did not say where exactly the Florida personnel would be deployed and what duties they would be performing." [San Francisco Chronicle, 6/27/21]

**July 2021: DeSantis Held A Press Conference While Visiting Florida Law Enforcement At The Texas-Mexico Border, Stating That "More Than 70%" Of The Migrants Florida Law Enforcement Had Intercepted Identified Florida As Their Ultimate Destination.** The Miami Herald reported, "Within seconds of touching American ground, the three Cubans were apprehended by a group of Texas law enforcement officers who began the process of turning them over to U.S. Customs and Border Patrol. Whether they will be deported remains unknown. Just four hours earlier, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, Attorney General Ashley Moody and Senate President Wilton Simpson, R-Trilby, had visited that very same spot as they were briefed on what some 50 Florida

law enforcement officials had been doing during a 23-day stint to help Texas officers secure the U.S.-Mexico border. After that visit, DeSantis and an entourage of state officials held a press conference with Texas Gov. Greg Abbott, a fellow Republican, to talk about the states' efforts to enforce the U.S. border. [...] 'Of the individuals our law enforcement have apprehended at the border, more than 70% said they ultimately wanted to go to Florida,' DeSantis said during a press conference with Abbott at an airport hangar in Del Rio, Texas, a border city more than 1,000 miles away from Florida's capital city of Tallahassee. If the undocumented immigrants ultimately make it to Florida, DeSantis said it will be a 'stress on public resources, schools, medical, all of these things' and 'greatly impact communities throughout Florida, and I think throughout the country.'" [Miami Herald, 7/17/21]

- **DeSantis Stated That If The Undocumented Immigrants Apprehended At The Border Made It To Florida, That Would Cause "Stress On Public Resources, Schools, Medical, All Of These Things" And "Greatly Impact Communities Throughout Florida, And I Think Throughout The Country."** The Miami Herald reported, "'Of the individuals our law enforcement have apprehended at the border, more than 70% said they ultimately wanted to go to Florida,' DeSantis said during a press conference with Abbott at an airport hangar in Del Rio, Texas, a border city more than 1,000 miles away from Florida's capital city of Tallahassee. If the undocumented immigrants ultimately make it to Florida, DeSantis said it will be a 'stress on public resources, schools, medical, all of these things' and 'greatly impact communities throughout Florida, and I think throughout the country.'" [Miami Herald, 7/17/21]

**July 2021: Texas Was Unwilling To Reimburse Florida For Costs Associated With Sending Law Enforcement To The Texas-Mexico Border, But DeSantis Maintained That The Operation Was Still A Responsible Use Of Florida Funds And "Within An Existing Budget."** Tampa Bay Times reported, "A spokesman for the Texas Department of Public Safety told the Times/Herald that states are sending troops 'at their own expense' and that there will be no reimbursement. When asked Saturday, Abbott did not commit to reimbursing Florida for travel expenses associated with the mission. While reimbursements appear unlikely, DeSantis and state officials say the mission is still a worthwhile use of state funds. 'The bottom line is, Texas has helped us in the past. They asked for Florida's help, and the governor said we would help,' Swearingen said. 'So finding the resources, we will figure all that stuff out. We will figure out how we pay for this. But you can't come here [Texas] and not realize what is going on here.' DeSantis added that the mission is within the state's means. 'Obviously, we are doing this within an existing budget. We're making sure that all our priorities are met. We have a lot of stuff going on in the state,' DeSantis said. He then added: 'Hopefully, we'll get some other states to step up.'" [Tampa Bay Times, 7/18/21]

**November 2021: Florida Spent \$570,988 On DeSantis's Decision To Send Law Enforcement Officers To The Texas-Mexico Border.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, "Florida spent more than half a million dollars to send law enforcement officers to the U.S.-Mexico border in Texas over the summer, a mission that was spearheaded by Gov. Ron DeSantis, a frequent critic of President Joe Biden's immigration policies. The cost of the mission - in total \$570,988 - covered the salaries of dozens of state personnel, their travel costs, as well as supplies and equipment used during a weeks-long stint at the border, according to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. DeSantis' office initially said the state would seek reimbursements for the costs. But it appears Florida taxpayers will end up footing the bill for the mission, which Democrats have called a political stunt aimed at bolstering the governor's national stature." [Tampa Bay Times, 11/10/21]

- **The Project, Called "Operation Lone Star," Involved 74 Florida Law Enforcement Officers Who Assisted Texas Law Enforcement, Patrolling The Border With Airboats, Off-Road Vehicles, And Aircrafts.** The Miami Herald reported, "For about two months, dozens of state law enforcement officers were stationed in Del Rio, Texas, as part of what became known as 'Operation Lone Star.' They assisted Texas law enforcement, not U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents, and patrolled the area with airboats, off-road vehicles and aircraft. The mission started June 26 and ended August 14. In total, 74 state law enforcement officers participated in the effort." [Miami Herald, 11/10/21]

**November 2021: Additional Records Showed That The Actual Cost Of The Operation In Texas Was At Least \$1.6 Million And Was Expected To Keep Growing.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, "Gov. Ron DeSantis over the summer sent dozens of Florida law enforcement officers and equipment to the southern border in Texas,



and racked up a taxpayer-funded bill that so far amounts to at least \$1.6 million but is expected to keep growing. The seven-week trip, led by three state agencies, was cast by the Republican governor as a needed measure to beef up security at the border amid the failures of President Joe Biden's administration, while critics saw the effort as a state-funded political errand used to further DeSantis' national footprint ahead of a potential 2024 White House bid. The Miami Herald reported earlier in November that the trip had cost taxpayers \$570,988, but additional records released to the First Amendment Foundation and obtained by the Miami Herald show the actual cost was at least \$1.6 million, a number that is still expected to grow. The governor's office did not correct the record when the Herald first asked about and later reported the \$570,988 figure on Nov. 10, despite the actual cost of the mission being nearly triple that amount." [Tampa Bay Times, 11/30/21]

- **The Results Of This Mission Included “Contacts” With 9,171 Immigrants, 311 Criminal Arrests, 79 Human Smuggling Cases, 16 Stolen Vehicles, 43 Narcotics Cases And 4 Drug Seizures.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “According to Pushaw, state law enforcement officers had ‘contacts’ with 9,171 undocumented migrants. That included: 311 criminal arrests, 79 human smuggling cases, 16 stolen vehicle cases, 43 narcotics cases, 4 drug seizures.” [Tampa Bay Times, 11/30/21]

## ***Government Assistance***

**2014: DeSantis Voted Against A Sprawling Farm Bill That Briefly Mentioned Banning Undocumented Immigrants From Accessing Food Stamps, For Unrelated Reasons, When Undocumented Immigrants Were Already Generally Ineligible For Food Stamps.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “The section on immigration wasn't the motivation behind DeSantis' vote against the farm bill. He voted against the bill because of the high costs. He believed that the bill failed to overhaul a food stamp program that was growing too large, said campaign spokesman Brad Herold. [...] Herold said DeSantis does not believe in granting any form of benefits to immigrants in the country illegally. He has voted in favor of amendments related to work requirements for food stamps. But the 2014 farm bill didn't alter the pre-existing policy that illegal benefits are not eligible for SNAP benefits. [...] The article fails to point out that even before the farm bill passed, undocumented immigrants were already generally blocked from getting food stamps. The farm bill that DeSantis voted against was a sweeping piece of legislation that mentions immigrants only briefly in the context of requiring states to verify their status.” [Tampa Bay Times, 3/29/18]

- **An Article On Facebook Falsely Suggested That DeSantis's Vote On The Farm Bill Constituted Support For Food Stamps For Undocumented Immigrants.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “Republican U.S. Rep. Ron DeSantis, who has received support from President Donald Trump in his bid for Florida governor, favors giving a benefit to immigrants in the country illegally, says an article on Facebook. ‘DeSantis voted in favor of food stamps for illegal immigrants,’ stated a March 23 headline on Uncle Sam's Misguided Children, a website that says it is a ‘community founded by United States Marine Veterans to bring awareness of the lame stream media.’ The article drew from the Central Florida Post, a right-leaning website. [...] We found that the Uncle Sam article omitted key context that immigrants in the country illegally were already banned from getting food stamps long before the 2014 farm bill, a sweeping package that only briefly mentions verifying immigration status. The article also ignored an explanation by DeSantis about why he voted against the farm bill.” [Tampa Bay Times, 3/29/18]

## ***Healthcare***

**May 2022: One Of DeSantis's Top Health Officials, Agency For Health Care Administration Secretary Simone Marstiller, Wrote A Letter To The Head Of The Florida Hospital Association Inquiring How Much Money State Hospitals Had Spent In 2021 On Caring For People Living In The Country Illegally.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “TALLAHASSEE - One of Gov. Ron DeSantis' top health officials on Thursday wrote a letter to the head of the Florida Hospital Association to ask how much money state hospitals spent last year on caring for people living in the country illegally. The letter, written by Agency for Health Care Administration Secretary Simone Marstiller, is part of a broader effort by the DeSantis administration to account for the ways in which the state is paying to support immigrants who are in the country illegally. In September, DeSantis signed an executive order directing state agencies to, among other things, issue a monthly report on the number of ‘illegal aliens’ who

have been criminally charged and account for taxpayer dollars spent caring for immigrants who entered the country illegally. ‘As illegal aliens continue to cross the southern border unchecked in record numbers, hardworking Floridians pay the price, footing the bill for their medical care,’ Marstiller wrote in her Thursday letter to Mary Mayhew, the CEO of the Florida Hospital Association. The letter, which was first reported by Florida Politics, gave the hospital association a deadline of May 23 to submit the data, which it said will eventually be posted on the agency’s website. Hospitals received a formal data request from the agency this week.” [Tampa Bay Times, 5/6/22]

- **Marstiller’s Letter Gave The Florida Hospital Association A Deadline Of May 23 To Submit The Data.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “TALLAHASSEE - One of Gov. Ron DeSantis’ top health officials on Thursday wrote a letter to the head of the Florida Hospital Association to ask how much money state hospitals spent last year on caring for people living in the country illegally. The letter, written by Agency for Health Care Administration Secretary Simone Marstiller, is part of a broader effort by the DeSantis administration to account for the ways in which the state is paying to support immigrants who are in the country illegally. In September, DeSantis signed an executive order directing state agencies to, among other things, issue a monthly report on the number of ‘illegal aliens’ who have been criminally charged and account for taxpayer dollars spent caring for immigrants who entered the country illegally. ‘As illegal aliens continue to cross the southern border unchecked in record numbers, hardworking Floridians pay the price, footing the bill for their medical care,’ Marstiller wrote in her Thursday letter to Mary Mayhew, the CEO of the Florida Hospital Association. The letter, which was first reported by Florida Politics, gave the hospital association a deadline of May 23 to submit the data, which it said will eventually be posted on the agency’s website. Hospitals received a formal data request from the agency this week.” [Tampa Bay Times, 5/6/22]
- **The Florida Hospitals Association Was Asked To Report “All Costs And Expenditures, Including Those That Are Written Off As Uncollected Debt” Related To The Inpatient Treatment Of People Living In The Country Illegally.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “TALLAHASSEE - One of Gov. Ron DeSantis’ top health officials on Thursday wrote a letter to the head of the Florida Hospital Association to ask how much money state hospitals spent last year on caring for people living in the country illegally. The letter, written by Agency for Health Care Administration Secretary Simone Marstiller, is part of a broader effort by the DeSantis administration to account for the ways in which the state is paying to support immigrants who are in the country illegally. In September, DeSantis signed an executive order directing state agencies to, among other things, issue a monthly report on the number of ‘illegal aliens’ who have been criminally charged and account for taxpayer dollars spent caring for immigrants who entered the country illegally. [...] The facilities have been asked to report ‘all costs and expenditures, including those that are written off as uncollected debt,’ related to the inpatient treatment of people living in the country illegally. In a statement, Mayhew said her organization had received the letter and would communicate with its member organizations. Mayhew served as DeSantis’ Agency for Health Care Administration secretary before Marstiller.” [Tampa Bay Times, 5/6/22]
- **Rep. Duran, D-Miami: “Our Hospitals Have Been Serving Undocumented Individuals For Years. [...] This Isn’t Some New Trend. And It Feels Like [DeSantis] Is Going To Try To Weaponize The Data To Show That Undocumented [Immigrants] Are Pouring Into Our Health Care System.”** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “TALLAHASSEE - One of Gov. Ron DeSantis’ top health officials on Thursday wrote a letter to the head of the Florida Hospital Association to ask how much money state hospitals spent last year on caring for people living in the country illegally. [...] Mayhew served as DeSantis’ Agency for Health Care Administration secretary before Marstiller. State Rep. Nick Duran, D-Miami, who served on the board of trustees of Jackson Health System until last year, said hospitals would likely be able to comply with the request. But he said the data would not be helpful without knowing what the health care figures were in previous years. ‘This is really just red-meat politics. Our hospitals have been serving undocumented individuals for years,’ Duran wrote in a text message. ‘This isn’t some new trend. And it feels like (DeSantis) is going to try to weaponize the data to show that undocumented (immigrants) are pouring into our health care system.’” [Tampa Bay Times, 5/6/22]

## ***Human Trafficking***

**June 2022: DeSantis Asked The Florida Supreme Court To Impanel A Statewide Grand Jury To Investigate Whether Families, Local Governments And International Criminal Organizations Were Conspiring To Illegally Bring Migrants To Florida.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “Gov. Ron DeSantis on Friday asked the Florida Supreme Court to impanel a statewide grand jury to investigate whether families, local governments and international criminal organizations are conspiring to illegally bring migrants to Florida. ‘The purpose of the grand jury will be to investigate individuals and organizations that are actively working with foreign nationals, drug cartels and coyotes to illegally smuggle minors, some as young as 2 years old, across the border and into Florida,’ DeSantis said at a news conference in Pensacola. It’s a rare use of a statewide grand jury, which has only been impaneled 20 times in more than 40 years. [...] At the news conference on Friday, DeSantis also said the state has quietly assembled a police force with state and local law enforcement officers with the goal of targeting drug smugglers and migrants who are carrying guns illegally. The governor then signed into law a measure that aims to disrupt the federal resettlement of migrants, including unaccompanied minors, in Florida. The move to assemble a grand jury, however, could have statewide implications. DeSantis said he wants the grand jury - which could issue subpoenas and indictments - to have jurisdiction over the entire state. He wants the presiding judge to be in the 10<sup>th</sup> Circuit, which includes Hardee, Highlands and Polk counties, because of its ‘central’ location” [Tampa Bay Times, 6/17/22]

- **DeSantis: “The Purpose Of The Grand Jury Will Be To Investigate Individuals And Organizations That Are Actively Working With Foreign Nationals, Drug Cartels And Coyotes To Illegally Smuggle Minors, Some As Young As 2 Years Old, Across The Border And Into Florida.”** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “Gov. Ron DeSantis on Friday asked the Florida Supreme Court to impanel a statewide grand jury to investigate whether families, local governments and international criminal organizations are conspiring to illegally bring migrants to Florida. ‘The purpose of the grand jury will be to investigate individuals and organizations that are actively working with foreign nationals, drug cartels and coyotes to illegally smuggle minors, some as young as 2 years old, across the border and into Florida,’ DeSantis said at a news conference in Pensacola. It’s a rare use of a statewide grand jury, which has only been impaneled 20 times in more than 40 years. [...] At the news conference on Friday, DeSantis also said the state has quietly assembled a police force with state and local law enforcement officers with the goal of targeting drug smugglers and migrants who are carrying guns illegally. The governor then signed into law a measure that aims to disrupt the federal resettlement of migrants, including unaccompanied minors, in Florida. The move to assemble a grand jury, however, could have statewide implications. DeSantis said he wants the grand jury - which could issue subpoenas and indictments - to have jurisdiction over the entire state. He wants the presiding judge to be in the 10<sup>th</sup> Circuit, which includes Hardee, Highlands and Polk counties, because of its ‘central’ location” [Tampa Bay Times, 6/17/22]
- **DeSantis Said He Wanted The Grand Jury, Which Could Issue Subpoenas And Indictments, To Have Jurisdiction Over The Entire State.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “Gov. Ron DeSantis on Friday asked the Florida Supreme Court to impanel a statewide grand jury to investigate whether families, local governments and international criminal organizations are conspiring to illegally bring migrants to Florida. ‘The purpose of the grand jury will be to investigate individuals and organizations that are actively working with foreign nationals, drug cartels and coyotes to illegally smuggle minors, some as young as 2 years old, across the border and into Florida,’ DeSantis said at a news conference in Pensacola. It’s a rare use of a statewide grand jury, which has only been impaneled 20 times in more than 40 years. [...] At the news conference on Friday, DeSantis also said the state has quietly assembled a police force with state and local law enforcement officers with the goal of targeting drug smugglers and migrants who are carrying guns illegally. The governor then signed into law a measure that aims to disrupt the federal resettlement of migrants, including unaccompanied minors, in Florida. The move to assemble a grand jury, however, could have statewide implications. DeSantis said he wants the grand jury - which could issue subpoenas and indictments - to have jurisdiction over the entire state. He wants the presiding judge to be in the 10<sup>th</sup> Circuit, which includes Hardee, Highlands and Polk counties, because of its ‘central’ location” [Tampa Bay Times, 6/17/22]
- **DeSantis Said He Wanted The Grand Jury To Look At Whether “Parents, Guardians, Or Other Family Members Of Unaccompanied Alien Children” Had Conspired With Transnational Criminal Organizations Or Other Groups To Smuggle, Traffic Or Endanger Migrant Children.** The Tampa Bay

Times reported, “DeSantis is making the case that the state has a ‘public interest’ to have a grand jury examine whether the state needs to take further action on immigration. The request emphasizes the need to examine how migrant children are coming into Florida and possibly being endangered by ‘illicit actors.’ DeSantis also wants the grand jury to look at whether ‘parents, guardians, or other family members of unaccompanied alien children’ have conspired with transnational criminal organizations or other groups to smuggle, traffic or endanger migrant children. ‘Because the foregoing activities occur or have effects across the state, a statewide grand jury is an appropriate vehicle to examine these matters, to identify any deficiencies in current laws and enforcement methods, and to recommend new or revised laws and enforcement methods,’ according to the DeSantis administration petition. The grand jury, DeSantis said, would examine whether local governments are violating the state’s immigration laws, including a ban on so-called sanctuary cities, which is currently the subject of legal challenges. In its petition, the administration singled out Miami-Dade County as a possible target. The administration claims Miami-Dade County has refused to honor federal requests to take custody of migrants who are in the country illegally in local detention facilities, though it does not cite specific sources other than ‘reports from federal law enforcement.’” [Tampa Bay Times, 6/17/22]

- **DeSantis Said The Grand Jury Would Examine Whether Local Governments Were Violating The State’s Immigration Laws, Including The Ban On “Sanctuary Cities.”** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “DeSantis is making the case that the state has a ‘public interest’ to have a grand jury examine whether the state needs to take further action on immigration. The request emphasizes the need to examine how migrant children are coming into Florida and possibly being endangered by ‘illicit actors.’ DeSantis also wants the grand jury to look at whether ‘parents, guardians, or other family members of unaccompanied alien children’ have conspired with transnational criminal organizations or other groups to smuggle, traffic or endanger migrant children. ‘Because the foregoing activities occur or have effects across the state, a statewide grand jury is an appropriate vehicle to examine these matters, to identify any deficiencies in current laws and enforcement methods, and to recommend new or revised laws and enforcement methods,’ according to the DeSantis administration petition. The grand jury, DeSantis said, would examine whether local governments are violating the state’s immigration laws, including a ban on so-called sanctuary cities, which is currently the subject of legal challenges. In its petition, the administration singled out Miami-Dade County as a possible target. The administration claims Miami-Dade County has refused to honor federal requests to take custody of migrants who are in the country illegally in local detention facilities, though it does not cite specific sources other than ‘reports from federal law enforcement.’” [Tampa Bay Times, 6/17/22]
- **DeSantis’s Grand Jury Petition Claimed That Miami-Dade County Refused To Honor Federal Requests To Take Custody Of Migrants Who Were In The Country Illegally In Local Detention Facilities, Though It Did Not Cite Specific Sources Other Than “Reports From Federal Law Enforcement.”** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “DeSantis is making the case that the state has a ‘public interest’ to have a grand jury examine whether the state needs to take further action on immigration. The request emphasizes the need to examine how migrant children are coming into Florida and possibly being endangered by ‘illicit actors.’ DeSantis also wants the grand jury to look at whether ‘parents, guardians, or other family members of unaccompanied alien children’ have conspired with transnational criminal organizations or other groups to smuggle, traffic or endanger migrant children. ‘Because the foregoing activities occur or have effects across the state, a statewide grand jury is an appropriate vehicle to examine these matters, to identify any deficiencies in current laws and enforcement methods, and to recommend new or revised laws and enforcement methods,’ according to the DeSantis administration petition. The grand jury, DeSantis said, would examine whether local governments are violating the state’s immigration laws, including a ban on so-called sanctuary cities, which is currently the subject of legal challenges. In its petition, the administration singled out Miami-Dade County as a possible target. The administration claims Miami-Dade County has refused to honor federal requests to take custody of migrants who are in the country illegally in local detention facilities, though it does not cite specific sources other than ‘reports from federal law enforcement.’” [Tampa Bay Times, 6/17/22]

**March 2023: Florida’s Statewide Prosecutor Accused Federal Immigration Authorities Of “Human Trafficking” In Their Oversight Of Unaccompanied Migrant Children In The State, Releasing A Grand Jury Report That Suggested That The Policy By DHS Amounted To Criminal Child Neglect.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “In a stunning report that may spark [sic] new hostilities between the Biden Administration and

Gov. Ron DeSantis, Florida's statewide prosecutor Thursday explicitly accused federal immigration authorities of 'human trafficking' in their oversight of unaccompanied migrant children in the state. The Statewide Prosecutors' Office released an acerbic, 46-page grand jury report that denounces the federal Department of Homeland Security's Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), for leaving vulnerable migrant children with unvetted caregivers, or 'sponsors' - and then abdicating all oversight of their welfare. The report suggests the policy amounts to criminal child neglect. The Statewide Grand Jury, which is an arm of Attorney General Ashley Moody's office, also accused the federal government of covering up its alleged misdeeds. [New York Times, 3/30/23]

- **The Statewide Grand Jury, An Arm Of Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody's Office, Accused The Federal Government Of Covering Up Its Alleged "Misdeeds" Of Leaving Migrant Children With Unvetted Caregivers And "Abdicating All Oversight Of Their Welfare."** The Tampa Bay Times reported, "In a stunning report that may spark [sic] new hostilities between the Biden Administration and Gov. Ron DeSantis, Florida's statewide prosecutor Thursday explicitly accused federal immigration authorities of 'human trafficking' in their oversight of unaccompanied migrant children in the state. The Statewide Prosecutors' Office released an acerbic, 46-page grand jury report that denounces the federal Department of Homeland Security's Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), for leaving vulnerable migrant children with unvetted caregivers, or 'sponsors' - and then abdicating all oversight of their welfare. The report suggests the policy amounts to criminal child neglect. The Statewide Grand Jury, which is an arm of Attorney General Ashley Moody's office, also accused the federal government of covering up its alleged misdeeds. [New York Times, 3/30/23]
- **The Grand Jury Report Suggested That The State Of Florida "Can And Should Regulate Those Living Among Us Who Seek Out The Responsibility Of Raising A Child Not Their Own."** The Tampa Bay Times reported, "In a stunning report that may spark [sic] new hostilities between the Biden Administration and Gov. Ron DeSantis, Florida's statewide prosecutor Thursday explicitly accused federal immigration authorities of 'human trafficking' in their oversight of unaccompanied migrant children in the state. [...] The report decries the state's inability to exercise influence over immigration policy, which is the sole province of the federal government, but suggests the state 'can and should regulate those living among us who seek out the responsibility of raising a child not their own.' [...] In addition to the grand jury's recommendation, the legislative proposal seeks to increase penalties for businesses that hire undocumented workers, would require law enforcement agencies to collect DNA samples from migrants who are in detention facilities, and would require hospitals to collect data on whether patients are undocumented. The proposal is moving slowly in the Legislature, but it is expected to gain traction in the coming weeks, even as religious groups say the legislative proposal would be an attack on their 'religious freedom' as it would affect the services they offer to migrants." [Tampa Bay Times, 3/30/23]

## ***Hurricane Dorian***

**September 2019: After The Devastation Of Hurricane Dorian, DeSantis Refused To Join Senators Rubio And Scott In Requesting That President Trump Allow Bahamian People Displaced By The Storm To Find Temporary Refuge In Florida While Their Homes Were Rebuilt.** The Miami Herald reported, "In the aftermath of Dorian's devastation, DeSantis joined with U.S. Sens. Scott and Rubio in an aerial tour of the affected islands. But the conservative Republican governor who was first elected last year has refrained from addressing the needs of the Bahamians. He instead has kept his focus on Floridians and Florida-based companies like the cruise industry 'who have relationships with the Bahamas.' 'A lot of those islands that got really leveled, you probably have Floridian property owners in some of those places,' he said last week. When DeSantis was asked Monday whether he will ask President Donald Trump to support requests by Republicans Rubio and Scott to waive or suspend visa requirements to allow Bahamians to temporarily live with relatives in Florida and other states, he said he would not. 'I'm not going to weigh in on that,' DeSantis said. 'They got to figure out how they're going to do the immigration stuff,' adding that he agrees with the president and the Bahamian government that they don't 'want to facilitate a big migration.'" [Miami Herald, 9/9/19]

- **DeSantis Stated That He Agreed With Trump And The Bahamian Government That They Didn't "Want To Facilitate A Big Migration."** The Miami Herald reported, "In the aftermath of Dorian's devastation,

DeSantis joined with U.S. Sens. Scott and Rubio in an aerial tour of the affected islands. But the conservative Republican governor who was first elected last year has refrained from addressing the needs of the Bahamians. He instead has kept his focus on Floridians and Florida-based companies like the cruise industry ‘who have relationships with the Bahamas.’ ‘A lot of those islands that got really leveled, you probably have Floridian property owners in some of those places,’ he said last week. When DeSantis was asked Monday whether he will ask President Donald Trump to support requests by Republicans Rubio and Scott to waive or suspend visa requirements to allow Bahamians to temporarily live with relatives in Florida and other states, he said he would not. ‘I’m not going to weigh in on that,’ DeSantis said. ‘They got to figure out how they’re going to do the immigration stuff,’ adding that he agrees with the president and the Bahamian government that they don’t ‘want to facilitate a big migration.’” [Miami Herald, 9/9/19]

- **Regarding Whether Bahamian People Should Be Allowed To Find Temporary Refuge In Florida, DeSantis Stated, “When You’re Foreign Nationals, That Has To Be Done Consistent With Whatever The Federal Policy Is... Those Are Not My Decisions To Make.”** According to Miami Herald columnist Fabiola Santiago, “Will some Bahamians get to seek refuge in the U.S. in the aftermath of Hurricane Dorian? And there’s no better suited elected official to press the president on this issue than his long-time, unwavering ally Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis. The governor should be encouraging an open-arms policy—not deflecting the issue of Bahamian travel to Florida, as he did during Thursday’s briefing at the state Emergency Operations Center in Tallahassee. ‘When you’re foreign nationals, that has to be done consistent with whatever the federal policy is and we’ll see how that shakes out,’ DeSantis said. ‘Those are not my decisions to make.’ [...] Florida state Rep. Shevrin Jones, a Bahamian American with family in the Bahamas who represents West Park—the Broward area Bahamians first settled—has asked the Trump administration to waive visa requirements for those affected by Hurricane Dorian. And Florida’s U.S. senators, Marco Rubio and Rick Scott, have sent President Donald Trump a letter asking the administration to do so for Bahamian citizens displaced by Hurricane Dorian with close relatives in the United States. [...] Governor DeSantis should put aside his politics and join Jones, Rubio, and Scott in their request to the president.” [Miami Herald, Column, 9/5/19]

## **ICE**

**February 2019: DeSantis Praised The Hernando County Sheriff’s Office For “Efforts To Work More Closely” With ICE After Two Deputies Were Certified To Act As Immigration Agents And Check The Immigration Status Of Individuals Booked Into County Jail.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “Speaking at the Hernando County Sheriff’s Office, DeSantis praised the agency for efforts to work more closely with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Earlier this year, two Hernando deputies were certified in a federal program that allows them to act as immigration agents and check the citizenship of people booked into county jail - the first step in the deportation process. [...] ‘They are not transforming their sheriff’s departments into an immigration agency,’ DeSantis said. ‘But when you have somebody who’s in their custody, who has done something that they’re going to be held accountable for, and they’re not here legally, it makes sense to be able to seamlessly work with the federal authorities, so that they’re not released back into society.’” [Tampa Bay Times, 2/27/19]

- **DeSantis Claimed, “They Are Not Transforming Their Sheriff’s Departments Into An Immigration Agency.”** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “Speaking at the Hernando County Sheriff’s Office, DeSantis praised the agency for efforts to work more closely with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Earlier this year, two Hernando deputies were certified in a federal program that allows them to act as immigration agents and check the citizenship of people booked into county jail - the first step in the deportation process. [...] ‘They are not transforming their sheriff’s departments into an immigration agency,’ DeSantis said. ‘But when you have somebody who’s in their custody, who has done something that they’re going to be held accountable for, and they’re not here legally, it makes sense to be able to seamlessly work with the federal authorities, so that they’re not released back into society.’” [Tampa Bay Times, 2/27/19]
- **DeSantis Stated, “When You Have Somebody Who’s In Their Custody, Who Has Done Something That They’re Going To Be Held Accounted For, And They’re Not Here Legally, It Makes Sense To Be Able To Seamlessly Work With The Federal Authorities, So That They’re Not Released Back Into Society.”**

The Tampa Bay Times reported, “Speaking at the Hernando County Sheriff’s Office, DeSantis praised the agency for efforts to work more closely with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Earlier this year, two Hernando deputies were certified in a federal program that allows them to act as immigration agents and check the citizenship of people booked into county jail - the first step in the deportation process. [...] ‘They are not transforming their sheriff’s departments into an immigration agency,’ DeSantis said. ‘But when you have somebody who’s in their custody, who has done something that they’re going to be held accountable for, and they’re not here legally, it makes sense to be able to seamlessly work with the federal authorities, so that they’re not released back into society.’” [Tampa Bay Times, 2/27/19]

**February 2019: DeSantis Supported Senate Bill 168, Which Aimed To Foster Cooperation Between Local Agencies And Federal Immigration Officials.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “DeSantis said he’s directed state law enforcement to look for other ways to cooperate with federal immigration officials, and voiced support for Senate Bill 168, which aims to expand cooperation between federal officials and local agencies. He pointed to such collaborations as pivotal in tightening immigration enforcement while downplaying the demand it would place on the local agencies. ‘They are not transforming their sheriff’s departments into an immigration agency,’ DeSantis said. ‘But when you have somebody who’s in their custody, who has done something that they’re going to be held accountable for, and they’re not here legally, it makes sense to be able to seamlessly work with the federal authorities, so that they’re not released back into society.’” [Tampa Bay Times, 2/27/19]

**February 2019: DeSantis Claimed That The “Biggest Problems I’ve Seen” With Deportation Efforts Were “With Local Law Enforcement,” Adding, “Local Communities Will Not Cooperate.”** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “DeSantis repeated his insistence, without elaborating, that some local jurisdictions weren’t cooperating or were actively obstructing deportation efforts. ‘The biggest problems I’ve seen have been with local law enforcement,’ DeSantis said. ‘Local communities will not cooperate.’” [Tampa Bay Times, 2/27/19]

## ***Immigration Detention Centers***

**2018: DeSantis’s Gubernatorial Campaign Received \$100,000 In Donations From GEO, The Nation’s Largest Private Prison Operator, Which Was Based In Florida And Made Significant Profits From Immigration Detention Contracts.** The Miami Herald reported, “The nation’s largest private-prison operator is based in Florida, and they’re big donors to the GOP, nationwide and in the state. You might have heard of them back when they were Wackenhut, founded in Coral Gables by a former FBI agent with deep roots in the Republican Party. But it’s now The GEO Group—and its government contracts, handled out of Boca Raton/Highland Beach operations, according to the Sludge investigation ‘Who is Making Money from ICE in Your State,’ amount to \$48,224,145. That’s a lot of digits at stake—and, judging by donation records, GEO knows how to grease the pockets of the state’s politicians. Immigration detention is big business for them - and, under President Donald Trump, profits are up. [...] While DeSantis was running for governor in 2018, GEO and its chairman wrote out a check to his political action committee for a total of \$100,000. They also were faithful contributors when he was a congressman.” [Miami Herald, 5/2/19]

## ***Migrant Relocation***

**November 2021: DeSantis Announced That He Would “Provide Buses” To Remove Any Migrants Brought To Florida, Saying, “I Will Send Them To Delaware And Do That. [...] I Mean, If He’s [Biden’s] Not Going To Support The Border Being Secure, Then He Should Be Able To Have Everyone There.”** Tampa Bay Times reported, “At a Jacksonville press conference on Wednesday, DeSantis suggested that if migrants are being transported to Florida he would be willing to ‘provide buses’ to send them elsewhere. ‘I will send them to Delaware and do that,’ DeSantis said in an apparent jab at the state Biden considers home. ‘I mean, if he’s [Biden’s] not going to support the border being secure, then he should be able to have everyone there.’” [Tampa Bay Times, 11/10/21]

**December 2021: DeSantis Sought To Create An \$8 Million Program To Transport Undocumented Immigrants Out Of Florida And Into Other Parts Of The U.S.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “Now, the Republican governor wants \$8 million to create a new program that would allow the state to contract with private

companies to transport ‘unauthorized aliens’ out of Florida. The proposed program, which the governor wants to pay for with interest accrued from federal funds, and a ‘series’ of incoming legislative bills that he says will fight ‘back against the Biden border crisis’ are the latest battle lines drawn by a governor who appears to be drumming up a potential challenge against President Joe Biden in 2024. ‘One of the priorities that we’ve been working on for many months now and we’ll continue to work with the Legislature when they get back is dealing with the fallout from the reckless border policies of the Biden administration,’ DeSantis said at a news conference in Jacksonville on Friday. DeSantis has said that Florida should be able to use buses to transport migrants to other parts of the country, like Delaware, a state Biden calls home. ‘It’s somewhat tongue in cheek, but it is true,’ DeSantis said Friday. ‘If you sent them to Delaware or Martha’s Vineyard or some of these places, that border would be secure the next day.’ Martha’s Vineyard is an island south of Cape Cod, Massachusetts.” [Tampa Bay Times, 12/10/21]

- **DeSantis Stated, “If You Sent Them To Delaware Or Martha’s Vineyard Or Some Of These Places, That Border Would Be Secure The Next Day.”** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “Now, the Republican governor wants \$8 million to create a new program that would allow the state to contract with private companies to transport ‘unauthorized aliens’ out of Florida. The proposed program, which the governor wants to pay for with interest accrued from federal funds, and a ‘series’ of incoming legislative bills that he says will fight ‘back against the Biden border crisis’ are the latest battle lines drawn by a governor who appears to be drumming up a potential challenge against President Joe Biden in 2024. ‘One of the priorities that we’ve been working on for many months now and we’ll continue to work with the Legislature when they get back is dealing with the fallout from the reckless border policies of the Biden administration,’ DeSantis said at a news conference in Jacksonville on Friday. DeSantis has said that Florida should be able to use buses to transport migrants to other parts of the country, like Delaware, a state Biden calls home. ‘It’s somewhat tongue in cheek, but it is true,’ DeSantis said Friday. ‘If you sent them to Delaware or Martha’s Vineyard or some of these places, that border would be secure the next day.’ Martha’s Vineyard is an island south of Cape Cod, Massachusetts.” [Tampa Bay Times, 12/10/21]
- **Some Florida Democrats Objected To This Plan, And Orlando Rep. Anna Eskamani Raised Human Rights Concerns And Called The Proposal “\$8 Million For [DeSantis’s] Political Campaign.”** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “But some Democrats see the proposed taxpayer-funded immigration program as another example of using the governor’s mansion to boost his political ambitions. ‘This is basically \$8 million for his political campaign,’ Orlando Rep. Anna Eskamani said in response to the budget decision. ‘There are some serious human rights concerns. Are you going to put someone in a car and drive them to Delaware? ... State officials are not trained on any type of immigration enforcement.’” [Tampa Bay Times, 12/10/21]

**March 2022: The Florida Department Of Transportation, Under DeSantis’s Control, Was Set To Receive \$12 Million To Launch An Immigration Program That Would Allow The State To Contract With Private Companies And Individuals To Remove Undocumented Immigrants From Florida.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “DeSantis, already a solid front-runner for reelection this year, now finds himself emboldened with new tools to enforce his agenda. The Department of Transportation under his control will soon have \$12 million to launch a never-before-tried immigration program that will allow the state to contract with private companies and individuals to remove undocumented immigrants from Florida.” [Tampa Bay Times, 3/7/22]

**April 2022: DeSantis Proposed \$12 Million As Part Of His Budget To Bus Migrants Living In Florida Illegally To Martha’s Vineyard, Delaware And Other “Progressive” Sanctuary Cities.** The Boston Herald reported, “The tony Massachusetts island of Martha’s Vineyard could soon see an influx of migrants this summer if Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis gets his way. The conservative firebrand and likely 2024 presidential contender is proposing busing migrants living in Florida illegally out of the state and sending them to the Vineyard, Delaware and possibly other ‘progressive’ states whose governors endorse violations of immigration law. ‘If Biden is dumping people, which he has dumped people, we now have money where we can reroute them to sanctuary states like Delaware,’ DeSantis said. ‘It is not the responsibility of Floridians to subsidize aliens to reside in our state unlawfully, we did not consent to Biden’s open-borders agenda,’ DeSantis’s office said. The tough move by DeSantis, who is raising tens of millions of dollars to fund his likely presidential campaign, comes as Texas is also busing illegal immigrants out of the state to Washington, D.C. A bus from Texas filled with migrants just arrived in the nation’s capital this week as part of Gov. Greg Abbott’s get tough policy to mitigate the border crisis in his



state. The White House is calling the move by Abbott and DeSantis a ‘political stunt.’ But Florida says this is real—it’s no stunt. The proposal to bus migrants out of Florida is part of DeSantis’s budget, which includes \$12 million for the state to transport and relocate them out of the Sunshine State. Maybe they’ll include tickets on the ferry.” [Boston Herald, 4/14/22]

- **DeSantis’s Office: “We Now Have Money Where We Can Reroute Them To Sanctuary States Like Delaware. [...] It Is Not The Responsibility Of Floridians To Subsidize Aliens To Reside In Our State Unlawfully, We Did Not Consent To Biden’s Open-Borders Agenda.”** The Boston Herald reported, “The tony Massachusetts island of Martha’s Vineyard could soon see an influx of migrants this summer if Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis gets his way. The conservative firebrand and likely 2024 presidential contender is proposing busing migrants living in Florida illegally out of the state and sending them to the Vineyard, Delaware and possibly other ‘progressive’ states whose governors endorse violations of immigration law. ‘If Biden is dumping people, which he has dumped people, we now have money where we can reroute them to sanctuary states like Delaware,’ DeSantis said. ‘It is not the responsibility of Floridians to subsidize aliens to reside in our state unlawfully, we did not consent to Biden’s open-borders agenda,’ DeSantis’s office said. The tough move by DeSantis, who is raising tens of millions of dollars to fund his likely presidential campaign, comes as Texas is also busing illegal immigrants out of the state to Washington, D.C. A bus from Texas filled with migrants just arrived in the nation’s capital this week as part of Gov. Greg Abbott’s get tough policy to mitigate the border crisis in his state. The White House is calling the move by Abbott and DeSantis a ‘political stunt.’ But Florida says this is real—it’s no stunt. The proposal to bus migrants out of Florida is part of DeSantis’s budget, which includes \$12 million for the state to transport and relocate them out of the Sunshine State. Maybe they’ll include tickets on the ferry.” [Boston Herald, 4/14/22]

**September 2022: DeSantis’s Office Took Credit For Sending Two Planes With Migrants To Martha’s Vineyard, Massachusetts.** The Miami Herald reported, “In a surprise announcement Wednesday evening, Gov. Ron DeSantis’ office took credit for sending two planes with migrants to Martha’s Vineyard, Massachusetts, apparently jump-starting an immigration program without revealing any details. The governor told reporters three weeks ago that the program was on standby, and the Florida Department of Transportation, which is overseeing the immigrant relocation program, said it had no details about how it would work yet. Things changed on Wednesday—on DeSantis’ birthday. ‘Florida can confirm that two planes with illegal immigrants that arrived in Martha’s Vineyard today were part of the state’s relocation program to transport illegal immigrants to sanctuary cities,’ Taryn Fenske, the governor’s communication director, said in a statement. Martha’s Vineyard is an island south of Cape Cod, popular for summer vacations and accessible only by plane or ferry.” [Miami Herald, 9/14/22]

- **Taryn Fenske, DeSantis’s Communication Director: “Florida Can Confirm That Two Planes With Illegal Immigrants That Arrived In Martha’s Vineyard Today Were Part Of The State’s Relocation Program To Transport Illegal Immigrants To Sanctuary Cities.”** The Miami Herald reported, “In a surprise announcement Wednesday evening, Gov. Ron DeSantis’ office took credit for sending two planes with migrants to Martha’s Vineyard, Massachusetts, apparently jump-starting an immigration program without revealing any details. The governor told reporters three weeks ago that the program was on standby, and the Florida Department of Transportation, which is overseeing the immigrant relocation program, said it had no details about how it would work yet. Things changed on Wednesday—on DeSantis’ birthday. ‘Florida can confirm that two planes with illegal immigrants that arrived in Martha’s Vineyard today were part of the state’s relocation program to transport illegal immigrants to sanctuary cities,’ Taryn Fenske, the governor’s communication director, said in a statement. Martha’s Vineyard is an island south of Cape Cod, popular for summer vacations and accessible only by plane or ferry.” [Miami Herald, 9/14/22]
- **Rep. Dylan Fernandes On The Arriving Migrants: “Some Of Them Were Told Lies ... They Were Told They Would Receive Housing And Jobs Immediately Upon Arrival.”** The Miami Herald reported, “According to The Martha’s Vineyard Times, local officials at one point said they believed planes were coming from Texas, Florida and Alabama. ‘Some of them were told lies ... they were told they would receive housing and jobs immediately upon arrival,’ Rep. Dylan Fernandes, D-Falmouth, told the Times. Fernandez joined the relief effort in Martha’s Vineyard. No details on publicly funded state program The Florida program was funded starting July 1 after DeSantis signed this year’s state budget, which included \$12 million for the

initiative. Under the Legislature-approved guidelines, the state can contract with private transportation companies to bus people to other parts of the country. DeSantis had talked about sending them to Delaware, the state Biden calls home. DeSantis' administration has not said whether the program in Florida would work like the one in Texas, which would mean migrants who were transported to Martha's Vineyard volunteered to be taken there at taxpayer expense. Some Florida Democratic state lawmakers were quick to react to the news and point out that the program was publicly funded. 'Your tax dollars at work..., ' state Rep. Michael Grieco, D-Miami Beach, posted on Twitter. Ade Ferro, the director of the Venezuelan American Caucus, was dismayed by the news. 'The governor's attitude does not surprise us, but the cruelty, inhumanity and lack of empathy with Venezuelan brothers and sisters, immigrants who are arriving in this country, fleeing in terror from a cruel and criminal dictatorship... never ceases to impact us,' Ferro said." [Miami Herald, 9/14/22]

- **Ade Ferro, Director Of The Venezuelan American Caucus: "The Governor's Attitude Does Not Surprise Us, But The Cruelty, Inhumanity And Lack Of Empathy With Venezuelan Brothers And Sisters ... Fleeing In Terror From A Cruel And Criminal Dictatorship... Never Ceases To Impact Us."** The Miami Herald reported, "According to The Martha's Vineyard Times, local officials at one point said they believed planes were coming from Texas, Florida and Alabama. 'Some of them were told lies ... they were told they would receive housing and jobs immediately upon arrival,' Rep. Dylan Fernandes, D-Falmouth, told the Times. Fernandez joined the relief effort in Martha's Vineyard. No details on publicly funded state program The Florida program was funded starting July 1 after DeSantis signed this year's state budget, which included \$12 million for the initiative. Under the Legislature-approved guidelines, the state can contract with private transportation companies to bus people to other parts of the country. DeSantis had talked about sending them to Delaware, the state Biden calls home. DeSantis' administration has not said whether the program in Florida would work like the one in Texas, which would mean migrants who were transported to Martha's Vineyard volunteered to be taken there at taxpayer expense. Some Florida Democratic state lawmakers were quick to react to the news and point out that the program was publicly funded. 'Your tax dollars at work..., ' state Rep. Michael Grieco, D-Miami Beach, posted on Twitter. Ade Ferro, the director of the Venezuelan American Caucus, was dismayed by the news. 'The governor's attitude does not surprise us, but the cruelty, inhumanity and lack of empathy with Venezuelan brothers and sisters, immigrants who are arriving in this country, fleeing in terror from a cruel and criminal dictatorship... never ceases to impact us,' Ferro said." [Miami Herald, 9/14/22]

**September 2022 - DeSantis On Sending Immigrants To Martha's Vineyard: "If You Have Folks That Are Inclined To Think Florida Is A Good Place, Our Message To Them Is We Are Not A Sanctuary State, And It's Better To Be Able To Go Into A Sanctuary Jurisdiction."** The Miami Herald reported, "Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis followed the lead of fellow Republican governors Greg Abbott of Texas and Doug Ducey of Arizona when he claimed responsibility for sending a plane carrying 50 immigrants to Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, on Wednesday. Abbott and Ducey, who govern states that share a border with Mexico, have sent thousands of immigrants, largely asylum seekers from Central America, to the mostly Democratic locales of Washington, D.C., New York and Chicago. Now, Martha's Vineyard, a wealthy enclave, has been added. Critics have called the flights and bus trips a case of cruel political theatrics aimed at calling attention to GOP opposition to what Republicans call 'Biden's Border Crisis.' The Republicans say border states like theirs shoulder an inordinate share of the burden of caring for asylum seekers. 'If you have folks that are inclined to think Florida is a good place, our message to them is we are not a sanctuary state, and it's better to be able to go into a sanctuary jurisdiction,' DeSantis said Thursday at a press conference in Niceville, in the Florida Panhandle. 'And yes, we will help facilitate that transport for you, to be able to go to greener pastures.'" [Miami Herald, 9/15/22]

- **DeSantis: "And Yes, We Will Help Facilitate That Transport For You, To Be Able To Go To Greener Pastures."** The Miami Herald reported, "Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis followed the lead of fellow Republican governors Greg Abbott of Texas and Doug Ducey of Arizona when he claimed responsibility for sending a plane carrying 50 immigrants to Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, on Wednesday. Abbott and Ducey, who govern states that share a border with Mexico, have sent thousands of immigrants, largely asylum seekers from Central America, to the mostly Democratic locales of Washington, D.C., New York and Chicago. Now, Martha's Vineyard, a wealthy enclave, has been added. Critics have called the flights and bus trips a case of cruel political theatrics aimed at calling attention to GOP opposition to what Republicans call 'Biden's Border

Crisis.’ The Republicans say border states like theirs shoulder an inordinate share of the burden of caring for asylum seekers. ‘If you have folks that are inclined to think Florida is a good place, our message to them is we are not a sanctuary state, and it’s better to be able to go into a sanctuary jurisdiction,’ DeSantis said Thursday at a press conference in Niceville, in the Florida Panhandle. ‘And yes, we will help facilitate that transport for you, to be able to go to greener pastures.’” [Miami Herald, 9/15/22]

**September 2022 – A Statement From The Lawyers For Civil Rights Group On DeSantis Sending Immigrants To Martha’s Vineyard: “It Is Unconscionable To Treat Human Beings—Especially Members Of Such A Vulnerable Population—Like Pawns To Make A Political Point.”** The Miami Herald reported, “The day after Florida took credit for sending two planeloads of undocumented immigrants to Martha’s Vineyard, Gov. Ron DeSantis suggested the flights were to ‘protect’ the state while the backlash swelled, with critics decrying the flights as an inhumane political stunt. The political furor mounted as human-rights advocates rushed to the popular Massachusetts island vacation spot to help the mostly Venezuelan migrants who, for now, were being housed in a church. ‘It is unconscionable to treat human beings—especially members of such a vulnerable population—like pawns to make a political point,’ said a statement by Boston-based group Lawyers for Civil Rights, which announced it was gathering immigration specialists, social-service providers and attorneys to meet with the migrants free of charge, and would be investigating whether they were the victims of ‘human trafficking and kidnapping.’ [...] The White House ripped the flights, with Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre calling them ‘cruel.’ ‘There’s a legal way of doing this and for managing migrants,’ Jean-Pierre said. ‘Republican governors interfering in that process and using migrants as political pawns, is, is shameful, is reckless, and just plain wrong.’ [...] Maria Corina Vegas, deputy state director of the bipartisan American Business Immigration Coalition, decried the demonization of immigrants needed to fill labor shortages. ‘The governor likes to pander to communities like mine, traumatized by political persecution and violence,’ said Vegas, who is of Venezuelan descent. ‘This is a new low, even for this governor.’” [Miami Herald, 9/15/22]

- **White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre: “There’s A Legal Way Of Doing This And For Managing Migrants. [...] Republican Governors Interfering In That Process And Using Migrants As Political Pawns, Is, Is Shameful, Is Reckless, And Just Plain Wrong.”** The Miami Herald reported, “The day after Florida took credit for sending two planeloads of undocumented immigrants to Martha’s Vineyard, Gov. Ron DeSantis suggested the flights were to ‘protect’ the state while the backlash swelled, with critics decrying the flights as an inhumane political stunt. The political furor mounted as human-rights advocates rushed to the popular Massachusetts island vacation spot to help the mostly Venezuelan migrants who, for now, were being housed in a church. ‘It is unconscionable to treat human beings—especially members of such a vulnerable population—like pawns to make a political point,’ said a statement by Boston-based group Lawyers for Civil Rights, which announced it was gathering immigration specialists, social-service providers and attorneys to meet with the migrants free of charge, and would be investigating whether they were the victims of ‘human trafficking and kidnapping.’ [...] The White House ripped the flights, with Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre calling them ‘cruel.’ ‘There’s a legal way of doing this and for managing migrants,’ Jean-Pierre said. ‘Republican governors interfering in that process and using migrants as political pawns, is, is shameful, is reckless, and just plain wrong.’ [...] Maria Corina Vegas, deputy state director of the bipartisan American Business Immigration Coalition, decried the demonization of immigrants needed to fill labor shortages. ‘The governor likes to pander to communities like mine, traumatized by political persecution and violence,’ said Vegas, who is of Venezuelan descent. ‘This is a new low, even for this governor.’” [Miami Herald, 9/15/22]
- **Maria Corina Vegas, Deputy State Director Of The Bipartisan American Business Immigration Coalition: “The Governor Likes To Pandor To Communities Like Mine, Traumatized By Political Persecution And Violence ... This Is A New Low, Even For This Governor.”** The Miami Herald reported, “The day after Florida took credit for sending two planeloads of undocumented immigrants to Martha’s Vineyard, Gov. Ron DeSantis suggested the flights were to ‘protect’ the state while the backlash swelled, with critics decrying the flights as an inhumane political stunt. The political furor mounted as human-rights advocates rushed to the popular Massachusetts island vacation spot to help the mostly Venezuelan migrants who, for now, were being housed in a church. ‘It is unconscionable to treat human beings—especially members of such a vulnerable population—like pawns to make a political point,’ said a statement by Boston-based group Lawyers for Civil Rights, which announced it was gathering immigration specialists, social-service providers

and attorneys to meet with the migrants free of charge, and would be investigating whether they were the victims of ‘human trafficking and kidnapping.’ [...] The White House ripped the flights, with Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre calling them ‘cruel.’ ‘There’s a legal way of doing this and for managing migrants,’ Jean-Pierre said. ‘Republican governors interfering in that process and using migrants as political pawns, is, is shameful, is reckless, and just plain wrong.’ [...] Maria Corina Vegas, deputy state director of the bipartisan American Business Immigration Coalition, decried the demonization of immigrants needed to fill labor shortages. ‘The governor likes to pander to communities like mine, traumatized by political persecution and violence,’ said Vegas, who is of Venezuelan descent. ‘This is a new low, even for this governor.’” [Miami Herald, 9/15/22]

**DeSantis Sent Approximately 50 Migrants To Martha’s Vineyard, Most From Venezuela And Not Living In Florida.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “On his 44<sup>th</sup> birthday, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis took credit for chartering two flights paid for with state money to fly undocumented immigrants to Martha’s Vineyard - a path that took the small group from Texas to the Massachusetts coast. The immigrants - around 50 of them mainly from Venezuela who were not living in Florida - say they were promised jobs, housing and a future in the U.S. after fleeing one of the poorest countries in Latin America. Some people have decried DeSantis’ actions as a political stunt while others have praised him for protecting the state. The Republican governor, a father of three whose ancestors migrated from Italy, is running for a second term in November and is a presidential contender. Here’s what we know: What has DeSantis said before on immigration? DeSantis had previously vowed to bus undocumented immigrants to Biden’s home state of Delaware and has criticized the president for lack of action on border immigration. [...] The migrants said they had agreed to fly to Massachusetts after they were promised jobs and help but didn’t realize they were bound for Martha’s Vineyard, some told the Miami Herald. No one on the island knew they were coming and, according to their attorneys, they’d been given falsified U.S. addresses by immigration officials, according to the Herald. ‘They were told there was a surprise present for them, and that there would be jobs and housing awaiting for them when they arrived,’ Rachel Self, a Boston immigration attorney who was assisting with the migrants’ cases, told the Herald. ‘This was obviously a sadistic lie.’ The group on Friday was being taken to a military base in Massachusetts.” [Tampa Bay Times, 9/16/22]

- **The Migrants Said They Had Agreed To Fly To Massachusetts After They Were Promised Jobs, And Alleged That They’d Been Given Falsified U.S. Addresses By Immigration Officials.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “On his 44<sup>th</sup> birthday, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis took credit for chartering two flights paid for with state money to fly undocumented immigrants to Martha’s Vineyard - a path that took the small group from Texas to the Massachusetts coast. The immigrants - around 50 of them mainly from Venezuela who were not living in Florida - say they were promised jobs, housing and a future in the U.S. after fleeing one of the poorest countries in Latin America. Some people have decried DeSantis’ actions as a political stunt while others have praised him for protecting the state. The Republican governor, a father of three whose ancestors migrated from Italy, is running for a second term in November and is a presidential contender. Here’s what we know: What has DeSantis said before on immigration? DeSantis had previously vowed to bus undocumented immigrants to Biden’s home state of Delaware and has criticized the president for lack of action on border immigration. [...] The migrants said they had agreed to fly to Massachusetts after they were promised jobs and help but didn’t realize they were bound for Martha’s Vineyard, some told the Miami Herald. No one on the island knew they were coming and, according to their attorneys, they’d been given falsified U.S. addresses by immigration officials, according to the Herald. ‘They were told there was a surprise present for them, and that there would be jobs and housing awaiting for them when they arrived,’ Rachel Self, a Boston immigration attorney who was assisting with the migrants’ cases, told the Herald. ‘This was obviously a sadistic lie.’ The group on Friday was being taken to a military base in Massachusetts.” [Tampa Bay Times, 9/16/22]
- **Rachel Self, An Immigration Attorney Who Assisted With The Migrants’ Cases: “They Were Told There Was A Surprise Present For Them, And That There Would Be Jobs And Housing Awaiting For Them When They Arrived ... This Was Obviously A Sadistic Lie.”** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “On his 44<sup>th</sup> birthday, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis took credit for chartering two flights paid for with state money to fly undocumented immigrants to Martha’s Vineyard - a path that took the small group from Texas to the Massachusetts coast. The immigrants - around 50 of them mainly from Venezuela who were not living in Florida - say they were promised jobs, housing and a future in the U.S. after fleeing one of the poorest countries

in Latin America. Some people have decried DeSantis' actions as a political stunt while others have praised him for protecting the state. The Republican governor, a father of three whose ancestors migrated from Italy, is running for a second term in November and is a presidential contender. Here's what we know: What has DeSantis said before on immigration? DeSantis had previously vowed to bus undocumented immigrants to Biden's home state of Delaware and has criticized the president for lack of action on border immigration. [...] The migrants said they had agreed to fly to Massachusetts after they were promised jobs and help but didn't realize they were bound for Martha's Vineyard, some told the Miami Herald. No one on the island knew they were coming and, according to their attorneys, they'd been given falsified U.S. addresses by immigration officials, according to the Herald. 'They were told there was a surprise present for them, and that there would be jobs and housing awaiting for them when they arrived,' Rachel Self, a Boston immigration attorney who was assisting with the migrants' cases, told the Herald. 'This was obviously a sadistic lie.' The group on Friday was being taken to a military base in Massachusetts." [Tampa Bay Times, 9/16/22]

**September 2022: Legal Experts Said DeSantis's Migrant Relocation Program Could Create Additional Challenges For People To Comply With Their Immigration Responsibilities As Mandated By Federal Authorities, With Repercussions Ranging From Additional Paperwork To Detainment And Deportation.** The Miami Herald reported, "On Wednesday, Florida's governor took credit for chartering two planes to carry 48 migrants from Texas to Martha's Vineyard, the wealthy vacation island off Massachusetts' coast. The Herald spoke to half a dozen South Florida legal experts, who said that the cross-country relocations of migrants that Texas and Florida have undertaken isolates migrants from their U.S.-based support networks. It could also create challenges for people to comply with their immigration responsibilities as mandated by federal authorities, with repercussions ranging from additional paperwork to detainment and deportation. 'When the states are interfering with a federal process that corresponds to the Department of Homeland Security,' said Miami immigration attorney Angel Leal, 'it creates a number of issues.' One of the reasons Homeland Security asks for a destination city when people are released and placed in immigration proceedings is to see if they have a support network that will help them as recently arrived immigrants. It also allows the agency to pin down an address where they can be found, said immigration lawyers. But being far away from their intended destinations—where they might know of available resources or have family and friends that can aid them—can make things much harder, especially if people are sent to places where there are no lawyers and groups who offer services to immigrants. Studies have shown that people with legal representation fare better at every stage of their immigration case compared to those who do not." [Miami Herald, 9/16/22]

- **Miami Immigration Attorney Angel Leal: When The States Are Interfering With A Federal Process That Corresponds To The Department Of Homeland Security ... It Creates A Number Of Issues.**" The Miami Herald reported, "On Wednesday, Florida's governor took credit for chartering two planes to carry 48 migrants from Texas to Martha's Vineyard, the wealthy vacation island off Massachusetts' coast. The Herald spoke to half a dozen South Florida legal experts, who said that the cross-country relocations of migrants that Texas and Florida have undertaken isolates migrants from their U.S.-based support networks. It could also create challenges for people to comply with their immigration responsibilities as mandated by federal authorities, with repercussions ranging from additional paperwork to detainment and deportation. 'When the states are interfering with a federal process that corresponds to the Department of Homeland Security,' said Miami immigration attorney Angel Leal, 'it creates a number of issues.' One of the reasons Homeland Security asks for a destination city when people are released and placed in immigration proceedings is to see if they have a support network that will help them as recently arrived immigrants. It also allows the agency to pin down an address where they can be found, said immigration lawyers. But being far away from their intended destinations—where they might know of available resources or have family and friends that can aid them—can make things much harder, especially if people are sent to places where there are no lawyers and groups who offer services to immigrants. Studies have shown that people with legal representation fare better at every stage of their immigration case compared to those who do not." [Miami Herald, 9/16/22]
- **Migrants Who Were Far From Their Intended Destinations Could Have A More Difficult Transition, Especially If They Were Sent To Places Where There Were No Lawyers, Friends And Family, Or Groups Offering Services To Immigrants.** The Miami Herald reported, "On Wednesday, Florida's governor took credit for chartering two planes to carry 48 migrants from Texas to Martha's Vineyard, the wealthy

vacation island off Massachusetts' coast. The Herald spoke to half a dozen South Florida legal experts, who said that the cross-country relocations of migrants that Texas and Florida have undertaken isolates migrants from their U.S.-based support networks. It could also create challenges for people to comply with their immigration responsibilities as mandated by federal authorities, with repercussions ranging from additional paperwork to detainment and deportation. 'When the states are interfering with a federal process that corresponds to the Department of Homeland Security,' said Miami immigration attorney Angel Leal, 'it creates a number of issues.' One of the reasons Homeland Security asks for a destination city when people are released and placed in immigration proceedings is to see if they have a support network that will help them as recently arrived immigrants. It also allows the agency to pin down an address where they can be found, said immigration lawyers. But being far away from their intended destinations—where they might know of available resources or have family and friends that can aid them—can make things much harder, especially if people are sent to places where there are no lawyers and groups who offer services to immigrants. Studies have shown that people with legal representation fare better at every stage of their immigration case compared to those who do not." [Miami Herald, 9/16/22]

- **Former ICE Counsel And Immigration Attorney Rebeca Sanchez-Roig Said That When Migrants Were Relocated By Programs Like The Ones Undertaken By Texas And Florida And Did Not Notify The Government About Their Address Change, They Would Not Receive Critical Documents.** The Miami Herald reported, "On Wednesday, Florida's governor took credit for chartering two planes to carry 48 migrants from Texas to Martha's Vineyard, the wealthy vacation island off Massachusetts' coast. The Herald spoke to half a dozen South Florida legal experts, who said that the cross-country relocations of migrants that Texas and Florida have undertaken isolates migrants from their U.S.-based support networks. It could also create challenges for people to comply with their immigration responsibilities as mandated by federal authorities, with repercussions ranging from additional paperwork to detainment and deportation. [...] When the federal government loses track of where people are it can be a serious issue for both sides, said former ICE counsel and immigration attorney Rebeca Sanchez-Roig. And if they are relocated by a program like the ones Texas and Florida are undertaking and don't notify the government about their address change, they will not receive critical documents. 'What DeSantis has done is setting up the steps that will result quite likely in these individuals being deported because they will not get notices,' she said. Undocumented immigrants could also miss federal court hearings if they are thousands of miles away. A lack of money can prevent them from traveling. Failing to appear at an immigration hearing can result in a judge issuing a deportation order." [Miami Herald, 9/16/22]
- **Sanchez-Roig: "What DeSantis Has Done Is Setting Up The Steps That Will Result Quite Likely In These Individuals Being Deported Because They Will Not Get Notices."** The Miami Herald reported, "On Wednesday, Florida's governor took credit for chartering two planes to carry 48 migrants from Texas to Martha's Vineyard, the wealthy vacation island off Massachusetts' coast. The Herald spoke to half a dozen South Florida legal experts, who said that the cross-country relocations of migrants that Texas and Florida have undertaken isolates migrants from their U.S.-based support networks. It could also create challenges for people to comply with their immigration responsibilities as mandated by federal authorities, with repercussions ranging from additional paperwork to detainment and deportation. [...] Studies have shown that people with legal representation fare better at every stage of their immigration case compared to those who do not. [...] When the federal government loses track of where people are it can be a serious issue for both sides, said former ICE counsel and immigration attorney Rebeca Sanchez-Roig. And if they are relocated by a program like the ones Texas and Florida are undertaking and don't notify the government about their address change, they will not receive critical documents. 'What DeSantis has done is setting up the steps that will result quite likely in these individuals being deported because they will not get notices,' she said. Undocumented immigrants could also miss federal court hearings if they are thousands of miles away. A lack of money can prevent them from traveling. Failing to appear at an immigration hearing can result in a judge issuing a deportation order." [Miami Herald, 9/16/22]
- **Undocumented Immigrants Could Also Miss Federal Court Hearings If They Are Thousands Of Miles Away From Their Intended Destination, And Failure To Appear At An Immigration Hearing Could Result In A Judge Issuing A Deportation Order.** The Miami Herald reported, "On Wednesday, Florida's

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**League Of United Latin American Citizens President Domingo Garcia Said That Many Of The Migrants DeSantis Sent To Martha's Vineyard Planned To Come To Florida, Where They Have Friends Or Family, While They Wait For Their Asylum Claims To Be Heard.** The Miami Herald reported, "Florida may wind up hosting the migrants Gov. Ron DeSantis wanted to keep out of the Sunshine State. DeSantis on Friday acknowledged the undocumented migrants Florida flew to a New England vacation island this week never actually stepped foot inside his state. But he insisted that the chartered flights originating from Texas—and paid for by Florida taxpayers—were needed to keep the group of mostly Venezuelan migrants from coming here. 'You gotta deal with it at the source,' DeSantis said at a press conference at Daytona Beach. But ironically, some of the migrants—who are seeking asylum after fleeing Venezuela's communist regime and arriving at the U.S.-Texas border—may end up in Florida anyway after the state flew them to Martha's Vineyard. An official with a Hispanic human-rights organization said Friday that many of the migrants do in fact plan to come to Florida, where they have friends or family, while they wait for their asylum claims to be heard. 'The irony is that Governor DeSantis paid for them to be brought here,' said League of United Latin American Citizens President Domingo Garcia, who spoke to some of the migrants Friday as they were ferried from Martha's Vineyard to a National Guard base on Cape Cod." [Miami Herald, 9/16/22]

**September 2022 – DeSantis On The Migrants' Decision To Go To Martha's Vineyard: "When They Were Getting Ready To Do The Transport, There Were Some Migrants Who Said 'We Don't Want To Go To Massachusetts' And So They Ended Up Not Going. It Was Purely Voluntary."** The Boston Globe reported, "On Monday, DeSantis, a possible 2024 presidential candidate, repeated his stance that the migrants were not misled into getting on the planes, which were private charter flights paid for by Florida taxpayers. In an interview with conservative radio host Erick Erickson, DeSantis said 'the vendor [of the planes] got written consent forms from everybody that was transported, also provided a packet that had a map of Martha's Vineyard, numbers on the Vineyard for social services, as well as for the state of Massachusetts. 'There was no doubt that that is where they were going,' he said. 'In fact, when they were getting ready to do the transport, there were some migrants who said 'we don't want to go to Massachusetts' and so they ended up not going. It was purely voluntary.' DeSantis also made the claim that some migrants have 'written to the vendor, thanking the vendor for effectuating their transport.'" [Boston Globe, 9/20/22]

**September 2022: The "Consent Forms" DeSantis Provided To Migrants To Prove That They Boarded The Plane To Martha's Vineyard Willingly Did Not Mention The State Of Massachusetts In Their Spanish Translations And Lacked Key Information About How And Where Relocation Would Occur.** The Boston Globe reported, "Also Wednesday, lawyers for some of the migrants criticized the 'consent forms' that DeSantis' office said migrants signed to prove they boarded the planes willingly and were not duped into relocating. The governor's office released a copy of the form Tuesday night. It contained a few short paragraphs in English and a Spanish translation below. The English section states they would be transported to 'locations in sanctuary states,' and that the final destination of their flight was Massachusetts. But the Spanish translation makes no mention of the state. Moreover, the form does not mention any work or housing opportunities awaiting the migrants, nor does it contain any identifying information about the sponsor of the trip, such as a letterhead or contact information. DeSantis' office did not return requests for comment Wednesday. But in a statement released Tuesday, the office

said, ‘The transportation of the immigrants to Martha’s Vineyard was done on a voluntary basis. The immigrants were homeless, hungry, and abandoned — and these activists didn’t care about them then. Florida’s program gave them a fresh start in a sanctuary state and these individuals opted to take advantage of chartered flights to Massachusetts.’ But Espinoza-Madrigal said the absence of key information on the consent form is further evidence of how DeSantis misled the migrants. ‘They clearly show that material information about how the relocation would occur, where it would go, was not included in the forms, especially in the Spanish translation portion of the form.’” [Boston Globe, 9/22/22]

**September 2022 - Jared Kushner On DeSantis Sending Migrants To Martha’s Vineyard: “We Have To Remember These Are Human Beings, They’re People ... So Seeing Them Being Used As Political Pawns One Way Or The Other Is Very Troubling To Me.”** The Miami Herald reported, “Jared Kushner, former President Donald Trump’s son-in-law and adviser, appeared on Fox News this week and criticized the use of undocumented immigrants as ‘political pawns.’ The implied criticism of Gov. Ron DeSantis, who has dominated headlines recently after Florida chartered two flights of Venezuelan migrants from Texas to Martha’s Vineyard in Massachusetts, comes as talk continues to ramp up that DeSantis could rival Trump for the White House in 2024. A Fox News host posed the question about immigration to Kushner during a Tuesday appearance on the cable news channel. It was directly preceded by a clip of DeSantis defending the flights, saying they have exposed the hypocrisy of liberals who had ‘a freak-out’ over his actions but ignore the humanitarian crisis at the border. ‘Two million across the border ... where is the outrage—but 48 in Martha’s Vineyard and all of a sudden, Democrats seem to wake up?’ the Fox host then asked Kushner. ‘I personally watch what’s happening, and it’s very hard to see at the southern border. I also—we have to remember these are human beings, they’re people,’ Kushner said. ‘So seeing them being used as political pawns one way or the other is very troubling to me.’” [Miami Herald, 9/22/22]

**September 2022: A Lawyer Representing The Migrants Transported To Martha’s Vineyard Said That Most Of The Migrants Received Humanitarian Parole After Entering The U.S. And Planned To Apply For Asylum.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “DeSantis’ move - similar to what other Republican governors have done - has drawn a lot of national attention, misinformation and confusion. Here, we’ll sort out what we know about the immigrants at the center of this story and the related laws and policies. Venezuelans sent to Martha’s Vineyard intend to apply for asylum Most of the migrants received humanitarian parole after entering the U.S. and plan to apply for asylum, lawyers representing the migrants told PolitiFact. Humanitarian parole allows people to remain in the U.S. temporarily for a compelling emergency. In general, the parole can be granted for any ‘urgent humanitarian reasons,’ including protection from targeted or individualized harm. The lawsuit said some of the migrants fled to the U.S. to protect themselves and their families from ‘state-sponsored violence.’ ‘We are still ascertaining the circumstances surrounding parole,’ said Iván Espinoza-Madrigal, executive director of Lawyers for Civil Rights, which represents 30 of the migrants. ‘I suspect the designation was made based on their hardship coupled with their nationality: the crisis in Venezuela is well-known and documented.’ Venezuela’s authoritarian leader, Nicolás Maduro, assumed office in 2013. The country has experienced rampant inflation, human rights abuses and dwindling food and supplies.” [Tampa Bay Times, 9/23/22]

- **Humanitarian Parole Allowed People To Remain In The U.S. Temporarily For A Compelling Emergency.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “DeSantis’ move - similar to what other Republican governors have done - has drawn a lot of national attention, misinformation and confusion. Here, we’ll sort out what we know about the immigrants at the center of this story and the related laws and policies. Venezuelans sent to Martha’s Vineyard intend to apply for asylum Most of the migrants received humanitarian parole after entering the U.S. and plan to apply for asylum, lawyers representing the migrants told PolitiFact. Humanitarian parole allows people to remain in the U.S. temporarily for a compelling emergency. In general, the parole can be granted for any ‘urgent humanitarian reasons,’ including protection from targeted or individualized harm. The lawsuit said some of the migrants fled to the U.S. to protect themselves and their families from ‘state-sponsored violence.’ ‘We are still ascertaining the circumstances surrounding parole,’ said Iván Espinoza-Madrigal, executive director of Lawyers for Civil Rights, which represents 30 of the migrants. ‘I suspect the designation was made based on their hardship coupled with their nationality: the crisis in Venezuela is well-known and documented.’ Venezuela’s authoritarian leader, Nicolás Maduro, assumed office in 2013. The country has experienced rampant inflation, human rights abuses and dwindling food and supplies.” [Tampa Bay Times, 9/23/22]



**September 2022: Governor Gavin Newsom Called For A U.S. Department Of Justice Investigation Into DeSantis's Decision To Fly Immigrant Families To Martha's Vineyard.** The Sacramento Bee reported, "Gov. Gavin Newsom called Thursday for a U.S. Department of Justice investigation into Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis' decision to fly several immigrant families to Martha's Vineyard. 'This is nothing more than a stunt, but it's done with the cruel intention to humiliate and dehumanize children no older than the governor's children themselves,' Newsom said in an interview with The Sacramento Bee editorial board. 'It's a disgrace, it's repugnant, and, I would argue, it's illegal.' Newsom sent a letter to Attorney General Merrick Garland Thursday, imploring him to investigate any potential criminal or civil violations, particularly any 'charges of kidnapping' after alleged 'fraudulent inducement.' Newsom DeSantis Martha's Vineyard tweet Newsom called DeSantis and his fellow GOP governors 'functional authoritarians,' and said that the Republican Party 'has crossed the rubicon of any decency.'" [Sacramento Bee, 9/15/22]

- **Newsom: "This Is Nothing More Than A Stunt, But It's Done With The Cruel Intention To Humiliate And Dehumanize Children No Older Than The Governor's Children Themselves ... It's A Disgrace, It's Repugnant, And, I Would Argue, It's Illegal."** The Sacramento Bee reported, "Gov. Gavin Newsom called Thursday for a U.S. Department of Justice investigation into Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis' decision to fly several immigrant families to Martha's Vineyard. 'This is nothing more than a stunt, but it's done with the cruel intention to humiliate and dehumanize children no older than the governor's children themselves,' Newsom said in an interview with The Sacramento Bee editorial board. 'It's a disgrace, it's repugnant, and, I would argue, it's illegal.' Newsom sent a letter to Attorney General Merrick Garland Thursday, imploring him to investigate any potential criminal or civil violations, particularly any 'charges of kidnapping' after alleged 'fraudulent inducement.' Newsom DeSantis Martha's Vineyard tweet Newsom called DeSantis and his fellow GOP governors 'functional authoritarians,' and said that the Republican Party 'has crossed the rubicon of any decency.'" [Sacramento Bee, 9/15/22]
- **Newsom Sent A Letter To Attorney General Merrick Garland That Asked Him To Investigate Any Potential Criminal Or Civil Violations Related To DeSantis's Transport Of The Immigrants, Particularly Any "Charges Of Kidnapping" After Alleged "Fraudulent Inducement."** The Sacramento Bee reported, "Gov. Gavin Newsom called Thursday for a U.S. Department of Justice investigation into Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis' decision to fly several immigrant families to Martha's Vineyard. 'This is nothing more than a stunt, but it's done with the cruel intention to humiliate and dehumanize children no older than the governor's children themselves,' Newsom said in an interview with The Sacramento Bee editorial board. 'It's a disgrace, it's repugnant, and, I would argue, it's illegal.' Newsom sent a letter to Attorney General Merrick Garland Thursday, imploring him to investigate any potential criminal or civil violations, particularly any 'charges of kidnapping' after alleged 'fraudulent inducement.' Newsom DeSantis Martha's Vineyard tweet Newsom called DeSantis and his fellow GOP governors 'functional authoritarians,' and said that the Republican Party 'has crossed the rubicon of any decency.'" [Sacramento Bee, 9/15/22]

**September 2022: Senator Ed Markey And Fellow Members Of The Massachusetts Congressional Delegation Accused DeSantis In A Letter Of Improperly Using The Interest Earned On Federal COVID-19 Relief Dollars For To Fly Migrants To Martha's Vineyard And Called For A Federal Investigation.** The Daily News reported, "Vertol Systems Company Inc. was paid \$615,000 by the Florida Department of Transportation to ferry 48 Venezuelan migrants to the small Massachusetts island, a popular vacation destination for some of the world's wealthiest and most powerful. Their planes touched down on Wednesday and those onboard have since been shuttled to Joint Base Cape Cod, where Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker has set up a shelter. Those who arrived in Martha's Vineyard had been told they were going to Boston and had been given incorrect immigration advice, advocates say. [...] Vertol received the payment on Sept. 8 as part of a new \$12 million program established to relocate immigrants without permanent legal status, according to state records. That fund was established in part with money accrued through the American Rescue Plan, a roughly \$1.9 trillion stimulus law adopted by Congress last year. The legislation set aside \$350 billion for cities and states to boost their economies and respond to the COVID-19 health crisis. While the funds did not come without restrictions, there were virtually no set rules on how interest generated from unspent money must be used. U.S. Sen. Ed Markey and fellow members of the Massachusetts congressional delegation called for a federal investigation into how Florida paid for the charter

flights. The lawmakers accused DeSantis of improperly using the interest earned on federal COVID-19 relief dollars for what they dubbed an ‘inhumane program’ in a letter sent to the U.S. Department of the Treasury’s Office of Inspector General. ‘If true, we believe this program misuses federal COVID-19 relief funds and violates federal law,’ it reads.” [Daily News, 9/18/22]

- **The Letter From Senator Markey And Fellow Members Of The Massachusetts Congressional Delegation: “If True, We Believe This Program Misuses Federal COVID-19 Relief Funds And Violates Federal Law.”** The Daily News reported, “Vertol Systems Company Inc. was paid \$615,000 by the Florida Department of Transportation to ferry 48 Venezuelan migrants to the small Massachusetts island, a popular vacation destination for some of the world’s wealthiest and most powerful. Their planes touched down on Wednesday and those onboard have since been shuttled to Joint Base Cape Cod, where Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker has set up a shelter. Those who arrived in Martha’s Vineyard had been told they were going to Boston and had been given incorrect immigration advice, advocates say. [...] Vertol received the payment on Sept. 8 as part of a new \$12 million program established to relocate immigrants without permanent legal status, according to state records. That fund was established in part with money accrued through the American Rescue Plan, a roughly \$1.9 trillion stimulus law adopted by Congress last year. The legislation set aside \$350 billion for cities and states to boost their economies and respond to the COVID-19 health crisis. While the funds did not come without restrictions, there were virtually no set rules on how interest generated from unspent money must be used. U.S. Sen. Ed Markey and fellow members of the Massachusetts congressional delegation called for a federal investigation into how Florida paid for the charter flights. The lawmakers accused DeSantis of improperly using the interest earned on federal COVID-19 relief dollars for what they dubbed an ‘inhumane program’ in a letter sent to the U.S. Department of the Treasury’s Office of Inspector General. ‘If true, we believe this program misuses federal COVID-19 relief funds and violates federal law,’ it reads.” [Daily News, 9/18/22]

**September 2022: Bexar County Texas Sheriff Javier Salazar Announced At A News Conference That His Office Was Investigating Whether Migrants Sent By DeSantis To Martha’s Vineyard Were The Victims Of A Crime And Suggested Were “Lured Under False Pretenses.”** The Miami Herald reported, “Authorities in Texas have opened a criminal investigation into Gov. Ron DeSantis’ operation to fly roughly 50 Venezuelan migrants from Texas to Martha’s Vineyard last week. Bexar County Sheriff Javier Salazar announced at a news conference Monday that his office is investigating whether the migrants were the victims of a crime, saying they were ‘lured under false pretenses.’ Many migrants said they agreed to fly from San Antonio to the Massachusetts island after being promised jobs. But there was no work waiting. ‘I believe people need to be held accountable for it to the extent possible,’ Salazar said. ‘At this point, I’m not able to definitively say here’s the statute that they broke, either federal, state or local, but what I can tell you is it’s wrong. Just from a human rights perspective, what was done to these folks is wrong.’ DeSantis took responsibility for the two charter flights last week, saying they were part of a state program to relocate migrants from Florida, although the group of Venezuelans was in San Antonio. Salazar, a Democrat, called the flights ‘political theater.’ He did not name DeSantis. He also said his office was working with a private attorney for the migrants, as well as advocacy groups, and was preparing to cooperate with federal agencies ‘should the need arise.’ One potential lead: Salazar said he believed a Venezuelan migrant had been paid a ‘bird dog fee’ to recruit other migrants in San Antonio for the flights.” [Miami Herald, 9/19/22]

- **Sheriff Salazar Said He Believed A Venezuelan Migrant Had Been Paid A “Bird Dog Fee” To Recruit Other Migrants In San Antonio For The Flights To Martha’s Vineyard.** The Miami Herald reported, “Authorities in Texas have opened a criminal investigation into Gov. Ron DeSantis’ operation to fly roughly 50 Venezuelan migrants from Texas to Martha’s Vineyard last week. Bexar County Sheriff Javier Salazar announced at a news conference Monday that his office is investigating whether the migrants were the victims of a crime, saying they were ‘lured under false pretenses.’ Many migrants said they agreed to fly from San Antonio to the Massachusetts island after being promised jobs. But there was no work waiting. ‘I believe people need to be held accountable for it to the extent possible,’ Salazar said. ‘At this point, I’m not able to definitively say here’s the statute that they broke, either federal, state or local, but what I can tell you is it’s wrong. Just from a human rights perspective, what was done to these folks is wrong.’ DeSantis took responsibility for the two charter flights last week, saying they were part of a state program to relocate migrants

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**September 2022: Three Of The Migrants Flown By DeSantis To Martha’s Vineyard Sued DeSantis And Alleged That He, Florida’s Transportation Department Secretary And Others Tricked Migrants Into Leaving Texas By Offering Them McDonald’s Gift Cards, Assistance And Employment.** The Miami Herald reported, “Three of the nearly 50 migrants who were flown to Martha’s Vineyard last week by the state of Florida are suing Gov. Ron DeSantis and other state officials, alleging they were duped into traveling to an island in the northeast as part of a scheme to benefit the governor’s political career. The suit, filed in federal court in Massachusetts, alleges that DeSantis, Florida’s Transportation Department secretary and others tricked migrants into leaving Texas by offering them McDonald’s gift cards and other items to board the flights, and by promising them assistance and employment. The lawsuit names five other people as defendants, including a man and woman believed by attorneys to have recruited migrants in San Antonio to board the planes. The plaintiffs include three anonymous Venezuelan migrants and Alianza Americas, a transnational organization that advocates on behalf of immigrants’ rights. ‘These immigrants, who are pursuing the proper channels for lawful immigration status in the United States, experienced cruelty akin to what they fled in their home country,’ the lawsuit alleges. The three migrants, who asked the court Tuesday for permission to use pseudonyms, say they suffered emotionally from the scheme. [...] ‘Defendants manipulated them, stripped them of their dignity, deprived them of their liberty, bodily autonomy, due process, and equal protection under law, and impermissibly interfered with the Federal Government’s exclusive control over immigration in furtherance of an unlawful goal and a personal political agenda,’ the suit reads.” [Miami Herald, 9/20/22]

- **The Suit Alleged That “Defendants Manipulated Them, Stripped Them Of Their Dignity, Deprived Them Of Their Liberty, Bodily Autonomy, Due Process, And Equal Protection Under Law.”** The Miami Herald reported, “Three of the nearly 50 migrants who were flown to Martha’s Vineyard last week by the state of Florida are suing Gov. Ron DeSantis and other state officials, alleging they were duped into traveling to an island in the northeast as part of a scheme to benefit the governor’s political career. The suit, filed in federal court in Massachusetts, alleges that DeSantis, Florida’s Transportation Department secretary and others tricked migrants into leaving Texas by offering them McDonald’s gift cards and other items to board the flights, and by promising them assistance and employment. The lawsuit names five other people as defendants, including a man and woman believed by attorneys to have recruited migrants in San Antonio to board the planes. The plaintiffs include three anonymous Venezuelan migrants and Alianza Americas, a transnational organization that advocates on behalf of immigrants’ rights. ‘These immigrants, who are pursuing the proper channels for lawful immigration status in the United States, experienced cruelty akin to what they fled in their home country,’ the lawsuit alleges. The three migrants, who asked the court Tuesday for permission to use pseudonyms, say they suffered emotionally from the scheme. One woman claimed she felt helpless and started crying when they landed in Martha’s Vineyard. She says she and her 11-year-old son have needed mental health support—she has suffered from lack of sleep and vertigo as a result. [...] ‘Defendants manipulated them, stripped them of their dignity, deprived them of their liberty, bodily autonomy, due process, and equal protection under law, and impermissibly interfered with the Federal Government’s exclusive control over immigration in furtherance of an unlawful goal and a personal political agenda,’ the suit reads.” [Miami Herald, 9/20/22]
- **The Suit Alleged That “Defendants ... Impermissibly Interfered With The Federal Government’s Exclusive Control Over Immigration In Furtherance Of An Unlawful Goal And A Personal Political Agenda.** The Miami Herald reported, “Three of the nearly 50 migrants who were flown to Martha’s Vineyard last week by the state of Florida are suing Gov. Ron DeSantis and other state officials, alleging they were duped into traveling to an island in the northeast as part of a scheme to benefit the governor’s political career. The suit, filed in federal court in Massachusetts, alleges that DeSantis, Florida’s Transportation Department secretary and others tricked migrants into leaving Texas by offering them McDonald’s gift cards and other items to board the flights, and by promising them assistance and employment. The lawsuit names five other

people as defendants, including a man and woman believed by attorneys to have recruited migrants in San Antonio to board the planes. The plaintiffs include three anonymous Venezuelan migrants and Alianza Americas, a transnational organization that advocates on behalf of immigrants' rights. 'These immigrants, who are pursuing the proper channels for lawful immigration status in the United States, experienced cruelty akin to what they fled in their home country,' the lawsuit alleges. The three migrants, who asked the court Tuesday for permission to use pseudonyms, say they suffered emotionally from the scheme. One woman claimed she felt helpless and started crying when they landed in Martha's Vineyard. She says she and her 11-year-old son have needed mental health support—she has suffered from lack of sleep and vertigo as a result. [...] 'Defendants manipulated them, stripped them of their dignity, deprived them of their liberty, bodily autonomy, due process, and equal protection under law, and impermissibly interfered with the Federal Government's exclusive control over immigration in furtherance of an unlawful goal and a personal political agenda,' the suit reads.' [Miami Herald, 9/20/22]

**September 2022: Lawyers For Civil Rights Filed A “Potential” Class-Action Lawsuit Against DeSantis On Behalf Of The Asylum Seekers Flown To Martha’s Vineyard Which Sought To Block His Administration From “Inducing Immigrants To Travel Across State Lines By Fraud And Misrepresentation.”** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “DeSantis has taken credit for sending about 50 asylum seekers last week from San Antonio, Texas, to the liberal Massachusetts enclave, tapping into \$12 million Florida lawmakers earmarked in the state budget to transport undocumented immigrants. State records show the Florida Department of Transportation has paid Oregon-based Vertol Systems Company Inc., which has an operation in Destin, more than \$1.5 million for ‘relocation of unauthorized aliens.’ The state agency paid the company \$950,000 on Monday, in addition to a \$615,000 payment on Sept. 8, the records show. The relocation of the immigrants has drawn international attention. On Tuesday, lawyers representing some of the asylum seekers flown to Massachusetts filed a potential class-action lawsuit against DeSantis, Florida Department of Transportation Secretary Jared Perdue and unidentified people who helped recruit the immigrants in Texas. The legal challenge, filed by attorneys with the Massachusetts-based Lawyers for Civil Rights, seeks unspecified monetary damages and asks a judge to block the DeSantis administration from ‘inducing immigrants to travel across state lines by fraud and misrepresentation.’ Iván Espinoza-Madrigal, executive director of Lawyers for Civil Rights, told reporters Wednesday that his organization also requested anonymity for the immigrants because they have received ‘a barrage of hate messages and death threats’ as they try to recover from daunting journeys to the U.S. and subsequent trauma from their relocation to the Northeast.” [Tampa Bay Times, 9/21/22]

**According To Florida State Budget Records, DeSantis’s Administration Paid Aviation Company Vertol Systems Company Inc. \$615,000 From The State’s General Revenue Fund As Part Of The New Program To Relocate Undocumented Immigrants.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “On his 44<sup>th</sup> birthday, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis took credit for chartering two flights paid for with state money to fly undocumented immigrants to Martha’s Vineyard - a path that took the small group from Texas to the Massachusetts coast. The immigrants - around 50 of them mainly from Venezuela who were not living in Florida - say they were promised jobs, housing and a future in the U.S. after fleeing one of the poorest countries in Latin America. Some people have decried DeSantis’ actions as a political stunt while others have praised him for protecting the state. The Republican governor, a father of three whose ancestors migrated from Italy, is running for a second term in November and is a presidential contender. Here’s what we know: What has DeSantis said before on immigration? DeSantis had previously vowed to bus undocumented immigrants to Biden’s home state of Delaware and has criticized the president for lack of action on border immigration. How much has Florida spent on this effort? Earlier this year the Florida Legislature passed a new program to relocate undocumented immigrants. Funding for the \$12 million effort began in July. Under the guidelines, the state can contract with private transportation companies to bus people from Florida to other parts of the country. DeSantis’ administration last week paid an aviation company \$615,000 as part of the new program to relocate undocumented immigrants. It paid Vertol Systems Company, Inc., on Sept. 8, according to state budget records. The payment, listed as ‘Relocation program of unauthorized aliens,’ appears to have come from the state’s general revenue fund.” [Tampa Bay Times, 9/16/22]

**September 2022: State Records Showed That The Florida Department Of Transportation Had Paid Vertol Systems Company Inc., Which Provided The Transportation Of Migrants To Martha’s Vineyard, \$950,000 In Addition To A \$615,000 Payment Made On Sept. 8, 2022.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “DeSantis has

taken credit for sending about 50 asylum seekers last week from San Antonio, Texas, to the liberal Massachusetts enclave, tapping into \$12 million Florida lawmakers earmarked in the state budget to transport undocumented immigrants. State records show the Florida Department of Transportation has paid Oregon-based Vertol Systems Company Inc., which has an operation in Destin, more than \$1.5 million for ‘relocation of unauthorized aliens.’ The state agency paid the company \$950,000 on Monday, in addition to a \$615,000 payment on Sept. 8, the records show. The relocation of the immigrants has drawn international attention. On Tuesday, lawyers representing some of the asylum seekers flown to Massachusetts filed a potential class-action lawsuit against DeSantis, Florida Department of Transportation Secretary Jared Perdue and unidentified people who helped recruit the immigrants in Texas. The legal challenge, filed by attorneys with the Massachusetts-based Lawyers for Civil Rights, seeks unspecified monetary damages and asks a judge to block the DeSantis administration from ‘inducing immigrants to travel across state lines by fraud and misrepresentation.’ Iván Espinoza-Madrigal, executive director of Lawyers for Civil Rights, told reporters Wednesday that his organization also requested anonymity for the immigrants because they have received ‘a barrage of hate messages and death threats’ as they try to recover from daunting journeys to the U.S. and subsequent trauma from their relocation to the Northeast.” [Tampa Bay Times, 9/21/22]

**September 2022: Larry Keefe, DeSantis’s “Public Safety Czar” Who Was Responsible For Carrying Out Immigration Programs, Represented Vertol Systems Company Inc. In A Dozen Lawsuits Between 2010 And 2017.** The Miami Herald reported, “When Gov. Ron DeSantis’ administration needed a company it could trust to carry out a controversial program to transport migrants to other states, it chose an unusual option. Although Destin-based Vertol Systems Company is in aviation, its primary business is training pilots for the military and providing helicopters across the globe. But the company was familiar to a key member of the DeSantis administration: Larry Keefe, the state’s ‘public safety czar’ responsible for carrying out the governor’s anti-immigration programs. The company also has a private jet that flew from Florida to San Antonio a week before charter flights took 48 migrants to Martha’s Vineyard. Before DeSantis hired Keefe, and before he was named U.S. Attorney for Florida’s Northern District by then-President Donald Trump, Keefe represented Vertol Systems in a dozen lawsuits between 2010 and 2017. Keefe led the company’s litigation strategy, suing former employees accused of misusing funds, contractors suspected of stealing company secrets and a local lawn care company that ran over a wire connected to one of the company’s helicopters. The state has paid Vertol Systems more than \$1.56 million to, among other things, arrange last week’s migrant flights from Texas to Martha’s Vineyard, which sparked outrage, a criminal investigation by a local sheriff and a federal lawsuit by some of the migrants.” [Miami Herald, 9/22/22]

**September 2022: State Senator Jason Pizzo Filed A Lawsuit Against DeSantis Over Florida’s Program To Fly Migrants From Texas To Other States And Asked A Judge To Stop Future Flights.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “A new lawsuit has been brought against Gov. Ron DeSantis and other state officials over Florida’s program to fly migrants from Texas to other states. The lawsuit - filed by state Sen. Jason Pizzo, a South Florida Democrat, in his capacity as a private citizen - alleges that the program violates state law, in part because the migrants are not being flown out of Florida. It asks a judge to stop future flights and seeks no damages. Earlier this year, the Legislature passed a bipartisan budget that included language allocating \$12 million to establish a program facilitating ‘the transport of unauthorized aliens from this state consistent with federal law.’ Last week, DeSantis tapped that money to fly 48 Venezuelan migrants on two charter flights from San Antonio to Martha’s Vineyard, a Massachusetts island. [...] Pizzo’s suit argues that DeSantis’ program violates the budget language and another law on two points. One, the migrants, who are seeking asylum and have legal status in the United States, are not ‘unauthorized aliens.’ And, two, none of them were in Florida.” [Tampa Bay Times, 9/23/22]

- **To Pay For Migrants Flying Out From Texas To Other States, DeSantis Tapped Into Funding From A \$12 Million Program That Facilitated “The Transport Of Unauthorized Aliens From This State Consistent With Federal Law.”** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “A new lawsuit has been brought against Gov. Ron DeSantis and other state officials over Florida’s program to fly migrants from Texas to other states. The lawsuit - filed by state Sen. Jason Pizzo, a South Florida Democrat, in his capacity as a private citizen - alleges that the program violates state law, in part because the migrants are not being flown out of Florida. It asks a judge to stop future flights and seeks no damages. Earlier this year, the Legislature passed a bipartisan budget that included language allocating \$12 million to establish a program facilitating ‘the transport of unauthorized aliens from this state consistent with federal law.’ Last week, DeSantis tapped that money to fly 48 Venezuelan migrants on two charter flights from San Antonio to Martha’s Vineyard, a Massachusetts island.

[...] Pizzo's suit argues that DeSantis' program violates the budget language and another law on two points. One, the migrants, who are seeking asylum and have legal status in the United States, are not 'unauthorized aliens.' And, two, none of them were in Florida." [Tampa Bay Times, 9/23/22]

- **State Senator Jason Pizzo's Suit Argued That DeSantis's Program Violated The Law Because The Migrants Were Not "Unauthorized Aliens" And None Of Them Were Flown Out Of Florida.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, "A new lawsuit has been brought against Gov. Ron DeSantis and other state officials over Florida's program to fly migrants from Texas to other states. The lawsuit - filed by state Sen. Jason Pizzo, a South Florida Democrat, in his capacity as a private citizen - alleges that the program violates state law, in part because the migrants are not being flown out of Florida. It asks a judge to stop future flights and seeks no damages. Earlier this year, the Legislature passed a bipartisan budget that included language allocating \$12 million to establish a program facilitating 'the transport of unauthorized aliens from this state consistent with federal law.' Last week, DeSantis tapped that money to fly 48 Venezuelan migrants on two charter flights from San Antonio to Martha's Vineyard, a Massachusetts island. [...] Pizzo's suit argues that DeSantis' program violates the budget language and another law on two points. One, the migrants, who are seeking asylum and have legal status in the United States, are not 'unauthorized aliens.' And, two, none of them were in Florida." [Tampa Bay Times, 9/23/22]
- **Three Migrants Sued DeSantis In Massachusetts Federal Court For Civil Rights Violations And Said They Were Duped Into Getting On The Flights To Martha's Vineyard With False Promises Of Jobs.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, "Pizzo's lawsuit is not the only legal challenge facing DeSantis. Three of the Martha's Vineyard migrants, who said they'd been duped into getting on the flights with false promises of jobs, are now suing DeSantis in Massachusetts federal court for civil rights violations. And the Democratic sheriff of Bexar County, Texas, Javier Salazar, has announced a criminal investigation into the flights. [...] At a Thursday news conference in Miami, DeSantis defended the program, saying it was stopping migrants from getting to Florida in the first place. He also said he had successfully refocused the nation's attention on immigration policy. 'This was not an issue of concern two weeks ago, so we're proud of that,' he said. He did not answer questions about another charter flight set up by operatives working for him. The flight was scheduled to depart San Antonio on Tuesday carrying more Venezuelan migrants and land at an airport near President Joe Biden's summer home, according to a Miami Herald investigation. But the charter was canceled without explanation - leaving the migrants stranded once more." [Tampa Bay Times, 9/23/22]
- **At A Press Conference, DeSantis Defended The Program And Said He Had Successfully Refocused The Nation's Attention On Immigration Policy And He Was "Proud Of That."** The Tampa Bay Times reported, "Pizzo's lawsuit is not the only legal challenge facing DeSantis. Three of the Martha's Vineyard migrants, who said they'd been duped into getting on the flights with false promises of jobs, are now suing DeSantis in Massachusetts federal court for civil rights violations. And the Democratic sheriff of Bexar County, Texas, Javier Salazar, has announced a criminal investigation into the flights. [...] At a Thursday news conference in Miami, DeSantis defended the program, saying it was stopping migrants from getting to Florida in the first place. He also said he had successfully refocused the nation's attention on immigration policy. 'This was not an issue of concern two weeks ago, so we're proud of that,' he said. He did not answer questions about another charter flight set up by operatives working for him. The flight was scheduled to depart San Antonio on Tuesday carrying more Venezuelan migrants and land at an airport near President Joe Biden's summer home, according to a Miami Herald investigation. But the charter was canceled without explanation - leaving the migrants stranded once more." [Tampa Bay Times, 9/23/22]
- **Another Charter Flight Carrying More Venezuelan Migrants Was Scheduled To Depart San Antonio And Land Near President Biden's Home In Delaware But The Charter Was Canceled Without Explanation, Leaving The Migrants Stranded Again.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, "Pizzo's lawsuit is not the only legal challenge facing DeSantis. Three of the Martha's Vineyard migrants, who said they'd been duped into getting on the flights with false promises of jobs, are now suing DeSantis in Massachusetts federal court for civil rights violations. And the Democratic sheriff of Bexar County, Texas, Javier Salazar, has announced a criminal investigation into the flights. [...] At a Thursday news conference in Miami, DeSantis defended the program, saying it was stopping migrants from getting to Florida in the first place. He also said he

had successfully refocused the nation’s attention on immigration policy. ‘This was not an issue of concern two weeks ago, so we’re proud of that,’ he said. He did not answer questions about another charter flight set up by operatives working for him. The flight was scheduled to depart San Antonio on Tuesday carrying more Venezuelan migrants and land at an airport near President Joe Biden’s summer home, according to a Miami Herald investigation. But the charter was canceled without explanation - leaving the migrants stranded once more.” [Tampa Bay Times, 9/23/22]

**September 2022: A Class-Action Lawsuit Filed By Immigrant Aid Group Alianza America Stated That DeSantis “Manipulated” The Migrants Flown To Martha’s Vineyard, “Stripped Them Of Their Dignity, Deprived Them Of Their Liberty, Bodily Autonomy, Due Process, And Equal Protection Under Law.”** The LA Times reported, “In a class-action lawsuit filed Tuesday in federal court in Massachusetts, the immigrant aid group Alianza Americas put meat on the bare bones of what’s been known about the DeSantis-sponsored flights of nearly 50 migrants to the island of Martha’s Vineyard in Massachusetts. [...] Naming DeSantis, Florida Transportation Secretary Jared Perdue and the state of Florida as defendants, the lawsuit states that they ‘manipulated’ the migrants, ‘stripped them of their dignity, deprived them of their liberty, bodily autonomy, due process, and equal protection under law.’ DeSantis responded to the lawsuit Tuesday by making public a consent form purportedly signed by one of the passengers. [...] It’s in English and Spanish, but the Spanish text—the part bearing the passenger’s signature—is an incomplete translation from the English. Missing is a Spanish translation of an entire paragraph attesting that the passenger agrees to ‘hold the benefactor or its designated representatives harmless of all liability ... relating to any injuries and damages that may occur during the agreed transport.’ The document states only that the flight would originate in Texas and land in Massachusetts, with no further specifics.” [LA Times, 9/25/22]

- **DeSantis Responded To The Lawsuit By Making Public A Consent Form Purportedly Signed By One Of The Passengers, But The Spanish Text Of The Form Was Reportedly An Incomplete Translation Of The English And Only Stated That The Flight Would Originate In Texas And Land In Massachusetts.** The LA Times reported, “In a class-action lawsuit filed Tuesday in federal court in Massachusetts, the immigrant aid group Alianza Americas put meat on the bare bones of what’s been known about the DeSantis-sponsored flights of nearly 50 migrants to the island of Martha’s Vineyard in Massachusetts. [...] Naming DeSantis, Florida Transportation Secretary Jared Perdue and the state of Florida as defendants, the lawsuit states that they ‘manipulated’ the migrants, ‘stripped them of their dignity, deprived them of their liberty, bodily autonomy, due process, and equal protection under law.’ DeSantis responded to the lawsuit Tuesday by making public a consent form purportedly signed by one of the passengers. [...] It’s in English and Spanish, but the Spanish text—the part bearing the passenger’s signature—is an incomplete translation from the English. Missing is a Spanish translation of an entire paragraph attesting that the passenger agrees to ‘hold the benefactor or its designated representatives harmless of all liability ... relating to any injuries and damages that may occur during the agreed transport.’ The document states only that the flight would originate in Texas and land in Massachusetts, with no further specifics.” [LA Times, 9/25/22]

**September 2022: According To The Lawsuit Filed Against DeSantis, The Three Plaintiffs Who Were Flown To Martha’s Vineyard Had Crossed The U.S. Border From Venezuela To Seek Asylum And Were Considered Legal Residents In The U.S.** The LA Times reported, “The three named plaintiffs in the lawsuit...all crossed the U.S. border to seek asylum from crime, civil unrest, terrorism and other such conditions in Venezuela, their home country. They surrendered to U.S. immigration officials, who allowed them to remain in the U.S. while their asylum applications were being adjudicated, a process that can take more than a year. In the interim, they’re legal residents in the U.S. According to the lawsuit, the plaintiffs were approached outside a migrant resource center in San Antonio by two individuals identified only as ‘Perla’ and ‘Emanuel,’ who haven’t been further identified or found. The lawsuit says they gave the migrants \$10 McDonald’s gift certificates and told them that if they were willing to be flown out of Texas, ‘they would receive employment, housing, educational opportunities, and other like assistance upon their arrival.’” [LA Times, 9/25/22]

- **The Plaintiffs Claimed That Two Individuals Approached Them And Gave Them \$10 McDonald’s Gift Certificates And Said “They Would Receive Employment, Housing, Educational Opportunities, And Other Like Assistance Upon Their Arrival” If They Were Willing To Be Flown Out Of Texas.** The LA

Times reported, “The three named plaintiffs in the lawsuit...all crossed the U.S. border to seek asylum from crime, civil unrest, terrorism and other such conditions in Venezuela, their home country. They surrendered to U.S. immigration officials, who allowed them to remain in the U.S. while their asylum applications were being adjudicated, a process that can take more than a year. In the interim, they’re legal residents in the U.S. According to the lawsuit, the plaintiffs were approached outside a migrant resource center in San Antonio by two individuals identified only as ‘Perla’ and ‘Emanuel,’ who haven’t been further identified or found. The lawsuit says they gave the migrants \$10 McDonald’s gift certificates and told them that if they were willing to be flown out of Texas, ‘they would receive employment, housing, educational opportunities, and other like assistance upon their arrival.’” [LA Times, 9/25/22]

**September 2022: The Lawsuit By The Plaintiffs Who Claimed They Were Unknowingly Flown To Martha’s Vineyard Said They Were Kept In Hotel Rooms For As Long As Five Days And Were Separated From Any Legitimate Migrant Assistance Workers.** The LA Times reported, “The lawsuit says they kept the migrants in hotel rooms for as long as five days, separated from any legitimate migrant assistance workers, while they rounded up enough passengers to fill the planes. Only during the flight were the passengers told they would be landing on Martha’s Vineyard. They were handed a packet of information about refugee resettlement programs in Massachusetts, which the passengers, in fact, didn’t qualify for. Perla and Emanuel didn’t travel on the flights, according to the lawsuit. Their phone numbers weren’t answered, the suit says. The passengers were dropped off on Martha’s Vineyard ‘in the evening, with no food, water or shelter,’ the lawsuit asserts. ‘No one on Martha’s Vineyard—or ... anywhere in Massachusetts—knew they were coming.’” [LA Times, 9/25/22]

- **The Plaintiffs Said That The Passengers Were Told They Would Be Landing In Martha’s Vineyard Only During The Flight And Were Handed Information About Refugee Settlement Programs In Massachusetts, Which They Did Not Qualify For.** The LA Times reported, “The lawsuit says they kept the migrants in hotel rooms for as long as five days, separated from any legitimate migrant assistance workers, while they rounded up enough passengers to fill the planes. Only during the flight were the passengers told they would be landing on Martha’s Vineyard. They were handed a packet of information about refugee resettlement programs in Massachusetts, which the passengers, in fact, didn’t qualify for. Perla and Emanuel didn’t travel on the flights, according to the lawsuit. Their phone numbers weren’t answered, the suit says. The passengers were dropped off on Martha’s Vineyard ‘in the evening, with no food, water or shelter,’ the lawsuit asserts. ‘No one on Martha’s Vineyard—or ... anywhere in Massachusetts—knew they were coming.’” [LA Times, 9/25/22]
- **The Lawsuit Asserted That The Passengers Were Dropped Off On Martha’s Vineyard “In The Evening, With No Food, Water Or Shelter” And “No One On Martha’s Vineyard—Or ... Anywhere In Massachusetts—Knew They Were Coming.”** The LA Times reported, “The lawsuit says they kept the migrants in hotel rooms for as long as five days, separated from any legitimate migrant assistance workers, while they rounded up enough passengers to fill the planes. Only during the flight were the passengers told they would be landing on Martha’s Vineyard. They were handed a packet of information about refugee resettlement programs in Massachusetts, which the passengers, in fact, didn’t qualify for. Perla and Emanuel didn’t travel on the flights, according to the lawsuit. Their phone numbers weren’t answered, the suit says. The passengers were dropped off on Martha’s Vineyard ‘in the evening, with no food, water or shelter,’ the lawsuit asserts. ‘No one on Martha’s Vineyard—or ... anywhere in Massachusetts—knew they were coming.’” [LA Times, 9/25/22]

**September 2022: DeSantis Claimed That Martha’s Vineyard “Said They Were A Sanctuary Jurisdiction” Even Though Massachusetts Never Enacted Legislation Identifying Itself As A Sanctuary State.** The LA Times reported, “DeSantis and his co-defendants haven’t filed an official response to the lawsuit. But in public statements, including an appearance Tuesday on Sean Hannity’s Fox News program, he has spouted a heap of balderdash about the migrant flights. Martha’s Vineyard, he told Hannity, ‘said they wanted this. They said they were a sanctuary jurisdiction.’ That’s a lie. Massachusetts has never enacted legislation identifying itself as a sanctuary state, which is normally taken to involve a formal designation. Several communities in the state, including Boston, have designated themselves as sanctuary jurisdictions, but Martha’s Vineyard isn’t among them. [...] On Tuesday, a plane chartered by the same company DeSantis used for the Martha’s Vineyard flight appeared set to take off from San Antonio, with a flight plan showing it was headed for Delaware, President Biden’s home



state. Delaware officials and immigrant advocates scrambled to receive it. Instead, the plane landed in Teterboro, N.J., with no one aboard but the flight crew.” [LA Times, 9/25/22]

- **A Plane Chartered By The Same Company DeSantis Used For The Martha’s Vineyard Flight Appeared To Take Off From San Antonio And Land In Delaware But The Plane Landed In Teterboro, N.J., With No One Aboard But The Flight Crew.** The LA Times reported, DeSantis and his co-defendants haven’t filed an official response to the lawsuit. But in public statements, including an appearance Tuesday on Sean Hannity’s Fox News program, he has spouted a heap of balderdash about the migrant flights. Martha’s Vineyard, he told Hannity, ‘said they wanted this. They said they were a sanctuary jurisdiction.’ That’s a lie. Massachusetts has never enacted legislation identifying itself as a sanctuary state, which is normally taken to involve a formal designation. Several communities in the state, including Boston, have designated themselves as sanctuary jurisdictions, but Martha’s Vineyard isn’t among them. [...] On Tuesday, a plane chartered by the same company DeSantis used for the Martha’s Vineyard flight appeared set to take off from San Antonio, with a flight plan showing it was headed for Delaware, President Biden’s home state. Delaware officials and immigrant advocates scrambled to receive it. Instead, the plane landed in Teterboro, N.J., with no one aboard but the flight crew.” [LA Times, 9/25/22]

**September 2022: Columnist Leonard Pitts Wrote That DeSantis’s Action Of Flying Out 48 Migrants From Texas To Martha’s Vineyard Cost Taxpayers \$615,000, Or \$12,812 Per Person.** According to a column in the Detroit Free Times by columnist Leonard Pitts, “On his orders, 48 immigrants - most, if not all, from Venezuela; most, if not all, seeking asylum - were approached in tiny Eagle Pass, Texas, by a woman they say duped them into boarding two chartered planes with promises of being flown to where they would find jobs and immigration assistance. They were instead taken to Martha’s Vineyard where they wound up wandering about with child-appropriate maps they had been issued in Texas. This was DeSantis’ take on a stunt lately favored by the Republican governors of Arizona and Texas. They’d been putting migrants on buses, but he upped the ante by chartering planes at a cost to taxpayers of \$615,000, or \$12,812 per person. (At this writing, a commercial flight from San Antonio to the Vineyard is \$329. Just so you know.)” [Detroit Free Times, Column, 9/25/22]

**September 2022: According To A Lawsuit Filed By Migrants Flown To Martha’s Vineyard, The Plaintiffs Alleged Florida Officials “Designed And Executed A Premeditated...And Illegal Scheme Centered On Exploiting This Vulnerability For The Sole Purpose Of Advancing Their Own...Interests.”** According to an op-ed in the Orange County Register by Steven Greenhut, “The victims allege Florida officials ‘designed and executed a premeditated, fraudulent, and illegal scheme centered on exploiting this vulnerability for the sole purpose of advancing their own personal, financial and political interests,’ according to a lawsuit they filed this week. [...] DeSantis has admitted to the basic plan, although he disputes ill intent. ‘Florida’s program gave them a fresh start in a sanctuary state and these individuals opted to take advantage of chartered flights to Massachusetts,’ per a statement from the governor’s spokesperson that calls it ‘voluntary.’ The migrants claim officials lured them with promises of jobs and housing.” [Orange County Register, Op-Ed, 9/25/22]

- **DeSantis’s Spokesperson: “Florida’s Program Gave Them A Fresh Start In A Sanctuary State And These Individuals Opted To Take Advantage Of Chartered Flights To Massachusetts.”** According to an op-ed in the Orange County Register by Steven Greenhut, “The victims allege Florida officials ‘designed and executed a premeditated, fraudulent, and illegal scheme centered on exploiting this vulnerability for the sole purpose of advancing their own personal, financial and political interests,’ according to a lawsuit they filed this week. [...] DeSantis has admitted to the basic plan, although he disputes ill intent. ‘Florida’s program gave them a fresh start in a sanctuary state and these individuals opted to take advantage of chartered flights to Massachusetts,’ per a statement from the governor’s spokesperson that calls it ‘voluntary.’ The migrants claim officials lured them with promises of jobs and housing.” [Orange County Register, Op-Ed, 9/25/22]

**September 2022: Larry Keefe, DeSantis’s Immigration Czar, Had Close Ties With Vertol Systems Company, Which Managed The Logistics Of A Private Jet That Flew Migrants From Texas To Martha’s Vineyard.** The Miami Herald reported, “We now know the governor’s plan to ship 48 migrants from the Texas border to Martha’s Vineyard was a carefully planned, taxpayer-funded operation. But why did the state pay an aviation firm that specializes in defense helicopter training to manage the project? Larry Keefe, U.S. attorney for the Northern

District of Florida, is leading an effort to increase awareness and coordination of election security ahead of the 2020 presidential election. [...] The Miami Herald and Tampa Bay Times found that Vertol Systems Company not only has a private jet that could help with logistics, the company also has close ties to the governor's immigration czar, Larry Keefe, who is responsible for carrying out the governor's controversial anti-immigration programs. For seven years as a trial lawyer based in Fort Walton Beach, Keefe represented Vertol Systems Company in a dozen lawsuits—from suing former employees and contractors to seeking damages from a lawn care provider who accidentally damaged one of the company's helicopters." [Miami Herald, 9/26/22]

- **Larry Keefe Represented Vertol Systems Company For Seven Years In A Dozen Lawsuits While He Served As A Trial Lawyer In Fort Walton Beach.** The Miami Herald reported, "We now know the governor's plan to ship 48 migrants from the Texas border to Martha's Vineyard was a carefully planned, taxpayer-funded operation. But why did the state pay an aviation firm that specializes in defense helicopter training to manage the project? Larry Keefe, U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Florida, is leading an effort to increase awareness and coordination of election security ahead of the 2020 presidential election. [...] The Miami Herald and Tampa Bay Times found that Vertol Systems Company not only has a private jet that could help with logistics, the company also has close ties to the governor's immigration czar, Larry Keefe, who is responsible for carrying out the governor's controversial anti-immigration programs. For seven years as a trial lawyer based in Fort Walton Beach, Keefe represented Vertol Systems Company in a dozen lawsuits—from suing former employees and contractors to seeking damages from a lawn care provider who accidentally damaged one of the company's helicopters." [Miami Herald, 9/26/22]

**September 2022: Vertol Systems Company Was Paid A First Payment Of \$615,000 On September 8 And An Additional Payment Of \$950,000 On September 19.** The Miami Herald reported, "The two line-item budget transactions for Vertol Company in the state database provides tell-tale clues that the DeSantis administration has more flights planned. The first payment of \$615,000 on Sept. 8 is identified as 'Proj 1' while the second payment of \$950,000 on Sept. 19 is labeled 'Proj 2-3.' There were few signs of activity at Kelly Field in San Antonio on Tuesday morning, despite reports of a plane of migrants scheduled to take off from there and fly to Delaware. [...] Flight records showed a plane was scheduled to travel from San Antonio to Delaware on Sept. 20. The flight path bore all the hallmarks of DeSantis' efforts to move migrants from Texas to Martha's Vineyard. Recruiters linked to DeSantis promised Texas migrants a flight to Delaware. But the charter fell through, stranding them in San Antonio. It's not clear what happened and DeSantis' office didn't respond to questions. Nonetheless, Vertol has been paid." [Miami Herald, 9/26/22]

- **A Charter Flight That Was Scheduled To Travel From San Antonio To Delaware On September 20 Fell Through, But Vertol Systems Company Was Still Paid.** The Miami Herald reported, "The two line-item budget transactions for Vertol Company in the state database provides tell-tale clues that the DeSantis administration has more flights planned. The first payment of \$615,000 on Sept. 8 is identified as 'Proj 1' while the second payment of \$950,000 on Sept. 19 is labeled 'Proj 2-3.' There were few signs of activity at Kelly Field in San Antonio on Tuesday morning, despite reports of a plane of migrants scheduled to take off from there and fly to Delaware. [...] Flight records showed a plane was scheduled to travel from San Antonio to Delaware on Sept. 20. The flight path bore all the hallmarks of DeSantis' efforts to move migrants from Texas to Martha's Vineyard. Recruiters linked to DeSantis promised Texas migrants a flight to Delaware. But the charter fell through, stranding them in San Antonio. It's not clear what happened and DeSantis' office didn't respond to questions. Nonetheless, Vertol has been paid." [Miami Herald, 9/26/22]

**September 2022: Bexar County Sheriff Javier Salazar Announced He Had Opened A Criminal Investigation Into Whether The Migrants Flown To Martha's Vineyard From Texas Were The Victims Of A Crime, Saying They Were "Lured Under False Pretenses."** The Miami Herald reported, "In Texas, Bexar County Sheriff Javier Salazar announced he had opened a criminal investigation into whether the migrants were the victims of a crime, saying they were 'lured under false pretenses.' Many migrants said they agreed to fly from San Antonio to the Massachusetts island after being promised jobs. But there was no work waiting." [Miami Herald, 9/26/22]

**September 2022: The Fort Worth Star-Telegram Editorial Board Criticized DeSantis's Migrant Relocation Program And His Treatment Of Migrants, Noting That The Response To Immigration And Workforce**

**Issues Required “Leaders Serious About Governing.”** According to the Editorial Board of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, “Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis recently took a page from Texas Gov. Greg Abbott’s playbook and sent asylum seekers to Martha’s Vineyard, sparking charges of fraud, cheers from the right and a hearty debate over the difference between influencing an issue and proving a point. [...] The frustrating irony is that the U.S. needs young workers. Participation in the workforce hasn’t bounced back enough since the pandemic. Long-term, the U.S. needs smarter ways to match up businesses with the kind of workers they need. That means a rational, orderly process, not a game of who can best the smugglers and nature to get across the border. But those are complex situations that will require leaders serious about governing. It’s not enough to troll or try to express moral superiority when confronted with a tiny fraction of a problem the whole nation should be addressing as the crisis that it is.” [Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Editorial, 9/23/22]

- **Fort Worth Star-Telegram Editorial Board: “It’s Not Enough To Troll Or Try To Express Moral Superiority When Confronted With A Tiny Fraction Of A Problem The Whole Nation Should Be Addressing As The Crisis That It Is.”** According to the Editorial Board of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, “Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis recently took a page from Texas Gov. Greg Abbott’s playbook and sent asylum seekers to Martha’s Vineyard, sparking charges of fraud, cheers from the right and a hearty debate over the difference between influencing an issue and proving a point. [...] The frustrating irony is that the U.S. needs young workers. Participation in the workforce hasn’t bounced back enough since the pandemic. Long-term, the U.S. needs smarter ways to match up businesses with the kind of workers they need. That means a rational, orderly process, not a game of who can best the smugglers and nature to get across the border. But those are complex situations that will require leaders serious about governing. It’s not enough to troll or try to express moral superiority when confronted with a tiny fraction of a problem the whole nation should be addressing as the crisis that it is.” [Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Editorial, 9/23/22]

**September 2022: In A New York Times Op-Ed, Immigration Reporter Dara Lind Wrote, “By Refusing To Articulate What America Ought To Be Doing On The...Border, Mr. DeSantis Is Painting Himself...Into A Corner — Where The Only Acceptable Position Will Be Rejecting The Principle Of Asylum Entirely.”**

According to an op-ed by immigration reporter Dara Lind in the New York Times, “The broader the attacks by the Republican governors, the narrower the space of alternative policies they could support. By refusing to articulate what America ought to be doing on the U.S.-Mexico border, Mr. DeSantis is painting himself and his party into a corner — where the only acceptable position will be rejecting the principle of asylum entirely. [...] What’s at stake, though no one is willing to articulate it, is the idea of asylum itself: Does America still embrace its obligation under international law to provide sanctuary to at least some unauthorized immigrants? The answer is no longer obvious. By continuing to insist that the status quo is ‘open borders,’ Mr. Abbott and Mr. DeSantis are sending the message that the asylum law the United States has had for 42 years is intolerable — without openly calling for its repeal.” [New York Times, Op-Ed, 9/27/22]

- **Immigration Reporter Dara Lind: “By Continuing To Insist That The Status Quo Is ‘Open Borders,’ Mr. Abbott And Mr. DeSantis Are Sending The Message That The Asylum Law The United States Has Had For 42 Years Is Intolerable — Without Openly Calling For Its Repeal.”** According to an op-ed by immigration reporter Dara Lind in the New York Times, “The broader the attacks by the Republican governors, the narrower the space of alternative policies they could support. By refusing to articulate what America ought to be doing on the U.S.-Mexico border, Mr. DeSantis is painting himself and his party into a corner — where the only acceptable position will be rejecting the principle of asylum entirely. [...] What’s at stake, though no one is willing to articulate it, is the idea of asylum itself: Does America still embrace its obligation under international law to provide sanctuary to at least some unauthorized immigrants? The answer is no longer obvious. By continuing to insist that the status quo is ‘open borders,’ Mr. Abbott and Mr. DeSantis are sending the message that the asylum law the United States has had for 42 years is intolerable — without openly calling for its repeal.” [New York Times, Op-Ed, 9/27/22]

**September 2022: Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker Declined To Directly Criticize DeSantis For Flying Migrants From Texas To Martha’s Vineyard, Saying He Had No Interest In Joining “Republicans And Democrats That Are Running For President Tee Off On Each Other.”** The Boston Globe reported, “Governor Charlie Baker on Monday declined to directly criticize his Florida counterpart, Governor Ron DeSantis, for his

decision to fly roughly 50 migrants from Texas to Martha's Vineyard earlier this month, saying he has no interest in joining 'Republicans and Democrats that are running for president tee off on each other.' 'I'm not running for president, so why engage in what is obviously a presidential debate?' [...] Dozens of migrants who landed on Martha's Vineyard left the island shortly thereafter for temporary housing on Joint Base Cape Cod in Bourne. Baker said Monday some have since left, though he didn't say how many. At the time of their move, Baker said he was prepared to mobilize up to 125 members of the Massachusetts National Guard as part of the relief effort." [Boston Globe, 9/27/22]

- **Dozens Of Migrants Left Martha's Vineyard After Being Temporarily Housed On Joint Base Cape Cod In Bourne, And Massachusetts Governor Baker Said He Was Prepared To Mobilize Up To 125 Members Of The Massachusetts National Guard As Part Of The Relief Effort.** The Boston Globe reported, "Governor Charlie Baker on Monday declined to directly criticize his Florida counterpart, Governor Ron DeSantis, for his decision to fly roughly 50 migrants from Texas to Martha's Vineyard earlier this month, saying he has no interest in joining 'Republicans and Democrats that are running for president tee off on each other.' 'I'm not running for president, so why engage in what is obviously a presidential debate?' [...] Dozens of migrants who landed on Martha's Vineyard left the island shortly thereafter for temporary housing on Joint Base Cape Cod in Bourne. Baker said Monday some have since left, though he didn't say how many. At the time of their move, Baker said he was prepared to mobilize up to 125 members of the Massachusetts National Guard as part of the relief effort." [Boston Globe, 9/27/22]

**September 2022: Sen. Ed Markey And Reps. Bill Keating, Lori Trahan, Stephen F. Lynch, Jake Auchincloss And Seth Moulton Asked Transportation Secretary Buttigieg To Investigate The Flight To Martha's Vineyard, Noting That The "Conduct...May Have Violated DOT's Charter-Broker Rule."** According to an editorial in the Boston Herald, "For Congressional Democrats from Massachusetts, rules are meant to be enforced, not broken. But only when it's politically convenient. Hence the generous side of irony served with a letter to Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg from Sen. Ed Markey and Reps. Bill Keating, Lori Trahan, Stephen F. Lynch, Jake Auchincloss and Seth Moulton. The lawmakers are asking Buttigieg to investigate Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis's flight of some 50 migrants to Martha's Vineyard this month, according to The Hill. In the letter, first reported by Politico, the lawmakers said that the 'conduct ... may have violated DOT's Charter-Broker Rule.' The Trump-era regulation bars those who arrange charter air transportation from misrepresenting the route of a flight. When rules and regulations are broken, these Dems want no stone left unturned: 'We urge DOT to swiftly investigate the company and individuals responsible for these representations and take all necessary action to protect migrants from such dishonest behavior,' they wrote." [Boston Herald, Editorial, 9/30/22]

- **Congressional Democrats From Massachusetts: "We Urge DOT To Swiftly Investigate The Company And Individuals Responsible For These Representations And Take All Necessary Action To Protect Migrants From Such Dishonest Behavior."** According to an editorial in the Boston Herald, "For Congressional Democrats from Massachusetts, rules are meant to be enforced, not broken. But only when it's politically convenient. Hence the generous side of irony served with a letter to Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg from Sen. Ed Markey and Reps. Bill Keating, Lori Trahan, Stephen F. Lynch, Jake Auchincloss and Seth Moulton. The lawmakers are asking Buttigieg to investigate Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis's flight of some 50 migrants to Martha's Vineyard this month, according to The Hill. In the letter, first reported by Politico, the lawmakers said that the 'conduct ... may have violated DOT's Charter-Broker Rule.' The Trump-era regulation bars those who arrange charter air transportation from misrepresenting the route of a flight. When rules and regulations are broken, these Dems want no stone left unturned: 'We urge DOT to swiftly investigate the company and individuals responsible for these representations and take all necessary action to protect migrants from such dishonest behavior,' they wrote." [Boston Herald, Editorial, 9/30/22]

**September 2022: Biden Said That Republican Governors Who Sent Migrants To Other States Were "Playing Politics With Human Beings, Using Them As Props" And That What They Were Doing Was "Simply Wrong" And "Reckless."** According to a column by Michael Goodwin in the New York Post, "At first, the White House had no answer for the GOP shipments. Eventually, the president's political team found something to say. Biden declared himself furious - at the GOP governors. Having accepted for nearly two years the power of drug cartels and traffickers over the desperate caravans, he suddenly was concerned with the migrants' safety

during their bus rides and flights north. The Republican governors, Biden claimed, are ‘playing politics with human beings, using them as props. What they’re doing is simply wrong, it’s un-American, it’s reckless.’” [New York Post, Column, 9/25/22]

**September 2022: Lawyers Representing Migrants Who Were Flown Out To Martha’s Vineyard Instructed Vertol Systems And Ultimate JetCharters To Preserve Evidence About The Flights, Including Flight Logs and Passenger Lists, And Warned Of Potential Federal Court Sanctions For Such Destruction.** The Boston Globe reported, “Lawyers representing Venezuelan migrants who are suing Florida Republican Governor Ron DeSantis for flying them to Martha’s Vineyard said Thursday that they had warned two plane companies to preserve any evidence surrounding the flights. Lawyers for Civil Rights said it had sent letters to Vertol Systems and Ultimate JetCharters formally notifying them of a class action lawsuit brought by the migrants and Alianza Americas, a network of immigrant-led support organizations across the country. The letters instructed both plane companies not to destroy evidence and warned of potential federal court sanctions for any such destruction, the lawyers said in a statement. Evidence that must be preserved, the lawyers said, includes flight logs, passenger lists, contracts with the state of Florida for transport of migrants, and communications with any of the defendants about any planned flights. In response to the lawsuit, DeSantis’ office has accused the lawyers of ‘political theater’ and blamed underlying immigration problems on the ‘Biden administration’s reckless border policies.’” [Boston Globe, 9/30/22]

- **DeSantis’s Office Accused The Lawyers Of “Political Theater” And Blamed The Immigration Problem On The “Biden Administration’s Reckless Border Policies.”** The Boston Globe reported, “Lawyers representing Venezuelan migrants who are suing Florida Republican Governor Ron DeSantis for flying them to Martha’s Vineyard said Thursday that they had warned two plane companies to preserve any evidence surrounding the flights. Lawyers for Civil Rights said it had sent letters to Vertol Systems and Ultimate JetCharters formally notifying them of a class action lawsuit brought by the migrants and Alianza Americas, a network of immigrant-led support organizations across the country. The letters instructed both plane companies not to destroy evidence and warned of potential federal court sanctions for any such destruction, the lawyers said in a statement. Evidence that must be preserved, the lawyers said, includes flight logs, passenger lists, contracts with the state of Florida for transport of migrants, and communications with any of the defendants about any planned flights. In response to the lawsuit, DeSantis’ office has accused the lawyers of ‘political theater’ and blamed underlying immigration problems on the ‘Biden administration’s reckless border policies.’” [Boston Globe, 9/30/22]

**October 2022: The Boston Globe’s Editorial Board Slammed DeSantis For Flying Out Migrants When The Budget Document Issued By His Office Back In June Stated, “Florida Stands Against Illegal Human Trafficking Whether It is Being Carried Out By Common Criminals Or By The Federal Government...”** According to the editorial board of the Boston Globe, “No question that as far back as June, when DeSantis signed the state’s \$109.9 billion budget — the ‘Freedom First Budget,’ it was called by his office — he was planning to use immigration issues to advance his presidential ambitions. The Republican-dominated Legislature was more than willing to go along, approving \$12 million to create a program ‘within the Florida Department of Transportation to facilitate the transport of unauthorized aliens out of Florida.’ ‘Florida stands against illegal human trafficking whether it is being carried out by common criminals or by the federal government by prohibiting contracts and cooperation,’ the budget document issued by DeSantis’ office said. No doubt the irony of loading up two planes of men, women, and children and dropping them on an island off the Massachusetts coast — an act that itself raises substantial legal issues possibly related to trafficking — is lost on the governor’s office.” [Boston Globe, Editorial, 10/4/22]

**October 2022: In An Op-Ed, Boston Globe Columnist Marcela García Claimed That Many Spanish-Language Radio Hosts Praised DeSantis’s Migrant Relocation Program While Using Language To Promote Falsehoods And Misinformation.** According to Boston Globe columnist Marcela García, “When Governor Ron DeSantis of Florida unexpectedly flew Venezuelan migrants to Martha’s Vineyard a month ago, many Spanish-language radio hosts and social media personalities defended DeSantis and used familiar anti-immigrant talking points to justify the political stunt. What’s more, many of these Spanish-speaking hosts engaged in blatant misinformation tactics to do so. In one of several instances compiled by the media watchdog group Media Matters,

guests of the Spanish-language radio show Directo Al Punto, which also broadcasts live on Facebook, praised and rationalized DeSantis' move claiming that the flow of migrants is an 'invasion by design.' That's language associated with the 'great replacement' theory, which promotes falsehoods and bigoted tropes, including the notion that policies that welcome immigrants are part of a conspiracy to weaken white political power and culture." [Boston Globe, Column, 10/15/22]

**October 2022: Pedro Escalona, A Venezuelan Man Who Was Recruited By A DeSantis Operative To Fly To Delaware As Part Of The Migrant Relocation Program, Ended Up In A Homeless Shelter After The Flight Was Canceled.** The Miami Herald reported, "Pedro Escalona endured a grueling journey from Venezuela to Texas, made a brief stopover at a San Antonio migrant center, crossed paths with an operative of Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis—one who promised a free charter flight to Delaware—then learned the flight had been scuttled and caught a plane to New York City, where he ended up in a homeless shelter. And now, days later, he sat forlornly on a bench in Doral, Florida, outside a Best Western, contemplating life's odd twists. The company he had been working for had fired him, kicking him and three others out of the hotel room they had been staying in for a week. He had spent the night before on the grass of the hotel under a palm tree. Escalona, 24, was angry and mostly broke, save for a check he could not cash—the fruits of an exhausting week of labor on a hurricane-recovery work crew. [...] How he got to Florida—the state that wanted to dump him and others in Delaware, apparently to embarrass President Joe Biden, who has a home there—and onto a seven-day-a-week Fort Myers work crew is the story of America's conflicted relationship with migrant workers." [Miami Herald, 10/19/22]

**September 2022 – DeSantis: "All Those People In D.C. And New York Were Beating Their Chests. . . Saying How Bad It Was To Have A Secure Border... The Minute Even A Small Fraction Of What Those Border Towns Deal With Every Day Were Brought To Their Front Door, They All Of A Sudden Go Berserk."** The Boston Globe reported, "Republican politicians in border states, along with DeSantis, argue that their communities are overwhelmed by the wave of migrants, and have justified the transport of migrants to blue states as a way to both share the costs and raise awareness of the border crisis. Conservatives want the Biden administration to take a harder stance, and worry that any favorable treatment of migrants coming to the United States will encourage more people to come. 'All those people in D.C. and New York were beating their chests when Trump was president . . . saying how bad it was to have a secure border,' DeSantis said in the wake of the Vineyard flights. 'The minute even a small fraction of what those border towns deal with every day were brought to their front door, they all of a sudden go berserk.'" [Boston Globe, 10/2/22]

**Perla Huerta, The Woman Who Solicited Migrants To Join The Flight To Martha's Vineyard, Was A Former Combat Medic And Counterintelligence Agent Who Was Discharged After Serving Two Decades In The U.S. Army That Included Several Deployments To Iraq And Afghanistan.** The New York Times reported, "Until now, little has been known about the woman whom migrants said identified herself only by her first name, 'Perla,' when she solicited them to join the flights. A person briefed on the San Antonio sheriff's office investigation into the matter told The New York Times that the person being looked at in connection with the operation is a woman named Perla Huerta. Ms. Huerta, a former combat medic and counterintelligence agent, was discharged in August after two decades in the U.S. Army that included several deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan, according to military records." [New York Times, 10/2/22]

**Vertol Systems Was Once Represented By Matt Gaetz And Also Donated To Republican Legislators, Including Gaetz And Representative Jay Trumbull, Who Led The Florida House Appropriations Committee.** The New York Times reported, "Vertol Systems, which was founded in the mid-1990s, offers aviation maintenance and training services, and does work for the U.S. government. Over the years, the company has increasingly networked with Republican power brokers in Florida. In litigation, court records show, Vertol was once represented by Matt Gaetz, now a Republican member of Congress and a close ally of Mr. DeSantis. [...] Vertol and its leader, James Montgomerie, have also donated to Republican legislators, including Mr. Gaetz and Representative Jay Trumbull, who led the Florida House Appropriations Committee this year as lawmakers earmarked the money for a program initially intended to relocate migrants from Florida." [New York Times, 10/2/22]

**The Migrants Received A “Massachusetts Welcomes You” Brochure That Featured A State Flag That Was Not The Massachusetts Flag And Were Falsely Promised “Up To Eight Months Of Cash Assistance” For “Income-Eligible” Refugees, Which They Were Not Part Of.** The New York Times reported, “The migrants each received a red folder containing a map of the United States, with an arrow stretching from Texas to Massachusetts. Another map in the shape of Martha’s Vineyard had a dot for the airport and one for the community services center. Also in the folder was a brochure, apparently fake, titled ‘Refugee Migrant Benefits,’ in English and Spanish. The cover proclaimed, ‘Massachusetts Welcomes You,’ and featured a state flag that was not in fact the state flag. Listed on the back were the names and numbers of a church, a synagogue and a nonprofit on Martha’s Vineyard. The pamphlet, reviewed by The Times, also promised ‘up to eight months of cash assistance’ for ‘income-eligible’ refugees in Massachusetts, apparently mimicking benefits offered to refugees who arrive in the United States through the country’s official resettlement program, which the Venezuelans were not part of.” [New York Times, 10/2/22]

**State Rep. Dylan Fernandes Of Massachusetts: “When They Opened Up Their Phones And Put On Google Maps To See Where They Were And Found Out That They Were Surrounded Entirely By Water — That Was Terrifying.”** The New York Times reported, “There, several migrants said in interviews, they were taken in vans that had been waiting for them and deposited near a community center, where they were told to knock on the door. The woman who answered had no idea who they were and did not speak Spanish. ‘When they opened up their phones and put on Google Maps to see where they were and found out that they were surrounded entirely by water — that was terrifying,’ said State Representative Dylan Fernandes of Massachusetts, a Democrat, who met some of the migrants. Some tried, in vain, to find a bridge.” [New York Times, 10/2/22]

**DeSantis: “...The Border Should Be Secured, And We Want To Have [President] Biden Reinstitute Policies Like - ‘Remain In Mexico’ And Make Sure People Aren’t Overwhelming. But Short Of That, If You Believe In Open Borders, Sanctuary Jurisdictions Should Have To Bear The Brunt Of The Open Borders.”** The New York Post reported, “Cities in Texas have been overwhelmed by influxes of migrants, with 2 million encounters recorded by CBP in the last financial year, an all-time high. Texas cities such as El Paso, Del Rio and Eagle Pass say they are being flooded with thousands of migrants daily. Defending his decision to send migrants to other states, DeSantis has said: ‘It’s our view that, one, the border should be secured, and we want to have [President] Biden reinstitute policies like - ‘Remain in Mexico’ and make sure people aren’t overwhelming. ‘But short of that, if you believe in open borders, sanctuary jurisdictions should have to bear the brunt of the open borders.’” [New York Post, 10/5/22]

**October 2022: The League Of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) Filed A Complaint With The DOJ, Calling For An Investigation Into The Transit Of Migrants From San Antonio To Martha’s Vineyard And The Involvement Of DeSantis.** The Dallas Morning News reported, “The League of United Latin American Citizens has filed a complaint with the Department of Justice, calling for an investigation into the transit of migrants last month from San Antonio to Martha’s Vineyard, specifically the involvement of Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, who took credit for the move. In a news conference in Washington, D.C., on Wednesday, LULAC’s national president, Domingo García of Dallas, announced the organization was filing the complaint and increasing the reward for information about the whereabouts of Perla Huerta to \$10,000. Huerta has been identified as the woman who allegedly arranged the flights to Martha’s Vineyard and misled migrants about the flight’s destination. [...] García said the allegations against Huerta include misuse of Florida taxpayer funds, human trafficking, violating multiple immigration laws and making false promises leading to possible kidnapping.” [Dallas Morning News, 10/6/22]

- **LULAC’s President Domingo García Announced A \$10,000 Reward For Information About The Whereabouts Of Perla Huerta, The Woman Who Allegedly Misled Migrants About The Flight’s Destination.** The Dallas Morning News reported, “The League of United Latin American Citizens has filed a complaint with the Department of Justice, calling for an investigation into the transit of migrants last month from San Antonio to Martha’s Vineyard, specifically the involvement of Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, who took credit for the move. In a news conference in Washington, D.C., on Wednesday, LULAC’s national president, Domingo García of Dallas, announced the organization was filing the complaint and increasing the reward for information about the whereabouts of Perla Huerta to \$10,000. Huerta has been identified as the woman who

allegedly arranged the flights to Martha's Vineyard and misled migrants about the flight's destination. [...] García said the allegations against Huerta include misuse of Florida taxpayer funds, human trafficking, violating multiple immigration laws and making false promises leading to possible kidnapping." [Dallas Morning News, 10/6/22]

- **LULAC's President Domingo García Accused Perla Huerta Of Misusing Florida Taxpayer Funds, Human Trafficking, Violating Multiple Immigration Laws And Making False Promises Leading To Possible Kidnapping.** The Dallas Morning News reported, "The League of United Latin American Citizens has filed a complaint with the Department of Justice, calling for an investigation into the transit of migrants last month from San Antonio to Martha's Vineyard, specifically the involvement of Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, who took credit for the move. In a news conference in Washington, D.C., on Wednesday, LULAC's national president, Domingo García of Dallas, announced the organization was filing the complaint and increasing the reward for information about the whereabouts of Perla Huerta to \$10,000. Huerta has been identified as the woman who allegedly arranged the flights to Martha's Vineyard and misled migrants about the flight's destination. [...] García said the allegations against Huerta include misuse of Florida taxpayer funds, human trafficking, violating multiple immigration laws and making false promises leading to possible kidnapping." [Dallas Morning News, 10/6/22]

**October 2022: Documents Showed That The Mission Of The Agency Charged With The Migrant Relocation Program Was To "Relocate Out Of The State Of Florida Foreign Nationals Who Are Not Lawfully Present In The United States."** The Miami Herald reported, "Documents obtained from the state agency charged with managing the controversial migrant relocation program explicitly say that its mission was 'to relocate out of the State of Florida foreign nationals who are not lawfully present in the United States,' according to records obtained Friday by the Herald/Times. [...] Obtained through public records requests to FDOT and the governor's office, the documents show that the discussions about the relocation program began in July with Rebekah Davis, FDOT general counsel, seeking quotes for charter flights. [...] According to state finance records, there were at least three projects planned. [...] The document, labeled 'memorandum for record' under the company's letterhead, states that the company would provide 'services to FDOT, on an ongoing, month-to-month basis, in the form of separate relocation projects.'" [Miami Herald, 10/7/22]

- **Documents Showed That Vertol Systems Would Provide Services To The Florida Department Of Transportation On An "Ongoing, Month-To-Month Basis, In The Form Of Separate Relocation Projects" And There Were At Least Three Such Projects Planned.** The Miami Herald reported, "Documents obtained from the state agency charged with managing the controversial migrant relocation program explicitly say that its mission was 'to relocate out of the State of Florida foreign nationals who are not lawfully present in the United States,' according to records obtained Friday by the Herald/Times. [...] Obtained through public records requests to FDOT and the governor's office, the documents show that the discussions about the relocation program began in July with Rebekah Davis, FDOT general counsel, seeking quotes for charter flights. [...] According to state finance records, there were at least three projects planned. [...] The document, labeled 'memorandum for record' under the company's letterhead, states that the company would provide 'services to FDOT, on an ongoing, month-to-month basis, in the form of separate relocation projects.'" [Miami Herald, 10/7/22]

**DeSantis's Administration Told At Least One Contractor Vying For A Bid To Transport Migrants Out Of Florida That The Job Involved Sending "Criminals" To Massachusetts, Even Though Most Of The Migrants Were Seeking Asylum In The United States And Thus Were Not "Criminals."** The Boston Globe reported, "Florida Governor Ron DeSantis' administration told at least one contractor vying for a bid to transport immigrants out of the state that the job involved sending 'criminals' to Massachusetts, according to an interview with the contractor and documents obtained by The Boston Globe. [...] They include a request for bids from the government of Florida seeking vendors to transport migrants out of the state, as well as the responses of companies vying for the job. One bid was submitted by a Florida firm, Gun Girls Procurement Solutions Inc. In an interview, Susan Kushlin, the company's president, said that an official at the Florida Department of Transportation told her the job entailed transporting nonviolent criminals who were unauthorized immigrants to Massachusetts. [...] The Martha's



Vineyard migrants were not criminals — most were seeking asylum in the United States after fleeing Venezuela.” [The Boston Globe, 10/8/22]

**Documents Revealed That The Florida Department Of Transportation Began Discussing Transporting Migrants To Massachusetts With Potential Vendors In July 2022.** The Boston Globe reported, “The documents reveal that the Florida Department of Transportation’s general counsel began discussions with potential vendors in July. According to the documents, the state told bidders their role would be to... ‘assist in the voluntary relocation of Unauthorized Aliens who are found in Florida and have agreed to be relocated to another state in the United States or the District of Columbia.’ [...] The state has so far paid Vertol Systems more than \$1.56 million for its involvement in transporting the migrants from San Antonio to Martha’s Vineyard last month.” [The Boston Globe, 10/8/22]

- **Potential Vendors Were Told That Their Role Would Be To “Assist In The Voluntary Relocation Of Unauthorized Aliens Who Are Found In Florida And Have Agreed To Be Relocated To Another State In The United States Or In The District Of Columbia.”** The Boston Globe reported, “The documents reveal that the Florida Department of Transportation’s general counsel began discussions with potential vendors in July. According to the documents, the state told bidders their role would be to... ‘assist in the voluntary relocation of Unauthorized Aliens who are found in Florida and have agreed to be relocated to another state in the United States or the District of Columbia.’ [...] The state has so far paid Vertol Systems more than \$1.56 million for its involvement in transporting the migrants from San Antonio to Martha’s Vineyard last month.” [The Boston Globe, 10/8/22]
- **The State Of Florida Paid Vertol Systems More Than \$1.56 Million For Transporting Migrants From San Antonio To Martha’s Vineyard.** The Boston Globe reported, “The documents reveal that the Florida Department of Transportation’s general counsel began discussions with potential vendors in July. According to the documents, the state told bidders their role would be to... ‘assist in the voluntary relocation of Unauthorized Aliens who are found in Florida and have agreed to be relocated to another state in the United States or the District of Columbia.’ [...] The state has so far paid Vertol Systems more than \$1.56 million for its involvement in transporting the migrants from San Antonio to Martha’s Vineyard last month.” [The Boston Globe, 10/8/22]

**October 2022: The Florida Center For Government Accountability Filed A Lawsuit Seeking To Force DeSantis’s Administration To Release Records, Phone Logs Or Text Logs That Could Show Communications By DeSantis’s Chief Of Staff, James Uthmeier, And With Texas Governor Abbott’s Office.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “An open-government group Monday filed a lawsuit seeking to force Gov. Ron DeSantis’ administration to release additional records about a controversial decision last month to fly migrants from Texas to Martha’s Vineyard in Massachusetts. The Florida Center for Government Accountability filed the lawsuit in Leon County circuit court and alleged that the governor’s office did not comply with requests to release a series of records about the flights. Among other things, the group sought records, phone logs or text logs that could show communications by DeSantis Chief of Staff James Uthmeier about the flights, according to the lawsuit. Also, it sought any records that would show communications with Texas Gov. Greg Abbott’s office about relocating migrants. The lawsuit said the DeSantis administration provided records Friday but that they were not ‘responsive’ to requests made Sept. 20 and Sept. 21 under Florida’s public records law.” [Tampa Bay Times, 10/10/22]

- **The Florida Center For Government Accountability Alleged The DeSantis’s Office Was “Not Responsive” To Requests To Release Additional Records About The Flights.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, ‘An open-government group Monday filed a lawsuit seeking to force Gov. Ron DeSantis’ administration to release additional records about a controversial decision last month to fly migrants from Texas to Martha’s Vineyard in Massachusetts. The Florida Center for Government Accountability filed the lawsuit in Leon County circuit court and alleged that the governor’s office did not comply with requests to release a series of records about the flights. Among other things, the group sought records, phone logs or text logs that could show communications by DeSantis Chief of Staff James Uthmeier about the flights, according to the lawsuit. Also, it sought any records that would show communications with Texas Gov. Greg Abbott’s office about relocating migrants. The lawsuit said the DeSantis administration provided records Friday but that

they were not ‘responsive’ to requests made Sept. 20 and Sept. 21 under Florida’s public records law.” [Tampa Bay Times, 10/10/22]

**October 2022: DeSantis’s Office Said It Was Working To “Retrieve, Review And Produce Documents To The Many Public Records Requests” It Had Received And The Office Was “Retrieving, Reviewing And Producing Any Documents” Related To Flights To Martha’s Vineyard.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “In an email attached to the lawsuit, the governor’s office described the documents released Friday as the ‘first production’ of records. ‘The Office of Open Government (in the governor’s office) has been working to retrieve, review and produce documents responsive to the many public records requests we have received regarding the flights to Martha’s Vineyard,’ the email from the office said. ‘In an effort to produce documents more efficiently, this office is retrieving, reviewing and producing any documents related to the aforementioned flights.’” [Tampa Bay Times, 10/10/22]

**October 2022: In Response To An Inquiry From Congressional Democrats, The Treasury Department’s Inspector General Investigated Whether DeSantis Misused Pandemic Relief Money To Transport Migrants To Martha’s Vineyard In September.** The New York Times reported, “The Treasury Department’s inspector general is investigating whether Gov. Ron DeSantis of Florida misused pandemic relief money when he orchestrated the transport of two planeloads of Venezuelan migrants to Martha’s Vineyard last month. The inquiry came in response to a request from congressional Democrats, who accused Mr. DeSantis, a Republican, of violating federal law by using money the state had been given to combat the impact of the pandemic for what they described as an ‘inhumane program to relocate newly arrived immigrants out of Florida.’ [...] The program was funded with interest generated from the \$8.8 billion in aid that the state had been given through the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan of 2021.” [New York Times, 10/12/22]

- **Florida’s Program To Transport Migrants Was Funded With Interest From \$8.8 Billion In Aid That The State Received Through The \$1.9 Trillion American Rescue Plan Of 2021.** The New York Times reported, “The Treasury Department’s inspector general is investigating whether Gov. Ron DeSantis of Florida misused pandemic relief money when he orchestrated the transport of two planeloads of Venezuelan migrants to Martha’s Vineyard last month. The inquiry came in response to a request from congressional Democrats, who accused Mr. DeSantis, a Republican, of violating federal law by using money the state had been given to combat the impact of the pandemic for what they described as an ‘inhumane program to relocate newly arrived immigrants out of Florida.’ [...] The program was funded with interest generated from the \$8.8 billion in aid that the state had been given through the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan of 2021.” [New York Times, 10/12/22]

**October 2022: DeSantis’s Spokesperson Said That Florida’s Office Of Policy And Budget Had Already Been In Touch With The Treasury’s Inspector General To Make Clear That Using Interest From The Funds To Transport “Illegal Immigrants” Voluntarily Was Permissible Under The Treasury Department’s Guidance.** The New York Times reported, “A spokeswoman for Mr. DeSantis said that the state’s Office of Policy and Budget had already been in touch with Treasury’s inspector general to make clear that using interest from the funds to transport illegal immigrants voluntarily to sanctuary jurisdictions was permissible under the Treasury Department’s guidance. [...] Despite the inquiry, it appears that Florida’s use of the funds may be allowed under Treasury guidelines. [...] According to the Treasury Department’s guidance, ‘recipients can place funds in interest-bearing accounts, do not need to remit interest to Treasury, and are not limited to using that interest for eligible uses’ under the pandemic grant program. When Mr. DeSantis first proposed relocating immigrants last year, his office noted that the guidance gave him the leeway to use interest on the pandemic aid to fund the program.” [New York Times, 10/12/22]

- **DeSantis’s Office Noted When The Governor First Proposed Relocating Migrants In 2021, The Guidance By The Treasury Department Gave The Governor The Leeway To Use Interest On The Pandemic Aid To Fund The Program.** The New York Times reported, “A spokeswoman for Mr. DeSantis said that the state’s Office of Policy and Budget had already been in touch with Treasury’s inspector general to make clear that using interest from the funds to transport illegal immigrants voluntarily to sanctuary jurisdictions was permissible under the Treasury Department’s guidance. [...] Despite the inquiry, it appears that Florida’s use of

the funds may be allowed under Treasury guidelines. [...] According to the Treasury Department’s guidance, ‘recipients can place funds in interest-bearing accounts, do not need to remit interest to Treasury, and are not limited to using that interest for eligible uses’ under the pandemic grant program. When Mr. DeSantis first proposed relocating immigrants last year, his office noted that the guidance gave him the leeway to use interest on the pandemic aid to fund the program.” [New York Times, 10/12/22]

**October 2022: The Sheriff Of Bexar County Granted Each Migrant Who Was Flown To Martha’s Vineyard By The State Of Florida A Certification Allowing Them To Apply For A “U Visa,” Which Could Lead To Permanent Lawful Status In The United States.** The Miami Herald reported, “The Venezuelan migrants flown to Martha’s Vineyard by the state of Florida last month are one step closer to staying in the United States—because Gov. Ron DeSantis, who has questioned their right to remain here legally, made them the victims of a potential crime, their attorney says. [...] The Sheriff of Bexar County, which covers San Antonio, quickly opened a criminal investigation. Now, the sheriff has granted each migrant a certification allowing them to apply for a special kind of visa meant for crime victims who are helping law enforcement, according to Rachel Self, an attorney for the migrants. Those applying for the visa cannot be sent back to their homelands until their immigration cases are settled—which can take as long as six or seven years, Self said in a statement. [...] The visas sought by the migrants are known as ‘U visas.’ Such visas are ‘set aside for victims of certain crimes who have suffered mental or physical abuse and are helpful to law enforcement or government officials in the investigation or prosecution of criminal activity,’ according to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. They can eventually lead to permanent lawful status in the United States.” [Miami Herald, 10/13/22]

- **Rachel Self, An Attorney For The Migrants, Stated That Those Applying For A “U Visa” Could Not Be Sent Back To Their Homelands Until Their Immigrations Cases Were Settled, Which Could Take As Long As Six Or Seven Years.** The Miami Herald reported, “The Venezuelan migrants flown to Martha’s Vineyard by the state of Florida last month are one step closer to staying in the United States—because Gov. Ron DeSantis, who has questioned their right to remain here legally, made them the victims of a potential crime, their attorney says. [...] The Sheriff of Bexar County, which covers San Antonio, quickly opened a criminal investigation. Now, the sheriff has granted each migrant a certification allowing them to apply for a special kind of visa meant for crime victims who are helping law enforcement, according to Rachel Self, an attorney for the migrants. Those applying for the visa cannot be sent back to their homelands until their immigration cases are settled—which can take as long as six or seven years, Self said in a statement. [...] The visas sought by the migrants are known as ‘U visas.’ Such visas are ‘set aside for victims of certain crimes who have suffered mental or physical abuse and are helpful to law enforcement or government officials in the investigation or prosecution of criminal activity,’ according to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. They can eventually lead to permanent lawful status in the United States.” [Miami Herald, 10/13/22]

**October 2022: Public Records Suggested That DeSantis Had Planned To Fly More Migrants From The Border To Democratic States, Including Delaware And Illinois, Using Florida Taxpayer Money.** The Miami Herald reported, “Gov. Ron DeSantis’ administration may keep flying migrants from the border to Democratic states using Florida taxpayer money, according to newly released public records. In a letter dated Oct. 8, the state contractor responsible for the program told the Florida Department of Transportation that it wanted to continue its ‘Humanitarian Services Proposal’ through Dec. 1. The contractor’s proposal called for sending 100 or more migrants to ‘Delaware, Illinois or other states’—at a cost of \$950,000 in state funds. [...] Records released Friday after business hours show that Vertol then proposed additional flights sending 50 migrants to Delaware and 50 to Illinois between Sept. 19 and Oct. 3. The company did set up a flight to Delaware planned for Sept. 20, recruiting migrants and putting them up in a hotel, a Miami Herald investigation found. The flight was to leave from San Antonio. But after a local sheriff announced a criminal investigation, the flight was abruptly canceled. DeSantis’ office did not explain why.” [Miami Herald, 10/14/22]

- **Vertol Systems Wrote In A Letter That It Wanted To Continue Its “Humanitarian Services Proposal” Through December 1 And Called For Sending 100 Or More Migrants To “Delaware, Illinois Or Other States” At A Cost Of \$950,000 In State Funds.** The Miami Herald reported, “Gov. Ron DeSantis’ administration may keep flying migrants from the border to Democratic states using Florida taxpayer money, according to newly released public records. In a letter dated Oct. 8, the state contractor responsible for the

program told the Florida Department of Transportation that it wanted to continue its ‘Humanitarian Services Proposal’ through Dec. 1. The contractor’s proposal called for sending 100 or more migrants to ‘Delaware, Illinois or other states’—at a cost of \$950,000 in state funds. [...] Records released Friday after business hours show that Vertol then proposed additional flights sending 50 migrants to Delaware and 50 to Illinois between Sept. 19 and Oct. 3. The company did set up a flight to Delaware planned for Sept. 20, recruiting migrants and putting them up in a hotel, a Miami Herald investigation found. The flight was to leave from San Antonio. But after a local sheriff announced a criminal investigation, the flight was abruptly canceled. DeSantis’ office did not explain why.” [Miami Herald, 10/14/22]

- **Records Revealed That Vertol Systems Proposed Additional Flights Sending 50 Migrants To Delaware And 50 To Illinois Between September 19 And October 3, But The Trip To Delaware Was Abruptly Canceled Without An Explanation.** The Miami Herald reported, ‘Gov. Ron DeSantis’ administration may keep flying migrants from the border to Democratic states using Florida taxpayer money, according to newly released public records. In a letter dated Oct. 8, the state contractor responsible for the program told the Florida Department of Transportation that it wanted to continue its ‘Humanitarian Services Proposal’ through Dec. 1. The contractor’s proposal called for sending 100 or more migrants to ‘Delaware, Illinois or other states’—at a cost of \$950,000 in state funds. [...] Records released Friday after business hours show that Vertol then proposed additional flights sending 50 migrants to Delaware and 50 to Illinois between Sept. 19 and Oct. 3. The company did set up a flight to Delaware planned for Sept. 20, recruiting migrants and putting them up in a hotel, a Miami Herald investigation found. The flight was to leave from San Antonio. But after a local sheriff announced a criminal investigation, the flight was abruptly canceled. DeSantis’ office did not explain why.’” [Miami Herald, 10/14/22]

**October 2022: Bexar County Sheriff Javier Salazar Said That “Based Upon The Claims Of Migrants Being Transported From Bexar County Under False Pretenses, We Are Investigating This Case As Possible Unlawful Restraint.”** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “Bexar County Sheriff Javier Salazar’s certifications allow the mostly Venezuelan migrants to apply for special U-visas pending his department’s investigation of the Sept. 14 flight to Martha’s Vineyard, according to an ACLU Massachusetts statement Thursday. [...] In another statement, Salazar said that ‘based upon the claims of migrants being transported from Bexar County under false pretenses, we are investigating this case as possible unlawful restraint,’ a misdemeanor. ‘We have suspects identified, however at this point in the investigation we are not at liberty to release those names publicly or confirm any identities,’ he said.” [Tampa Bay Times, 10/14/22]

**October 2022: Memos Released By The Florida Department Of Transportation Revealed That The Contractor Hired To Transport Migrants To Delaware And Illinois Extended The Window For The Trips Until December 1.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “Republican Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis’ administration plans to continue flying migrants who entered the country illegally to Democratic strongholds, his spokeswoman said Saturday, a day after newly released records showed the state paid nearly \$1 million to arrange two sets of flights to Delaware and Illinois. [...] Documents released Friday show that the two sets of planned flights will transport about 100 migrants to those two states. They were scheduled to happen before Oct. 3 but apparently were halted or postponed. The contractor hired by Florida later extended the window for the trips until Dec. 1, according to memos released by the state Department of Transportation. When asked why they flights were postponed, DeSantis’ communications director, Taryn Fenske, noted that Florida has been busy dealing with the aftermath of Hurricane Ian. ‘While Florida has had all hands on deck responding to our catastrophic hurricane, the immigration relocation program remains active,’ Fenske said in an email Saturday.” [Tampa Bay Times, 10/15/22]

- **When Asked Why Flights Transporting Migrants To Delaware And Illinois Were Postponed To December 1, DeSantis’s Communications Director Stated, “While Florida Has Had All Hands On Deck Responding To Our Catastrophic Hurricane, The Immigration Relocation Program Remains Active.”** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “Republican Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis’ administration plans to continue flying migrants who entered the country illegally to Democratic strongholds, his spokeswoman said Saturday, a day after newly released records showed the state paid nearly \$1 million to arrange two sets of flights to Delaware and Illinois. [...] Documents released Friday show that the two sets of planned flights will transport about 100 migrants to those two states. They were scheduled to happen before Oct. 3 but apparently were

halted or postponed. The contractor hired by Florida later extended the window for the trips until Dec. 1, according to memos released by the state Department of Transportation. When asked why they flights were postponed, DeSantis' communications director, Taryn Fenske, noted that Florida has been busy dealing with the aftermath of Hurricane Ian. 'While Florida has had all hands on deck responding to our catastrophic hurricane, the immigration relocation program remains active,' Fenske said in an email Saturday." [Tampa Bay Times, 10/15/22]

**Text Messages Showed That DeSantis's Top Aides Larry Keefe And James Uthmeier Played Major Roles Planning And Executing The Migrant Flight Program.** The Miami Herald reported, "Top aides to Gov. Ron DeSantis played key roles in planning and executing Florida's controversial migrant flight program, according to public records released late Friday. While the program was carried out by a private contractor, the new records show the deep involvement of Larry Keefe, DeSantis' public safety czar, and James Uthmeier, his chief of staff, in an operation that has led to at least one criminal investigation, a separate U.S. Treasury Department probe and several lawsuits—potentially heightening their exposure to the various inquiries underway. 'Current plan is for event to occur next Wednesday ... Will be more precise about ETA there as event approaches,' Keefe wrote to Uthmeier in a Sept. 8 text message. 'No news from me between now and then is good news. Will let you know if otherwise.' [...] The records suggest Keefe traveled to Texas to oversee the program, denounced by the governor's detractors as a political stunt to boost DeSantis' stature in advance of an anticipated run for the Republican presidential nomination in 2024. [...] 'I'm back out here,' Keefe wrote in a Sept. 5 text message. 'Conditions are quite favorable.' 'Very good,' Uthmeier replied. 'You have my full support. Call anytime.'" [Miami Herald, 10/15/22]

- **Records Suggested Larry Keefe Traveled To Texas To Oversee The Migrants Program And Keefe Wrote In A Text Message To James Uthmeier That "Conditions Are Quite Favorable."** The Miami Herald reported, "Top aides to Gov. Ron DeSantis played key roles in planning and executing Florida's controversial migrant flight program, according to public records released late Friday. While the program was carried out by a private contractor, the new records show the deep involvement of Larry Keefe, DeSantis' public safety czar, and James Uthmeier, his chief of staff, in an operation that has led to at least one criminal investigation, a separate U.S. Treasury Department probe and several lawsuits—potentially heightening their exposure to the various inquiries underway. 'Current plan is for event to occur next Wednesday ... Will be more precise about ETA there as event approaches,' Keefe wrote to Uthmeier in a Sept. 8 text message. 'No news from me between now and then is good news. Will let you know if otherwise.' [...] The records suggest Keefe traveled to Texas to oversee the program, denounced by the governor's detractors as a political stunt to boost DeSantis' stature in advance of an anticipated run for the Republican presidential nomination in 2024. [...] 'I'm back out here,' Keefe wrote in a Sept. 5 text message. 'Conditions are quite favorable.' 'Very good,' Uthmeier replied. 'You have my full support. Call anytime.'" [Miami Herald, 10/15/22]

**According To A Text Message Between September 1 And September 19, Larry Keefe Appeared To Be In Contact With Texas Governor Greg Abbott's Office And Was Described By James Uthmeier As A "Former US Atty Under Trump, Trustworthy And Effective."** The Miami Herald reported, "According to a text message obtained by the nonpartisan watchdog organization American Oversight, Keefe also appears to have been in contact with Texas Gov. Greg Abbott's office. Sometime between Sept. 1 and Sept. 19, Uthmeier sent a text to Abbott's chief of staff, Luis Saenz, introducing him to Keefe. 'Luis, I've asked a guy on my team, Larry Keefe, to be POC [point of contact] here, and he can loop in others as needed,' Uthmeier wrote. 'He serves as one of the boss's senior advisors for public safety. He's a former US Atty under Trump, trustworthy and effective.' [...] While the migrants flown to Martha's Vineyard were previously believed to all be from Venezuela, new records show that two of them listed their country of origin as Peru." [Miami Herald, 10/15/22]

- **Records Showed That Two Of The Migrants Flown To Martha's Vineyard Were Originally From Peru And Not Venezuela.** The Miami Herald reported, "According to a text message obtained by the nonpartisan watchdog organization American Oversight, Keefe also appears to have been in contact with Texas Gov. Greg Abbott's office. Sometime between Sept. 1 and Sept. 19, Uthmeier sent a text to Abbott's chief of staff, Luis Saenz, introducing him to Keefe. 'Luis, I've asked a guy on my team, Larry Keefe, to be POC [point of contact] here, and he can loop in others as needed,' Uthmeier wrote. 'He serves as one of the boss's senior

advisors for public safety. He's a former US Atty under Trump, trustworthy and effective.' [...] While the migrants flown to Martha's Vineyard were previously believed to all be from Venezuela, new records show that two of them listed their country of origin as Peru." [Miami Herald, 10/15/22]

**September 2022: The White House Acknowledged That It "Received Word" That A Plane Full Of Migrants Sent By DeSantis Was Expected To Land Near President's Biden Home, And Biden Sarcastically Invited The Governor To "Come Visit," Adding "We Have A Beautiful Shoreline."** The New York Post reported, "On Sept. 20, the White House acknowledged it 'received word' that a planeload of migrants sent by DeSantis was expected to land at an airport near President Biden's \$2.7 million vacation home in Rehoboth Beach, Del. Biden sarcastically invited DeSantis to 'come visit,' adding: 'We have a beautiful shoreline.' But the plane instead landed in Teterboro, NJ, without migrants." [New York Post, 10/17/22]

**Columnist Ingrid Jacques: "DeSantis Also Got The Country Talking About Him. He Knows How To Push Liberals' Buttons, And His Ability To Dominate A News Cycle And Start Debates Is Rivalled Only By Former President Donald Trump. DeSantis Has Even Been Described As 'Out-Trumping' Trump."** According to a column by Ingrid Jacques in USA Today, "Ron DeSantis created a firestorm in September when he sent two plane loads of migrants from Texas to Martha's Vineyard, the wealthy island playground for many celebrity Democrats. Yet that's not all Florida's Republican governor succeeded in doing. He got the nation talking about the immigration crisis: The country in August surpassed a record 2 million undocumented migrants crossing the U.S.-Mexico border for fiscal year 2022. DeSantis also got the country talking about him. He knows how to push liberals' buttons, and his ability to dominate a news cycle and start debates is rivalled only by former President Donald Trump. DeSantis has even been described as 'out-Trumping' Trump." [USA Today, Column, 10/20/22]

**October 2022: During The Gubernatorial Debate, Charlie Crist Slammed DeSantis For His Migrant Flight Program To Martha's Vineyard And Said That The Governor Was Using "Hispanics, Venezuelan In Particular" As Props For His Political Gain.** The Miami Herald reported, "Quirantes moves on to illegal immigration, and asks DeSantis why he moved immigrants from Texas to Martha's Vineyard, and if he thought it was a good use of taxpayer money. [...] Crist calls it a 'political stunt' and says he does believe the U.S. has an immigration problem and that he supports comprehensive immigration reform. 'You're willing to use people like that, in this case they were Hispanics, Venezuelan in particular, and have them as props for your political gain? That's not how you change policy,' Crist says. 'You were inhumane in how you treated these people.' 'We've had millions and millions of people pour in and cross illegally, we've had record numbers of fentanyl come in, and now see it ravaging our communities like never before,' DeSantis says. 'It's only when they go to D.C., New York or, of course, Martha's Vineyard that all of a sudden this is - you know why? Because we have elites in this country that want to impose policies on you but they don't want to suffer the same consequences that you have to in your communities.' 'It's sad that it comes to this but what we did put this issue front and center,' DeSantis adds." [Miami Herald, 10/24/22]

- **DeSantis: "We Have Elites In This Country That Want To Impose Policies On You But They Don't Want To Suffer The Same Consequences That You Have To In Your Communities [...] It's Sad That It Comes To This But What We Did Put This Issue Front And Center."** The Miami Herald reported, "Quirantes moves on to illegal immigration, and asks DeSantis why he moved immigrants from Texas to Martha's Vineyard, and if he thought it was a good use of taxpayer money. [...] Crist calls it a 'political stunt' and says he does believe the U.S. has an immigration problem and that he supports comprehensive immigration reform. 'You're willing to use people like that, in this case they were Hispanics, Venezuelan in particular, and have them as props for your political gain? That's not how you change policy,' Crist says. 'You were inhumane in how you treated these people.' 'We've had millions and millions of people pour in and cross illegally, we've had record numbers of fentanyl come in, and now see it ravaging our communities like never before,' DeSantis says. 'It's only when they go to D.C., New York or, of course, Martha's Vineyard that all of a sudden this is - you know why? Because we have elites in this country that want to impose policies on you but they don't want to suffer the same consequences that you have to in your communities.' 'It's sad that it comes to this but what we did put this issue front and center,' DeSantis adds." [Miami Herald, 10/24/22]

**October 2022: According To A Mason-Dixon Poll, Most Puerto Ricans Disagreed With DeSantis On Issues Like Immigration, And Other Hispanics, Including Colombians, Venezuelans, Mexican Americans And Central Americans, Disapproved Of DeSantis’s Migrant Flight Plan To Martha’s Vineyard.** The Miami Herald reported, “While Cubans consistently agreed with DeSantis on all issues, most Puerto Ricans backed Crist and disagreed with DeSantis on issues like immigration. Other Hispanics—which included Colombians, Venezuelans, Mexican Americans and Central Americans—disapproved of DeSantis’ flying of migrants to Martha’s Vineyard and were evenly split on his overall performance as governor. The poll, conducted by Mason-Dixon Polling & Strategy from Oct. 17 through Oct. 20, focused on the gubernatorial election.” [Miami Herald, 10/24/22]

**October 2022: Leon County Circuit Judge J. Lee Marsh Ruled That The DeSantis Administration Did Not Comply With Florida’s Public Records Law And Gave The Administration 20 Days To Provide Records Sought By The Florida Center For Government Accountability.** The Miami Herald reported, “A Leon County circuit judge Tuesday ruled that Gov. Ron DeSantis’ administration did not comply with the state’s public-records law after an open-government group sought records about a controversial decision to fly migrants from Texas to Martha’s Vineyard in Massachusetts. Judge J. Lee Marsh gave the administration 20 days to provide records sought by the Florida Center for Government Accountability. Marsh pointed, at least in part, to requested phone or text logs that could provide information about communications by DeSantis Chief of Staff James Uthmeier about the flights. Marsh said the governor’s office did not show ‘any steps, direct steps taken to gather what this court finds are public records’ related to state business conducted on personal devices.” [Miami Herald, 10/25/22]

**October 2022: The Spanish-Language Weekly Newspaper, El Venezolano, Ran A Full-Page Ad Condemning DeSantis’s Migrant Relocation Program, Which Read “Con Los Venezolanos No Se Juega” Or “You Don’t Play With Venezuelans.”** The Miami Herald reported, “In October, the Spanish-language weekly newspaper, El Venezolano, ran a full-page ad condemning the migrant relocation program, which sent 48 migrants—most of them Venezuelan—to Martha’s Vineyard. The ad, paid for by The Venezuelan American Caucus, read: Con los Venezolanos no se juega. In English, that translates to ‘You don’t play with Venezuelans.’” [Miami Herald, 10/26/22]

**November 2022: Leon County Circuit Judge John Cooper Dismissed Miami State Senator Jason Pizzo’s Lawsuit Against DeSantis’s Migrant Flight Program “With Leave To Amend” So The Case Could Move Forward.** The Miami Herald reported, “A Leon County circuit judge on Monday dismissed a lawsuit filed by Miami state Sen. Jason Pizzo challenging the use of state funds to transport migrants from Texas to Martha’s Vineyard in Massachusetts but advised how to revamp the legal complaint so the case can move forward. [...] Lawyers for DeSantis and the Florida Department of Transportation asked Circuit Judge John Cooper to dismiss the lawsuit, arguing that Pizzo lacked legal standing to pursue the case and that he failed to show the relocation program was illegal. During a hearing Monday, Cooper ruled that Pizzo has legal standing, relying in part on a 1972 Florida Supreme Court case involving state senators who challenged what is known as proviso language in the budget. But the judge said Pizzo’s lawsuit needed to be tweaked. ‘I’m going to dismiss the complaint with leave to amend because I want the plaintiffs to argue or to allege in the complaint with some additional facts and clarity, similar to what I’ve heard today and similar to what’s in the response but I don’t think that’s in the complaint,’ Cooper said.” [Miami Herald, 11/14/22]

**November 2022 – Miami Herald Editorial Board: “By Failing To Disclose...Records Showing How The Money For The Flights Was Spent, The DeSantis Administration Is Simply Fueling Our Concerns That This Money, Our Money, Was Used...Mostly To Help Pave The Governor’s Path To The White House.”** According to an editorial by the Miami Herald, “The DeSantis administration paid more than \$1.56 million to a politically connected contractor for a program to fly the migrants to northeastern states as part of his political stunt—but the two migrant flights in September only cost a total of about \$153,000, according to public records obtained by the Miami Herald. What happened to the rest of the money? [...] While the DeSantis government hasn’t released the cost breakdown of how the \$1.56 million was spent, it did release something else, earlier this month: 87 pages of records including text messages of executives with Vertol as they planned the flights. The texts—complete with exclamation points, thumbs-up emojis and talk of a celebratory dinner with wine—show an unholy excitement at the prospect of dropping migrants into unprepared cities. [...] By failing to disclose, swiftly

and forthrightly, the records showing how the money for the flights was spent, the DeSantis administration is simply fueling our concerns that this money, our money, was used partly to move migrants—but mostly to help pave the governor’s path to the White House.” [Miami Herald, Editorial, 11/21/22]

- **According To The Miami Herald, The DeSantis Administration Released 87 Pages Of Records, Including Text Messages Of Executives With Vertol Systems As They Planned The Flights And Contained “Talk Of A Celebratory Dinner With Wine.”** According to an editorial by the Miami Herald, “The DeSantis administration paid more than \$1.56 million to a politically connected contractor for a program to fly the migrants to northeastern states as part of his political stunt—but the two migrant flights in September only cost a total of about \$153,000, according to public records obtained by the Miami Herald. What happened to the rest of the money? [...] While the DeSantis government hasn’t released the cost breakdown of how the \$1.56 million was spent, it did release something else, earlier this month: 87 pages of records including text messages of executives with Vertol as they planned the flights. The texts—complete with exclamation points, thumbs-up emojis and talk of a celebratory dinner with wine—show an unholy excitement at the prospect of dropping migrants into unprepared cities. [...] By failing to disclose, swiftly and forthrightly, the records showing how the money for the flights was spent, the DeSantis administration is simply fueling our concerns that this money, our money, was used partly to move migrants—but mostly to help pave the governor’s path to the White House.” [Miami Herald, Editorial, 11/21/22]

**November 2022: The Florida Center For Government Accountability Asked A Judge To Charge The DeSantis Administration With Contempt For Continuing To Withhold Public Records About Its Handling Of The Migrant Flight Program From Texas To Martha’s Vineyard.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “A public records watchdog on Wednesday asked a Tallahassee judge to charge the DeSantis administration with contempt of court for continuing to withhold public records about its handling of the relocation of migrants from Texas to Martha’s Vineyard in September. The Florida Center for Government Accountability asked Judge J. Lee Marsh of the Second Judicial District to hold the governor’s office in contempt for violating Florida’s Public Records Act after the judge ordered the state on Oct. 25 to turn over by Nov. 14 text messages, call logs and other communications for his chief of staff James Uthmeier about the migrant flights. [...] On Tuesday, lawyers handling a class-action lawsuit filed against DeSantis over the migrant flights to Martha’s Vineyard amended their complaint to include as defendants Uthmeier, the governor’s ‘public safety czar’ Larry Keefe and Florida Transportation Secretary James Perdue. They are all being accused of working together with others to ‘deceive’ migrants who were flown to the Massachusetts island and promised jobs.” [Tampa Bay Times, 11/30/22]

- **Lawyers Handling The Class-Action Lawsuit Filed Against DeSantis Amended Their Complaint To Include As Defendants DeSantis’s Chief Of Staff James Uthmeier, “Public Safety Czar” Larry Keefe And Florida Transportation Secretary James Perdue.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “A public records watchdog on Wednesday asked a Tallahassee judge to charge the DeSantis administration with contempt of court for continuing to withhold public records about its handling of the relocation of migrants from Texas to Martha’s Vineyard in September. The Florida Center for Government Accountability asked Judge J. Lee Marsh of the Second Judicial District to hold the governor’s office in contempt for violating Florida’s Public Records Act after the judge ordered the state on Oct. 25 to turn over by Nov. 14 text messages, call logs and other communications for his chief of staff James Uthmeier about the migrant flights. [...] On Tuesday, lawyers handling a class-action lawsuit filed against DeSantis over the migrant flights to Martha’s Vineyard amended their complaint to include as defendants Uthmeier, the governor’s ‘public safety czar’ Larry Keefe and Florida Transportation Secretary James Perdue. They are all being accused of working together with others to ‘deceive’ migrants who were flown to the Massachusetts island and promised jobs.” [Tampa Bay Times, 11/30/22]

**November 2022: Perla Huerta, Vertol Systems And Its CEO James Montgomerie, Larry Keefe And James Uthmeier Were Added As Defendants To A Lawsuit Brought By Lawyers For Civil Rights After Records Showed That Huerta And Montgomerie Were In Texas Weeks Before The Martha’s Vineyard Flight.** The Boston Globe reported, “More defendants have been added to a federal class-action lawsuit alleging that Florida officials and others lied to migrants about where they were going and the benefits they would receive upon arrival in Martha’s Vineyard last September. Perla Huerta, the mysterious Army veteran who migrants said recruited and enticed them to board the flights; the Florida-based plane company Vertol Systems and its CEO; Florida’s ‘public



safety czar’; and Governor Ron DeSantis’s chief of staff were named in an 86-page amended complaint filed Tuesday as part of a lawsuit brought by Lawyers for Civil Rights in US District Court in Boston. [...] The original defendants in the class-action case included DeSantis and the state’s transportation secretary. The additional parties were added to the suit after new information, released as part of a public records request, revealed that Florida officials and others, including Huerta and Vertol CEO James Montgomerie, were on the ground in Texas weeks before the flights.” [Boston Globe, 11/30/22]

**Texts Obtained By The Boston Globe Showed That Perla Huerta, Vertol’s CEO James Montgomerie And Florida Officials Shared Updates On Their Efforts To Recruit Migrants In Texas As Far Back As August 2022.** The Boston Globe reported, “In texts obtained by the Globe and cited in the amended complaint, Huerta, Montgomerie, and Florida officials discussed updates on their travels to Texas and efforts to recruit migrants dating as far back as August. In one text, Montgomerie told Larry Keefe, DeSantis’ public safety czar, that he had secured 34 migrants to board the flights and ‘will be at 50 by Tuesday, no problem.’ ‘The network has grown exponentially!’ Montgomerie told Keefe, according to the documents. ‘We believe we could probably generate another 50 inside 48 hours.’ Two days before the Vineyard flights, Huerta had also texted Keefe, gleefully exclaiming that they had secured enough migrants to fill the two planes: ‘Yahtzee!! We’re full.’” [Boston Globe, 11/30/22]

- **Vertol’s CEO James Montgomerie Told Larry Keefe That He Had Secured 34 Migrants To Board The Flights To Martha’s Vineyard And “Will Be At 50 By Tuesday, No Problem.”** The Boston Globe reported, “In texts obtained by the Globe and cited in the amended complaint, Huerta, Montgomerie, and Florida officials discussed updates on their travels to Texas and efforts to recruit migrants dating as far back as August. In one text, Montgomerie told Larry Keefe, DeSantis’ public safety czar, that he had secured 34 migrants to board the flights and ‘will be at 50 by Tuesday, no problem.’ ‘The network has grown exponentially!’ Montgomerie told Keefe, according to the documents. ‘We believe we could probably generate another 50 inside 48 hours.’ Two days before the Vineyard flights, Huerta had also texted Keefe, gleefully exclaiming that they had secured enough migrants to fill the two planes: ‘Yahtzee!! We’re full.’” [Boston Globe, 11/30/22]
- **Huerta Texted Keefe, “Yahtzee!! We’re Full,” When They Had Secured Enough Migrants To Fill The Planes Two Days Before The Flights To Martha’s Vineyard.** The Boston Globe reported, “In texts obtained by the Globe and cited in the amended complaint, Huerta, Montgomerie, and Florida officials discussed updates on their travels to Texas and efforts to recruit migrants dating as far back as August. In one text, Montgomerie told Larry Keefe, DeSantis’ public safety czar, that he had secured 34 migrants to board the flights and ‘will be at 50 by Tuesday, no problem.’ ‘The network has grown exponentially!’ Montgomerie told Keefe, according to the documents. ‘We believe we could probably generate another 50 inside 48 hours.’ Two days before the Vineyard flights, Huerta had also texted Keefe, gleefully exclaiming that they had secured enough migrants to fill the two planes: ‘Yahtzee!! We’re full.’” [Boston Globe, 11/30/22]

**October 2022: Former Vertol Employees Said That The Company Was A Secretive, Siloed Place To Work And Employees Were Encouraged Not To Talk About Their Work Or Post About The Company On Social Media.** The Miami Herald reported, “Six former Vertol employees who asked not to be named told the Miami Herald that the company was a secretive, siloed place to work, with an intense, sometimes paranoid environment. [...] The company has earned more than \$25 million in contracts from the federal government, mainly providing flight training to the Department of Defense. Former employees said Vertol trained American military pilots on Russian helicopters so they could then train Afghan pilots on the birds, which are commonly used by Afghanistan’s military. Vertol employees—many of whom had served in the military—were encouraged not to talk about their work and to keep to themselves while in the office, the former employees said. Vertol’s founder, James Montgomerie, instructed his staff not to post about the company on social media, according to two people.” [Miami Herald, 10/17/22]

- **Vertol Systems Earned More Than \$25 Million In Contracts From The Federal Government By Mainly Providing Flight Training To The Department Of Defense.** The Miami Herald reported, “Six former Vertol employees who asked not to be named told the Miami Herald that the company was a secretive, siloed place to work, with an intense, sometimes paranoid environment. [...] The company has earned more than \$25 million

in contracts from the federal government, mainly providing flight training to the Department of Defense. Former employees said Vertol trained American military pilots on Russian helicopters so they could then train Afghan pilots on the birds, which are commonly used by Afghanistan’s military. Vertol employees—many of whom had served in the military—were encouraged not to talk about their work and to keep to themselves while in the office, the former employees said. Vertol’s founder, James Montgomerie, instructed his staff not to post about the company on social media, according to two people.” [Miami Herald, 10/17/22]

**Vertol’s Recruiters In San Antonio Told Migrants They Would Fly Them To “Sanctuary Cities,” Advertising The Location As Places With An Abundance Of Resources And Opportunities For Migrants.**

The Miami Herald reported, “Operating out of rented SUVs, Vertol’s recruiters in San Antonio—who often worked in pairs—told migrants they represented an organization that would fly them to ‘sanctuary states,’ according to half a dozen migrants who were recruited by the program. Recruiters leaned into the term ‘sanctuary,’ describing the destinations as places with an abundance of resources and opportunities for migrants, rather than what they actually are by legal definition—states that, as a point of policy, don’t turn undocumented people over to federal immigration enforcement authorities.” [Miami Herald, 10/17/22]

**A 27-Year-Old Venezuelan Migrant Named Emmanuel Who Was Unable To Legally Work In The United States Was Paid \$700 To Recruit Passengers For DeSantis’s Migrant Flight Program.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “A Venezuelan migrant unable to legally work in the United States was paid to help coordinate Gov. Ron DeSantis’ migrant flight program, putting the Republican governor’s high-profile political gambit in conflict with his long-standing push to crack down on labor from people in the country illegally. The migrant, a 27-year-old named Emmanuel, told the Miami Herald he helped find passengers to fill planes that DeSantis wanted to send from Texas to Democratic strongholds in northern states. He was recruited by Perla Huerta, a 43-year-old former U.S. Army counterintelligence agent working for Vertol Systems Company - which has been paid more than \$1.5 million by the DeSantis administration to execute the operation. Emmanuel ended up receiving three cash payments totaling \$700 from Huerta for his work on behalf of DeSantis’ relocation program, he told the Miami Herald. Text messages reviewed by the Herald corroborate his account.” [Tampa Bay Times, 10/18/22]

**By Hiring A Migrant Who Was Not Authorized To Work In The U.S., DeSantis Could Face Compliance Issues As State Law Required All Government Contractors And Subcontractors To Use The Federal E-Verify System To Confirm That All Newly Hired Employees Were Legally Allowed To Work In The U.S.**

The Tampa Bay Times reported, “Such compensation would appear to be a blemish on the governor’s public stance against the hiring of immigrants living in the country illegally, and could present a compliance issue with an immigration law that DeSantis campaigned on in 2018, championed as governor in 2020 and continues to tout as he runs for reelection in November. That law requires all government contractors, such as Vertol Systems, and all subcontractors to be registered with and use the federal E-Verify system to confirm that all newly hired employees are legally allowed to work in the U.S. If a contractor enters into a contract with a subcontractor, the subcontractors must provide an affidavit stating that the ‘subcontractor does not employ, contract with, or subcontract with an unauthorized alien,’ state law says.” [Tampa Bay Times, 10/18/22]

**November 2022: Records Obtained By The Florida Center For Government Accountability Revealed That The President Of Vertol Systems And DeSantis’s “Public Safety Czar” Larry Keefe Were Both On The Plane When Migrants Were Flown Out Of Texas To Massachusetts.**

The Tampa Bay Times reported, “The records obtained by the Florida Center for Government Accountability show, among other revelations, that the president of Destin-based Vertol Systems Company Inc. was not only on the plane when his company flew migrants out of Texas to Massachusetts on Sept. 14, but he and the governor’s ‘public safety czar,’ Larry Keefe, were intimately involved in the plan to justify using Florida funds for the Texas covert op. The flights carrying migrants from San Antonio to Martha’s Vineyard made a 30-minute pit stop in the Panhandle town of Crestview. It was a convenient spot for Keefe, a former U.S. attorney and his former client in private practice, Vertol President James Montgomerie, who would be dropped off in the vicinity of their homes. But it also served another purpose: To allow the Venezuelan and Peruvian migrants picked up in Texas to be treated as if they were Florida-based migrants and thus eligible to be airlifted out under the secretive program.” [Tampa Bay Times, 11/1/22]

- **The Flights Carrying Migrants From San Antonio To Martha’s Vineyard Made A 30-Minute Pit Stop In Crestview, Florida To Allow The Migrants Picked Up In Texas To Be Treated As If They Were Based In Florida, And Thus Eligible To Be Airlifted Out.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “The records obtained by the Florida Center for Government Accountability show, among other revelations, that the president of Destin-based Vertol Systems Company Inc. was not only on the plane when his company flew migrants out of Texas to Massachusetts on Sept. 14, but he and the governor’s ‘public safety czar,’ Larry Keefe, were intimately involved in the plan to justify using Florida funds for the Texas covert op. The flights carrying migrants from San Antonio to Martha’s Vineyard made a 30-minute pit stop in the Panhandle town of Crestview. It was a convenient spot for Keefe, a former U.S. attorney and his former client in private practice, Vertol President James Montgomerie, who would be dropped off in the vicinity of their homes. But it also served another purpose: To allow the Venezuelan and Peruvian migrants picked up in Texas to be treated as if they were Florida-based migrants and thus eligible to be airlifted out under the secretive program.” [Tampa Bay Times, 11/1/22]

**Vertol’s President Emailed An FDOT Agent About “Project 3”—A Third Relocation Migrant Flight Program Consisting Of Up To 50 Individuals “To The State Of Illinois Or Other, Proximate Northeastern State Designated By FDOT.”** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “[Vertol’s President James] Montgomerie emailed [FDOT purchasing agent] Baker, saying the ‘proposed Humanitarian Services’ mission would involve Project 2 - ‘the relocation of up to fifty (50) individuals to the State of Delaware or other, proximate northeastern state designated by FDOT’ and Project 3 - ‘the relocation of up to fifty (50) individuals to the State of Illinois or other, proximate northeastern state designated by FDOT.’ The total cost to Florida taxpayers: \$950,000, or about \$6,300 per migrant, which includes the cost of hotel rooms, meals and ground transportation in Texas. Those flights never happened. Williams also would not answer why the state has not asked Vertol to return some or all of the \$950,000 in payment for the aborted flights to Delaware and Illinois. He would not answer how the state arrived at the per-person cost of the flights, saying it could relate to pending litigation.” [Tampa Bay Times, 11/1/22]

- **The Total Cost Of Two Aborted Migrant Flight Programs To Delaware And Illinois Cost Florida Taxpayers \$950,000, Or About \$6,300 Per Migrant.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “[Vertol’s President James] Montgomerie emailed [FDOT purchasing agent] Baker, saying the ‘proposed Humanitarian Services’ mission would involve Project 2 - ‘the relocation of up to fifty (50) individuals to the State of Delaware or other, proximate northeastern state designated by FDOT’ and Project 3 - ‘the relocation of up to fifty (50) individuals to the State of Illinois or other, proximate northeastern state designated by FDOT.’ The total cost to Florida taxpayers: \$950,000, or about \$6,300 per migrant, which includes the cost of hotel rooms, meals and ground transportation in Texas. Those flights never happened. Williams also would not answer why the state has not asked Vertol to return some or all of the \$950,000 in payment for the aborted flights to Delaware and Illinois.” [Tampa Bay Times, 11/1/22]
- **The Migrant Flight Program To Delaware And Illinois Was Aborted But The State Of Florida Did Not Ask Vertol Systems To Return Some Or All Of The \$950,000 In Payment For The Flights.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “[Vertol’s President James] Montgomerie emailed [FDOT purchasing agent Paul] Baker, saying the ‘proposed Humanitarian Services’ mission would involve Project 2 - ‘the relocation of up to fifty (50) individuals to the State of Delaware or other, proximate northeastern state designated by FDOT’ and Project 3 - ‘the relocation of up to fifty (50) individuals to the State of Illinois or other, proximate northeastern state designated by FDOT.’ The total cost to Florida taxpayers: \$950,000, or about \$6,300 per migrant, which includes the cost of hotel rooms, meals and ground transportation in Texas. Those flights never happened. [FDOT Spokesperson Michael D.] Williams also would not answer why the state has not asked Vertol to return some or all of the \$950,000 in payment for the aborted flights to Delaware and Illinois.” [Tampa Bay Times, 11/1/22]

**December 2022: Leontire & Associates, The Southern Poverty Law Center And The Criminal Justice Institute Of Harvard Law School Filed A Lawsuit Alleging That DeSantis And His Transportation Secretary Usurped “The Federal Government’s Sole Role In Regulating And Enforcing Immigration Law.”** The Boston Globe reported, “A Boston law firm and a Harvard institute have filed a federal lawsuit on behalf of immigrant groups challenging the authority of Florida Governor Ron DeSantis and his transportation secretary to send 50

Venezuelan and Peruvian migrants to Martha's Vineyard on Sept. 14, court records show. The case, filed in US District Court for the Southern District of Florida on Thursday, alleges DeSantis and Secretary of Transportation Jared W. Perdue violated the Constitution's Supremacy Clause 'by usurping the federal government's sole role in regulating and enforcing immigration law,' and using a state appropriations act to 'set aside \$12 million for the 'relocation' of 'unauthorized aliens' using monies derived from federal funds intended to combat a deadly pandemic.' [...] The plaintiffs ask the court to block the implementation of the section of the appropriations act that was used to move the migrants and to declare the section unconstitutional, records show. [...] The case was brought by the Florida Immigrant Coalition Inc., Americans for Immigrant Justice Inc., and Hope Community Center Inc., and the groups are represented by Boston-based law firm Leontire & Associates P.C., the Southern Poverty Law Center, and the Criminal Justice Institute of Harvard Law School." [Boston Globe, 12/3/22]

- **The Plaintiffs Also Alleged That DeSantis And Perdue Used A State Appropriations Act To “Set Aside \$12 Million For The ‘Relocation’ Of ‘Unauthorized Aliens’ Using Monies Derived From Federal Funds Intended To Combat A Deadly Pandemic” To Send Migrants To Martha’s Vineyard.** The Boston Globe reported, “A Boston law firm and a Harvard institute have filed a federal lawsuit on behalf of immigrant groups challenging the authority of Florida Governor Ron DeSantis and his transportation secretary to send 50 Venezuelan and Peruvian migrants to Martha’s Vineyard on Sept. 14, court records show. The case, filed in US District Court for the Southern District of Florida on Thursday, alleges DeSantis and Secretary of Transportation Jared W. Perdue violated the Constitution’s Supremacy Clause ‘by usurping the federal government’s sole role in regulating and enforcing immigration law,’ and using a state appropriations act to ‘set aside \$12 million for the ‘relocation’ of ‘unauthorized aliens’ using monies derived from federal funds intended to combat a deadly pandemic.’ [...] The plaintiffs ask the court to block the implementation of the section of the appropriations act that was used to move the migrants and to declare the section unconstitutional, records show. [...] The case was brought by the Florida Immigrant Coalition Inc., Americans for Immigrant Justice Inc., and Hope Community Center Inc., and the groups are represented by Boston-based law firm Leontire & Associates P.C., the Southern Poverty Law Center, and the Criminal Justice Institute of Harvard Law School.” [Boston Globe, 12/3/22]
- **DeSantis’s Spokesperson Said The Migrant Relocation Program “Was Funded By Interest From Federal COVID Dollars And Lawfully Executed Under The Appropriation Of The Florida State Legislature (That, Incidentally, Had Bipartisan Support.)”** The Boston Globe reported, “A Boston law firm and a Harvard institute have filed a federal lawsuit on behalf of immigrant groups challenging the authority of Florida Governor Ron DeSantis and his transportation secretary to send 50 Venezuelan and Peruvian migrants to Martha’s Vineyard on Sept. 14, court records show. The case, filed in US District Court for the Southern District of Florida on Thursday, alleges DeSantis and Secretary of Transportation Jared W. Perdue violated the Constitution’s Supremacy Clause ‘by usurping the federal government’s sole role in regulating and enforcing immigration law,’ and using a state appropriations act to ‘set aside \$12 million for the ‘relocation’ of ‘unauthorized aliens’ using monies derived from federal funds intended to combat a deadly pandemic.’ [...] The plaintiffs ask the court to block the implementation of the section of the appropriations act that was used to move the migrants and to declare the section unconstitutional, records show. A spokeswoman for DeSantis, Taryn Fenske, said the project to relocate the migrants ‘was funded by interest from federal COVID dollars and lawfully executed under an appropriation of the Florida state legislature (that, incidentally, had bipartisan support.)’ ‘This program does not violate federal law,’ Fenske said in a statement. ‘We will continue to defend the state’s actions against these politically motivated, unsound lawsuits.’” [Boston Globe, 12/3/22]
- **DeSantis’s Spokesperson Said The Migrant Relocation Program Did Not Violate Federal Law And Noted That His Administration Would “Continue To Defend The State’s Actions Against These Politically Motivated, Unsound Lawsuits.”** The Boston Globe reported, “A Boston law firm and a Harvard institute have filed a federal lawsuit on behalf of immigrant groups challenging the authority of Florida Governor Ron DeSantis and his transportation secretary to send 50 Venezuelan and Peruvian migrants to Martha’s Vineyard on Sept. 14, court records show. The case, filed in US District Court for the Southern District of Florida on Thursday, alleges DeSantis and Secretary of Transportation Jared W. Perdue violated the Constitution’s Supremacy Clause ‘by usurping the federal government’s sole role in regulating and enforcing immigration law,’ and using a state appropriations act to ‘set aside \$12 million for the ‘relocation’ of

‘unauthorized aliens’ using monies derived from federal funds intended to combat a deadly pandemic.’ [...] The plaintiffs ask the court to block the implementation of the section of the appropriations act that was used to move the migrants and to declare the section unconstitutional, records show. A spokeswoman for DeSantis, Taryn Fenske, said the project to relocate the migrants ‘was funded by interest from federal COVID dollars and lawfully executed under an appropriation of the Florida state legislature (that, incidentally, had bipartisan support.)’ ‘This program does not violate federal law,’ Fenske said in a statement. ‘We will continue to defend the state’s actions against these politically motivated, unsound lawsuits.’” [Boston Globe, 12/3/22]

**December 2022 – Daniel Ruth: “In The Meantime, Thanks To Reporting From The Times/Herald Tallahassee Bureau, We Do Know DeSantis Blew Through At Least \$3.4 Million In Florida Taxpayer Money To Steal Some Of Texas Gov. Greg Abbott’s Inventory Of Undocumented Immigrants To Pull Off His Martha’s Vineyard Stunt.”** According to a column by Daniel Ruth in the Tampa Bay Times, “In the meantime, thanks to reporting from the Times/Herald Tallahassee Bureau, we do know DeSantis blew through at least \$3.4 million in Florida taxpayer money to steal some of Texas Gov. Greg Abbott’s inventory of undocumented immigrants to pull off his Martha’s Vineyard stunt. But DeSantis and his co-conspirators of cruelty have continued to refuse to release additional public documents regarding the dragooning of innocent, vulnerable people simply seeking a better life into the jaws of political dirty tricks.” [Tampa Bay Times, Column, 12/6/22]

**December 2022: The Saint Louis Post-Dispatch Editorial Board Said That Congress And The Justice Department Should Look Into DeSantis’s “Potentially Illegal” Action Of “Subjecting Desperate Migrants To Potentially Dangerous Trauma To Make A Political Point” When He Flew Them To Martha’s Vineyard.** According to the editorial board of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, “But the clearer message is this: Abbott and DeSantis - perhaps taking a page from the caging of children that was the horrific legacy of the Trump administration’s border policy - have decided that subjecting desperate migrants to potentially dangerous trauma to make a political point is somehow valid public policy. It’s not. And it’s potentially illegal, given the anecdotal evidence that at least some of the migrants on these trips were misled about where they were going and why. That’s something Congress and the Justice Department should be looking into.” [St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Editorial, 12/30/22]

**January 2023: A Leon County Circuit Judge Refused To Dismiss A Lawsuit Against DeSantis Brought By State Senator John Pizzo, Who Accused The Governor Of Illegally Using Taxpayer Dollars To Fund The Migrant Flight Program To Martha’s Vineyard.** The Miami Herald reported, “A Leon County Circuit Court judge on Friday refused to dismiss a lawsuit against Ron DeSantis brought by a North Miami Beach state senator who has accused Florida’s governor of illegally using taxpayer funds to fly migrants from Texas to Martha’s Vineyard in Massachusetts last September. Judge John C. Cooper set a Jan. 30 trial date to hear the constitutional challenge brought by Sen. Jason Pizzo, a Democrat who is suing in his capacity as a private citizen. Cooper rejected attempts by DeSantis’ lawyers to dismiss the case, although he did agree to release Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis as a defendant. [...] DeSantis’ lawyers argue, however, that the relocation program ‘does not regulate the flow of aliens into or out of the United States or determine anybody’s citizenship status.’ Instead, they said in a motion filed last week that the state is only making funds available to ‘facilitate the transport of consenting unauthorized aliens from Florida to other states.’” [The Miami Herald, 1/13/23]

- **DeSantis’s Lawyers Said That The Program Did Not “Regulate The Flow Of Aliens Into Or Out Of” The U.S. Or Determine Their Citizenship Status, Adding That Florida Was Only Making Funds Available To “Facilitate The Transport Of Consenting Unauthorized Aliens From Florida To Other States.”** The Miami Herald reported, “A Leon County Circuit Court judge on Friday refused to dismiss a lawsuit against Ron DeSantis brought by a North Miami Beach state senator who has accused Florida’s governor of illegally using taxpayer funds to fly migrants from Texas to Martha’s Vineyard in Massachusetts last September. Judge John C. Cooper set a Jan. 30 trial date to hear the constitutional challenge brought by Sen. Jason Pizzo, a Democrat who is suing in his capacity as a private citizen. Cooper rejected attempts by DeSantis’ lawyers to dismiss the case, although he did agree to release Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis as a defendant. [...] DeSantis’ lawyers argue, however, that the relocation program ‘does not regulate the flow of aliens into or out of the United States or determine anybody’s citizenship status.’ Instead, they said in a motion filed last week that the

state is only making funds available to ‘facilitate the transport of consenting unauthorized aliens from Florida to other states.’” [The Miami Herald, 1/13/23]

**January 2023: Republican Legislative Leaders Avoided Asking Florida Department Of Transportation Secretary Jared Perdue About His Agency’s Handling Of The Migrant Relocation Program To Martha’s Vineyard.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “Florida Department of Transportation Secretary Jared Perdue has some questions to answer about his agency’s handling of the covert [sic] operation Florida taxpayers financed to relocate migrants from the southern border in Texas, but the Senate committee charged with overseeing his budget ran out of time Wednesday. [...] The budget includes \$12 million in ‘migrant relocation’ funds added by lawmakers last spring at the governor’s request. The Senate committee spent 10 minutes on introductions, and Perdue spoke for 40 minutes providing an overview of his agency’s operation. [...] Hooper then fielded four questions from senators, none of which related to the migrant flights. [...] Florida legislators have budget oversight [sic] authority, but after the controversial flights captivated national attention and became a badge of honor for DeSantis as he positions himself to run for president in 2024, Republican legislative leaders have avoided asking questions about them [sic].” [Tampa Bay Times, 1/18/23]

**March 2023: DeSantis Filed A Motion In Federal Court In Boston To Dismiss A Lawsuit Filed By Lawyers For Civil Rights Because The Allegations Pertained To Actions That Occurred Mainly In Texas And Florida, Not Massachusetts.** The Boston Globe reported, “Florida Governor Ron DeSantis and top officials in his administration filed a motion Tuesday in federal court in Boston to dismiss a lawsuit alleging they plotted to trick migrants in Texas into flying to Martha’s Vineyard last year with false promises of work and housing opportunities. Attorneys for DeSantis, a prominent Republican long thought to be mulling a 2024 White House bid, and the other defendants argued that the suit should be dismissed in part because the allegations pertain to actions that occurred mainly in Texas and Florida, rather than Massachusetts. [...] Lawyers for Civil Rights, a Boston-based advocacy group, filed the suit in September, days after some four dozen migrants arrived on Martha’s Vineyard on planes funded by the state of Florida, according to officials and legal filings. [...] In their motion, lawyers for DeSantis and the other officials said their clients, in arranging for a private company to charter planes to Massachusetts, were acting in their official capacities under a state law that appropriated millions of funds to relocate migrants.” [Boston Globe, 3/2/23]

**December 2022: Public Records Revealed That Larry Keefe, DeSantis’s “Public Safety Czar,” Used A Private Email Address With The Alias “Clarice Starling” To Help His Former Client Vertol Systems Win A State Contract To Operate The Migrant Flight Program.** The Miami Herald reported, “A top aide to Gov. Ron DeSantis used a private email address with the alias ‘Clarice Starling’—a reference to the Hannibal Lecter serial killer novels—to help his former client win a state contract to operate Florida’s controversial migrant flight program, recently released public records show. The records suggest that Larry Keefe, DeSantis’ public safety czar, wrote some of the language that the private contractor, Vertol Systems Company, used in its bid proposal to fly migrants from Texas to Democratic states. [...] ‘This is the email channel to use,’ Keefe wrote to Montgomerie on Aug. 26, as Vertol, a Destin, Florida-based aviation company, was preparing to bid for the state’s migrant flight program. The email account was a private Gmail address that displayed Keefe’s name as ‘Clarice Starling,’ the FBI trainee and heroine from the serial killer thriller *The Silence of the Lambs*. The Gmail address also included the phrase ‘Heat 19,’ which Keefe said was a call sign given to him during his time in private practice by a former U.S. Air Force Special Operations commander.” [Miami Herald, 12/27/22]

- **Records Suggested That Larry Keefe Wrote Some Of The Language That Vertol Systems Used In Its Bid Proposal To Fly Migrants From Texas To Democratic States.** The Miami Herald reported, “A top aide to Gov. Ron DeSantis used a private email address with the alias ‘Clarice Starling’—a reference to the Hannibal Lecter serial killer novels—to help his former client win a state contract to operate Florida’s controversial migrant flight program, recently released public records show. The records suggest that Larry Keefe, DeSantis’ public safety czar, wrote some of the language that the private contractor, Vertol Systems Company, used in its bid proposal to fly migrants from Texas to Democratic states. [...] ‘This is the email channel to use,’ Keefe wrote to Montgomerie on Aug. 26, as Vertol, a Destin, Florida-based aviation company, was preparing to bid for the state’s migrant flight program. The email account was a private Gmail address that displayed Keefe’s name as ‘Clarice Starling,’ the FBI trainee and heroine from the serial killer thriller *The Silence of the Lambs*.

The Gmail address also included the phrase ‘Heat 19,’ which Keefe said was a call sign given to him during his time in private practice by a former U.S. Air Force Special Operations commander.” [Miami Herald, 12/27/22]

- **Larry Keefe Sent Eight Paragraphs Of Language That Vertol’s CEO James Montgomerie Would Include Almost Verbatim In The Official Proposal For The Migrant Flight Program, And The Proposal Was Soon After Approved By The Florida Department Of Transportation.** The Miami Herald reported, “‘This is the email channel to use,’ Keefe wrote to Montgomerie on Aug. 26, as Vertol, a Destin, Florida-based aviation company, was preparing to bid for the state’s migrant flight program. [...] Four days after that initial message, Keefe sent Montgomerie eight paragraphs of language that the Vertol CEO would include almost verbatim in his official proposal for the migrant flight program. The Florida Department of Transportation approved Vertol’s proposal soon after and the first flights happened a little more than a week later. [...] The records became public only after wrangling between the governor’s office and the Florida Center for Government Accountability, a nonprofit that has sued the state over delays in releasing public records about its migrant flight program. [...] After FLCGA suggested that the state was withholding some records, Keefe remembered that he might have used the ‘Clarice Starling/Heat 19’ email account to discuss the migrant flight program, according to the state’s Office of Open Government. That led the state to discover the communications between Keefe and Montgomerie, including the email where Keefe appears to draft Vertol’s bid.” [Miami Herald, 12/27/22]
- **Emails Suggested That Vertol’s CEO James Montgomerie Lied Under Oath, As He Previously Stated During A Sworn Testimony That He Had Written A Consent Form Draft For The Migrants, But It Was Later Revealed To Be A Draft For Vertol’s Bid.** The Miami Herald reported, “The records became public only after wrangling between the governor’s office and the Florida Center for Government Accountability, a nonprofit that has sued the state over delays in releasing public records about its migrant flight program. [...] The emails also suggest that Montgomerie lied under oath when being deposed in FLCGA’s lawsuit, according to a motion the nonprofit filed in court. During sworn testimony last month, Montgomerie was asked about a ‘draft’ he mentioned in a Sept. 1 Signal message to Keefe. Montgomerie replied that he was talking about a consent form to be filled out by migrants. But the recently released emails show he was actually discussing the draft for Vertol’s bid, according to FLCGA. In its motion, FLCGA is asking a judge to allow it to re-question Montgomerie.” [Miami Herald, 12/27/22]

**February 2023: Division Of Emergency Management Director Kevin Guthrie Said That He Did Not Know Whether He Would Continue To Work With Vertol Systems On Future Migrant Relocation Programs And Said He Would Not Allow The Awarding Of No-Bid Projects.** The Miami Herald reported, “The head of the state agency now tasked with handling Gov. Ron DeSantis’ migrant relocation program told a Senate committee on Tuesday that he was not sure whether he will continue the state’s arrangement with Vertol Systems Company, the politically-connected aviation company paid to transport migrants from Texas to Massachusetts. ‘The answer to that question is, I don’t know,’ said Division of Emergency Management Director Kevin Guthrie when asked if he would continue to use Vertol, the company handpicked by the governor’s public safety czar. [...] In addition to transferring the program from FDOT to the Division of Emergency Management, lawmakers also exempted the program from the routine competitive bidding process...But Guthrie said going forward he will not allow the awarding of no-bid projects.” [Miami Herald, 2/21/23]

**February 2023: DeSantis Proposed Legislation That Would Create A Statute Establishing The “Unauthorized Alien Transport Program,” Which Would Allow The State To Use Taxpayer Dollars To Transport Migrants Around The U.S.** The Miami Herald reported, “In the face of several lawsuits challenging Gov. Ron DeSantis’ covert operation to relocate migrants from the Texas border to Massachusetts, the governor’s office now wants lawmakers to revise the law to remove potentially unconstitutional provisions and give the governor more authority to use Florida taxpayer funds to transport migrants around the country. The proposed legislation would create a new statute establishing the ‘Unauthorized Alien Transport Program’ within the governor’s office that would allow the state to use taxpayer funds this fiscal year to transport people who have entered the country and have been processed and released by the U.S. government pending a final resolution of their immigration status. If approved by lawmakers during a special session next week, DeSantis would have expanded authority to use \$10 million between now and the end of June to relocate migrants anywhere in the

United States. The measure also allows the governor to potentially access as much as \$500 million in emergency funds because he signed an executive order declaring an immigration emergency in January.” [Miami Herald, 2/3/23]

- **DeSantis’s Proposed Legislation Would Expand Authority To Use \$10 Million Between February And The End Of June To Relocate Migrants Anywhere In The U.S. And Allow The Governor To Access As Much As \$500 Million In Emergency Funds.** The Miami Herald reported, “In the face of several lawsuits challenging Gov. Ron DeSantis’ covert operation to relocate migrants from the Texas border to Massachusetts, the governor’s office now wants lawmakers to revise the law to remove potentially unconstitutional provisions and give the governor more authority to use Florida taxpayer funds to transport migrants around the country. The proposed legislation would create a new statute establishing the ‘Unauthorized Alien Transport Program’ within the governor’s office that would allow the state to use taxpayer funds this fiscal year to transport people who have entered the country and have been processed and released by the U.S. government pending a final resolution of their immigration status. If approved by lawmakers during a special session next week, DeSantis would have expanded authority to use \$10 million between now and the end of June to relocate migrants anywhere in the United States. The measure also allows the governor to potentially access as much as \$500 million in emergency funds because he signed an executive order declaring an immigration emergency in January.” [Miami Herald, 2/3/23]
- **DeSantis’s Proposed Legislation Would Allow Him To Use Tens Of Millions Of Dollars To Transport Migrants If They Volunteered To Be Relocated And Showed Documentation That They Had Been Processed And Released By DHS, While Florida Taxpayers Would Have To Foot The Travel Costs.** The Miami Herald reported, “If approved by lawmakers during a special session next week, DeSantis would have expanded authority to use \$10 million between now and the end of June to relocate migrants anywhere in the United States. The measure also allows the governor to potentially access as much as \$500 million in emergency funds because he signed an executive order declaring an immigration emergency in January. DeSantis, who is eyeing a run for president in 2024, would then have access to tens of millions of dollars to transport migrants if the migrants volunteer to be relocated and show documentation that they have been processed and released by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Florida taxpayers would foot the travel costs. [...] It would be a departure from what the Legislature approved less than a year ago when DeSantis first sought to transport migrants out of the state. At the moment, state law specifies that migrants have to be relocated ‘from this state’—a mandate the state has not followed. The new language would allow DeSantis to transport migrants ‘within the United States.’” [Miami Herald, 2/3/23]
- **The Language In DeSantis’s Proposed Legislation Would Allow Him To Transport Migrants “Within The United States” Instead Of Relocating Them “From This State.”** The Miami Herald reported, “If approved by lawmakers during a special session next week, DeSantis would have expanded authority to use \$10 million between now and the end of June to relocate migrants anywhere in the United States. The measure also allows the governor to potentially access as much as \$500 million in emergency funds because he signed an executive order declaring an immigration emergency in January. DeSantis, who is eyeing a run for president in 2024, would then have access to tens of millions of dollars to transport migrants if the migrants volunteer to be relocated and show documentation that they have been processed and released by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Florida taxpayers would foot the travel costs. [...] It would be a departure from what the Legislature approved less than a year ago when DeSantis first sought to transport migrants out of the state. At the moment, state law specifies that migrants have to be relocated ‘from this state’—a mandate the state has not followed. The new language would allow DeSantis to transport migrants ‘within the United States.’” [Miami Herald, 2/3/23]
- **Florida Senator Jazon Pizzo Said That DeSantis’s Proposed Bill Was An Effort To Render His Lawsuit Moot And “To Expand [The Governor’s] Authority Because Now It No Longer Requires There To Be A Direct Nexus For Florida.”** The Miami Herald reported, “The new language would allow DeSantis to transport migrants ‘within the United States.’ [...] Sen. Jason Pizzo, a Democrat, filed a lawsuit accusing Florida’s governor of illegally using taxpayer funds to fly migrants from Texas to Martha’s Vineyard in Massachusetts last September. He said the proposed bill is an effort to render his lawsuit moot and ‘to expand



[the governor's] authority because now it no longer requires there to be a direct nexus for Florida.' [...] A trial in Pizzo's lawsuit was scheduled for Jan. 30 but was postponed because of the judge's illness. The governor's office filed a motion for summary judgment to delay the case for another 40 days." [Miami Herald, 2/3/23]

- **Pizzo's Initial Lawsuit Filed Against DeSantis In September Was Scheduled For Trial On January 30 But Was Postponed Due To The Judge's Illness, And The Governor's Office Then Filed A Motion To Delay The Case For Another 30 Days.** The Miami Herald reported, "The new language would allow DeSantis to transport migrants 'within the United States.' [...] Sen. Jason Pizzo, a Democrat, filed a lawsuit accusing Florida's governor of illegally using taxpayer funds to fly migrants from Texas to Martha's Vineyard in Massachusetts last September. He said the proposed bill is an effort to render his lawsuit moot and 'to expand [the governor's] authority because now it no longer requires there to be a direct nexus for Florida.' [...] A trial in Pizzo's lawsuit was scheduled for Jan. 30 but was postponed because of the judge's illness. The governor's office filed a motion for summary judgment to delay the case for another 40 days." [Miami Herald, 2/3/23]

**February 2023: Florida Lawmakers Gave Preliminary Approval To Expand DeSantis's Ability To Relocate Migrants Anywhere In The U.S. And Allow Him To Hand Out Millions Of Dollars In No-Bid Contracts To Companies Carrying Out The Program Without Disclosing Details To The Public.** The Miami Herald reported, "Florida lawmakers gave preliminary approval to a measure that would not only expand Gov. Ron DeSantis' ability to relocate migrants anywhere in the country but would allow his administration to hand out millions of dollars in no-bid contracts to companies to carry out the secretive program without disclosing details to the public. Republican lawmakers who are sponsoring the proposal have acknowledged that they do not know how the administration plans to spend \$10 million that would be set aside for the immigration program between now and the end of June. The expenses, they said, could include surveillance, reconnaissance and investigations, as well as feeding and housing migrants while they wait for a plane ride. Lawmakers admitted in hearings Monday in the House and Tuesday in the Senate that they do not have details about how the administration has spent an estimated \$2 million on the previous migrant relocation efforts—despite allegations that the covert operation misled some migrants, paid an undocumented worker to recruit passengers and shielded details from the public. But, they argue, the administration should be given 'as much flexibility' as possible to spend future state funds because they consider the nation's immigration troubles a Florida emergency." [Miami Herald, 2/7/23]

- **Florida Lawmakers Admitted That They Did Not Know How The DeSantis Administration Planned To Spend \$10 Million Set Aside For The Immigration Program Between February And June And Also Admitted That They Did Not Have Details About How He Spent \$2 Million On The Previous Program.** The Miami Herald reported, "Florida lawmakers gave preliminary approval to a measure that would not only expand Gov. Ron DeSantis' ability to relocate migrants anywhere in the country but would allow his administration to hand out millions of dollars in no-bid contracts to companies to carry out the secretive program without disclosing details to the public. Republican lawmakers who are sponsoring the proposal have acknowledged that they do not know how the administration plans to spend \$10 million that would be set aside for the immigration program between now and the end of June. The expenses, they said, could include surveillance, reconnaissance and investigations, as well as feeding and housing migrants while they wait for a plane ride. Lawmakers admitted in hearings Monday in the House and Tuesday in the Senate that they do not have details about how the administration has spent an estimated \$2 million on the previous migrant relocation efforts—despite allegations that the covert operation misled some migrants, paid an undocumented worker to recruit passengers and shielded details from the public. But, they argue, the administration should be given 'as much flexibility' as possible to spend future state funds because they consider the nation's immigration troubles a Florida emergency." [Miami Herald, 2/7/23]
- **Florida Lawmakers Said The DeSantis Administration Should Be Given "As Much Flexibility" As Possible To Spend Future Funds On Dealing With The Immigration Issue.** The Miami Herald reported, "Florida lawmakers gave preliminary approval to a measure that would not only expand Gov. Ron DeSantis' ability to relocate migrants anywhere in the country but would allow his administration to hand out millions of dollars in no-bid contracts to companies to carry out the secretive program without disclosing details to the public. Republican lawmakers who are sponsoring the proposal have acknowledged that they do not know how the administration plans to spend \$10 million that would be set aside for the immigration program between now

and the end of June. The expenses, they said, could include surveillance, reconnaissance and investigations, as well as feeding and housing migrants while they wait for a plane ride. Lawmakers admitted in hearings Monday in the House and Tuesday in the Senate that they do not have details about how the administration has spent an estimated \$2 million on the previous migrant relocation efforts—despite allegations that the covert operation misled some migrants, paid an undocumented worker to recruit passengers and shielded details from the public. But, they argue, the administration should be given ‘as much flexibility’ as possible to spend future state funds because they consider the nation’s immigration troubles a Florida emergency.” [Miami Herald, 2/7/23]

**February 2023: DeSantis’s Proposed Legislation On The Migrant Relocation Program Was Approved By The Florida Legislature On A 77-37 Party-Line Vote, Authorizing His Administration To Relocate Migrants Anywhere In The U.S. In Whichever Way It “Sees Fit.”** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “Florida Republicans in the Legislature on Friday gave final approval to the expansion of a secretive immigration program that will authorize Gov. Ron DeSantis’ administration to relocate migrants anywhere in the country in whichever way it ‘sees fit.’ The proposed legislation, which DeSantis is expected to sign into law, will set aside \$10 million for the Division of Emergency Management to spend in the fiscal year ending June 30. The agency, which is part of the DeSantis administration, can set its own rules for the new migrant relocation program effort entitled, ‘Unauthorized Alien Transport Program.’ [...] The bill, which now heads to DeSantis, was approved on a 77-34 party-line vote.” [Tampa Bay Times, 2/9/23]

**February 2023: DeSantis Signed Bill SB 6-B, Which Gave Him The Authority To Create The “Unauthorized Alien Transport Program” And Provided \$10 Million To Transport Migrants From Florida And Other States To Sanctuary Areas.** The Miami Herald reported, “With little fanfare, Gov. Ron DeSantis on Wednesday signed a controversial bill expected to result in Florida transporting migrants to ‘sanctuary’ areas of the country, similar to the September flights of about 50 migrants from Texas to Martha’s Vineyard in Massachusetts. The bill (SB 6-B), which passed last week during a special legislative session, creates the ‘Unauthorized Alien Transport Program’ within the state Division of Emergency Management and provides \$10 million to transport migrants from Florida and other states to sanctuary areas. Division of Emergency Management Director Kevin Guthrie said Wednesday his agency will first spend time reviewing past actions of the Florida Department of Transportation, which helped direct the September flights.” [Miami Herald, 2/15/23]

- **Following The Signing Of SB 6-B, Division Of Emergency Management Director Kevin Guthrie Said That The Agency Would First Spend Time Reviewing Past Actions Of The Florida Department Of Transportation, Which Helped Transport Migrants To Martha’s Vineyard.** The Miami Herald reported, “With little fanfare, Gov. Ron DeSantis on Wednesday signed a controversial bill expected to result in Florida transporting migrants to ‘sanctuary’ areas of the country, similar to the September flights of about 50 migrants from Texas to Martha’s Vineyard in Massachusetts. The bill (SB 6-B), which passed last week during a special legislative session, creates the ‘Unauthorized Alien Transport Program’ within the state Division of Emergency Management and provides \$10 million to transport migrants from Florida and other states to sanctuary areas. Division of Emergency Management Director Kevin Guthrie said Wednesday his agency will first spend time reviewing past actions of the Florida Department of Transportation, which helped direct the September flights.” [Miami Herald, 2/15/23]

**February 2023: Attorneys For DeSantis And The FDOT Argued That The Lawsuit Brought By State Senator Jason Pizzo Was “Moot” When DeSantis Signed SB 6-B.** The Miami Herald reported, “Arguing that the case is ‘moot’ because of a bill passed during a special legislative session, Gov. Ron DeSantis’ administration has asked a judge to dismiss a lawsuit filed after the state flew about 50 migrants from Texas to Massachusetts in September. [...] Sen. Jason Pizzo, D-Hollywood, filed the lawsuit, alleging that a section of the state budget used to pay for the flights is unconstitutional because it created a new program and changed laws about issues such as contracting. But the bill passed Feb. 10 by the Legislature and signed last week by DeSantis sought to neutralize such arguments. [...] In the motion to dismiss, DeSantis administration lawyers wrote there is ‘zero chance’ that the disputed section of the budget will be ‘invoked again.’ ‘Indeed, [the section] no longer exists, and different provisions of Florida law now authorize similar actions,’ the motion said. ‘Thus, not only is there no evidence [the section] will be applied again, but there would be no need.’” [Miami Herald, 2/21/23]

**February 2023: A Leon County Circuit Judge Dismissed A Lawsuit Filed By State Senator Jason Pizzo Against DeSantis’s Migrant Relocation Program After The Senator’s Attorney Acknowledged That It Should End.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “A Leon County circuit judge Wednesday dismissed a lawsuit filed after Gov. Ron DeSantis’ administration sparked a controversy in September by flying about 50 migrants from Texas to Martha’s Vineyard in Massachusetts. DeSantis administration attorneys argued that the lawsuit, filed by state Sen. Jason Pizzo, D-Hollywood, became moot when the Legislature this month passed a law aimed at bolstering efforts to transport migrants to ‘sanctuary’ areas of the country. During a late-afternoon hearing Wednesday, Circuit Judge John Cooper dismissed the lawsuit after Pizzo’s attorney, Mark Herron, acknowledged that it should end.” [Tampa Bay Times, 2/22/23]

**February 2023: The Miami Herald Editorial Board Criticized DeSantis For Taking “A Sizeable Chunk” Of State Funds And Using It To Relocate Migrants To “Sanctuary Cities,” Noting That It Was “Nothing More Than An Empty Gesture” Used To “Give The Governor More Headlines.”** According to the Editorial Board of The Miami Herald, “A bill approved by the Legislature during the special session last week and signed into law by DeSantis on Wednesday allows him to take a sizable chunk of our money and use it to relocate migrants from Florida and other states to so-called ‘sanctuary’ areas. It’ll mean more flights like one he authorized in September, flying about 50 migrants from Texas to Martha’s Vineyard in Massachusetts. [...] Maybe you believe the Southern border is too porous. Fine. But the solution isn’t taking one state’s money and using it on what is surely nothing more than an empty gesture, simply to give the governor more headlines. [...] We pay the costs while he gets the publicity, all in his single-minded drive for the Republican nomination. In a Twitter post, DeSantis said that, ‘Florida is using all tools available to protect our citizens from [President] Biden’s open-border policies.’ By ‘all tools,’ he apparently meant ‘your money.’” [Miami Herald, Editorial, 2/16/23]

- **The Miami Herald Editorial Board: “In A Twitter Post, DeSantis Said That, ‘Florida Is Using All Tools Available To Protect Our Citizens From [President] Biden’s Open-Border Policies.’ By ‘All Tools,’ He Apparently Meant ‘Your Money.’”** According to the Editorial Board of The Miami Herald, “A bill approved by the Legislature during the special session last week and signed into law by DeSantis on Wednesday allows him to take a sizable chunk of our money and use it to relocate migrants from Florida and other states to so-called ‘sanctuary’ areas. It’ll mean more flights like one he authorized in September, flying about 50 migrants from Texas to Martha’s Vineyard in Massachusetts. [...] Maybe you believe the Southern border is too porous. Fine. But the solution isn’t taking one state’s money and using it on what is surely nothing more than an empty gesture, simply to give the governor more headlines. [...] We pay the costs while he gets the publicity, all in his single-minded drive for the Republican nomination. In a Twitter post, DeSantis said that, ‘Florida is using all tools available to protect our citizens from [President] Biden’s open-border policies.’ By ‘all tools,’ he apparently meant ‘your money.’” [Miami Herald, Editorial, 2/16/23]

## ***Migrant Resettlement In Florida***

**May 2019: DeSantis Commented On Vague Information That The Trump Administration Planned To Send 1,000 Undocumented Immigrants A Month From The Border To Florida, Stating, “We Cannot Accommodate In Florida The Dumping Of Unlawful Migrants Into Our State.”** The Miami Herald reported, “Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis said Friday the state isn’t prepared to handle vague Trump administration plans to send about 1,000 undocumented immigrants a month from the southern border to South Florida. ‘We cannot accommodate in Florida the dumping of unlawful migrants into our state,’ DeSantis said during a press conference and bill signing ceremony on the state’s west coast. ‘I think it will tax our resources, our schools, the healthcare, law enforcement, state agencies.’ DeSantis said he’s ‘investigated’ reports from two South Florida sheriffs that Customs and Border Patrol agents will begin flying hundreds of undocumented immigrants into the region starting around the beginning of June. But the governor’s statements Friday show that, like many of the state’s politicians—some of them President Donald Trump’s close allies—he remains mostly in the dark about the details of a hugely controversial proposal. ‘I don’t have enough information about it. As I said, this is not something that came down from the White House, this is something that came out of the agencies,’ said DeSantis, who cautioned reporters that the details being relayed by local sheriffs may not be concrete.” [Miami Herald, 5/17/19]

- **DeSantis Stated That He Did Not Have Details On The Purported Plan To Resettle Migrants In Florida,**

**Stating, “As I said, This Is Not Something That Came Down From The White House, This Is Something That Came Out Of The Agencies.”** The Miami Herald reported, “Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis said Friday the state isn’t prepared to handle vague Trump administration plans to send about 1,000 undocumented immigrants a month from the southern border to South Florida. ‘We cannot accommodate in Florida the dumping of unlawful migrants into our state,’ DeSantis said during a press conference and bill signing ceremony on the state’s west coast. ‘I think it will tax our resources, our schools, the healthcare, law enforcement, state agencies.’ DeSantis said he’s ‘investigated’ reports from two South Florida sheriffs that Customs and Border Patrol agents will begin flying hundreds of undocumented immigrants into the region starting around the beginning of June. But the governor’s statements Friday show that, like many of the state’s politicians—some of them President Donald Trump’s close allies—he remains mostly in the dark about the details of a hugely controversial proposal. ‘I don’t have enough information about it. As I said, this is not something that came down from the White House, this is something that came out of the agencies,’ said DeSantis, who cautioned reporters that the details being relayed by local sheriffs may not be concrete.” [Miami Herald, 5/17/19]

- **DeSantis’s Office Confirmed That, Following A Conversation With President Trump, “Illegal Immigrants Would Not Be Sent To Florida.”** The Miami Herald reported, “Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis’ office confirmed Sunday that President Donald Trump said it wouldn’t be happening. ‘I can confirm that Governor DeSantis and President Trump spoke [Friday] afternoon,’ a spokeswoman for the governor said. ‘President Trump told Governor DeSantis that illegal immigrants would not be sent to Florida. President Trump said he did not approve of such a plan and would not authorize it. Governor DeSantis was never notified by federal authorities that such a plan was in place.’” [Miami Herald, 5/19/19]

**Tampa Bay Times: In September 2020, DeSantis Signed An Executive Order Directing The Florida Department Of Law Enforcement “To Track Down Flights Coming Into Jacksonville That He Has Suggested Are Full Of ‘Potential Illegal Immigrants’ Who’ve Crossed The U.S. Southern Border.”** Tampa Bay Times reported, “The new proposal adds to an executive order signed in September in which DeSantis enlisted the Florida Department of Law Enforcement to track down flights coming into Jacksonville that he has suggested are full of ‘potential illegal immigrants’ who’ve crossed the U.S. southern border. FDLE has said the information about the flights have not ‘developed into a criminal investigation,’ but at the news conference on Friday, DeSantis and his public safety czar, Larry Keefe, suggested that the governor’s actions would ‘protect families’ by combating ‘criminal cartels and smugglers.’ [...] For several months now, DeSantis has been appearing on Fox News and holding press conferences in Florida to talk about what he says are ‘clandestine’ flights with migrants coming into Florida in the middle of the night with no notice from the federal government.” [Tampa Bay Times, 12/10/21]

- **Tampa Bay Times: DeSantis Had Been “Appearing On Fox News And Holding Press Conferences In Florida To Talk About What He Says Are ‘Clandestine’ Flights With Migrants Coming Into Florida In The Middle Of The Night With No Notice From The Federal Government.”** Tampa Bay Times reported, “The new proposal adds to an executive order signed in September in which DeSantis enlisted the Florida Department of Law Enforcement to track down flights coming into Jacksonville that he has suggested are full of ‘potential illegal immigrants’ who’ve crossed the U.S. southern border. FDLE has said the information about the flights have not ‘developed into a criminal investigation,’ but at the news conference on Friday, DeSantis and his public safety czar, Larry Keefe, suggested that the governor’s actions would ‘protect families’ by combating ‘criminal cartels and smugglers.’ [...] For several months now, DeSantis has been appearing on Fox News and holding press conferences in Florida to talk about what he says are ‘clandestine’ flights with migrants coming into Florida in the middle of the night with no notice from the federal government.” [Tampa Bay Times, 12/10/21]
- **Florida Had Not Confirmed The Immigration Status Of Any Passengers On These Flights, And The Biden Administration Asserted That DeSantis’s Claims Were “Unsubstantiated.”** Tampa Bay Times reported, “The state has not independently confirmed the immigration status or identities of any of the passengers, but the DeSantis administration is suggesting they are ‘potential illegal immigrants’ and that the information developed by FDLE is part of an initiative that will help the state ‘understand the threats that might be coming into Florida such as human trafficking, violent gang members or drug traffickers.’ Several Biden

administration officials said that DeSantis' claims about the flights are 'unsubstantiated.' Immigration experts say the flights DeSantis is referring to have long been used by the federal government to relocate asylum seekers and other migrants from the border." [Tampa Bay Times, 12/10/21]

**December 2021: DeSantis Announced Plans To Pursue Legislation That Would “Hold Accountable Private Entities That Knowingly Or Recklessly Assist The Biden Administration In Resettling Illegal Immigrants Into Florida.”** Tampa Bay Times reported, “DeSantis had previously threatened to punish private transportation companies that helped the federal government transport migrants into Florida. On Nov. 9, he told Fox News’ Tucker Carlson that the state was looking at how to ‘fight back against contractors,’ including denying them ‘access to the Florida market,’ increasing their taxes and creating other disincentives. On Friday, the governor appeared to follow through on that promise and said he intends to prioritize a bill that would ‘hold accountable private entities that knowingly or recklessly assist the Biden administration in resettling illegal immigrants into Florida.’ He said he has a list of companies that have aided the federal government and wants to target those that are ‘involved in facilitating’ illegal migration into the state, but it is unclear how that would be defined in statute.” [Tampa Bay Times, 12/10/21]

- **DeSantis Stated That He Supported Efforts To Punish Private Contractors That Worked With The Federal Government To Transport Immigrants Into Florida, Including By Denying Them “Access To The Florida Market” And Increasing Their Taxes.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “DeSantis had previously threatened to punish private transportation companies that helped the federal government transport migrants into Florida. On Nov. 9, he told Fox News’ Tucker Carlson that the state was looking at how to ‘fight back against contractors,’ including denying them ‘access to the Florida market,’ increasing their taxes and creating other disincentives. On Friday, the governor appeared to follow through on that promise and said he intends to prioritize a bill that would ‘hold accountable private entities that knowingly or recklessly assist the Biden administration in resettling illegal immigrants into Florida.’ He said he has a list of companies that have aided the federal government and wants to target those that are ‘involved in facilitating’ illegal migration into the state, but it is unclear how that would be defined in statute.” [Tampa Bay Times, 12/10/21]

**February 2022: DeSantis Proposed A Bill To Prohibit The State From Contracting With Transportation Companies That Brought Immigrants Into Florida On Behalf Of The Federal Government.** The Miami Herald reported, “RON DESANTIS' LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD: [...] Immigration bill: The governor’s proposal to prohibit the state from contracting with transportation companies that bring immigrants into Florida on behalf of the federal government is on the fast track for Senate approval. The proposal would also expand the scope of a 2019 law that barred so-called sanctuary cities in the state, five months after a federal judge in Miami deemed portions of the law unconstitutional and tinged with ‘discriminatory motives.’” [Miami Herald, 2/28/22]

- **DeSantis’s Proposed Bill Would Also Expand The Scope Of A 2019 Law That Barred Sanctuary Cities In The State, Five Months After A Federal Judge In Miami Deemed That Portions Of The 2019 Law Were Unconstitutional And Contained “Discriminatory Motives.”** The Miami Herald reported, “RON DESANTIS' LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD: [...] Immigration bill: The governor’s proposal to prohibit the state from contracting with transportation companies that bring immigrants into Florida on behalf of the federal government is on the fast track for Senate approval. The proposal would also expand the scope of a 2019 law that barred so-called sanctuary cities in the state, five months after a federal judge in Miami deemed portions of the law unconstitutional and tinged with ‘discriminatory motives.’” [Miami Herald, 2/28/22]

**March 2022: DeSantis’s Proposed Bill Would Target Companies That Transported People Who Were “Unlawfully” In The Country Into Florida.** The Miami Herald reported, “Florida Republicans are poised to bar the state from doing business with companies that bring undocumented immigrants into the state, a move that Democrats and faith leaders across the state worry will complicate the resettlement of unaccompanied minors who come to Florida to be reunified with their families. The proposal—approved by the Senate on Thursday along party lines—seeks to cramp the flow of undocumented immigrants into the state by targeting companies that transport people who are ‘unlawfully’ in the country into Florida. Unaccompanied migrant children, who under federal immigration law have ‘no lawful immigration status,’ would be included, according to immigration attorneys. ‘We are making decisions in a state that are going to affect a lot of people, including unaccompanied children,’ said Sen.

Annette Taddeo, D-Miami. ‘We should not be passing a bill that is going to create more division, more hate and create two types of children, those who are accepted and those who are not.’ Republican lawmakers tried to quell concerns that the proposal would have an impact on children by narrowing the definition of who would be considered an ‘unauthorized alien’ under state law. The change came after the issue drew criticism from Miami faith leaders and created division among Cubans who came to Florida through Operation Pedro Pan in the 1960s.” [Miami Herald, 3/3/22]

- **According To Immigration Attorneys, Unaccompanied Migrant Children, Who Under Federal Immigration Law Had “No Lawful Immigration Status,” Would Fall Under The Purview Of The Bill.** The Miami Herald reported, “Florida Republicans are poised to bar the state from doing business with companies that bring undocumented immigrants into the state, a move that Democrats and faith leaders across the state worry will complicate the resettlement of unaccompanied minors who come to Florida to be reunified with their families. The proposal—approved by the Senate on Thursday along party lines—seeks to cramp the flow of undocumented immigrants into the state by targeting companies that transport people who are ‘unlawfully’ in the country into Florida. Unaccompanied migrant children, who under federal immigration law have ‘no lawful immigration status,’ would be included, according to immigration attorneys. ‘We are making decisions in a state that are going to affect a lot of people, including unaccompanied children,’ said Sen. Annette Taddeo, D-Miami. ‘We should not be passing a bill that is going to create more division, more hate and create two types of children, those who are accepted and those who are not.’ Republican lawmakers tried to quell concerns that the proposal would have an impact on children by narrowing the definition of who would be considered an ‘unauthorized alien’ under state law. The change came after the issue drew criticism from Miami faith leaders and created division among Cubans who came to Florida through Operation Pedro Pan in the 1960s.” [Miami Herald, 3/3/22]
- **Florida Democrats And Faith Leaders Worried That The Bill Would Complicate The Resettlement Of Unaccompanied Minors Who Came To Florida To Be Reunified With Their Families.** The Miami Herald reported, “Florida Republicans are poised to bar the state from doing business with companies that bring undocumented immigrants into the state, a move that Democrats and faith leaders across the state worry will complicate the resettlement of unaccompanied minors who come to Florida to be reunified with their families. The proposal—approved by the Senate on Thursday along party lines—seeks to cramp the flow of undocumented immigrants into the state by targeting companies that transport people who are ‘unlawfully’ in the country into Florida. Unaccompanied migrant children, who under federal immigration law have ‘no lawful immigration status,’ would be included, according to immigration attorneys. ‘We are making decisions in a state that are going to affect a lot of people, including unaccompanied children,’ said Sen. Annette Taddeo, D-Miami. ‘We should not be passing a bill that is going to create more division, more hate and create two types of children, those who are accepted and those who are not.’ Republican lawmakers tried to quell concerns that the proposal would have an impact on children by narrowing the definition of who would be considered an ‘unauthorized alien’ under state law. The change came after the issue drew criticism from Miami faith leaders and created division among Cubans who came to Florida through Operation Pedro Pan in the 1960s.” [Miami Herald, 3/3/22]
- **DeSantis’s Bill Would Not Allow Local Authorities To Enact Policies And Procedures That Would Prohibit Them From Sharing Information With State Agencies About The Immigration Status Of People In Their Custody.** The Miami Herald reported, “Some Republican senators defended the proposal by saying it is about ‘transparency’ and ‘law and order.’ The bill, for example, would not allow local authorities to enact policies and procedures that would prohibit them from sharing information with state agencies about the immigration status of people in their custody. ‘What this bill does is asking the federal government for transparency and accountability,’ said Sen. Ileana Garcia, R-Miami. Trying to fix sanctuary cities law The proposed legislation would also expand the scope of a 2019 law that barred sanctuary cities in the state, after a federal judge in Miami ruled portions of the law were unconstitutional and ‘discriminatory.’ ‘We know that a federal court ruled that bill unconstitutional because of its discriminatory motives that rely on an immigrant threat narrative. I don’t know why we are addressing something here that has already been ruled unconstitutional,’ said Sen. Lori Berman, D-Boynton Beach. All Florida law enforcement agencies operating county detention facilities would need to enroll in a federal immigration program, known as 27(g), which trains

and authorizes county-level officers to perform limited functions of federal immigration authorities. In the hours leading up to the Senate vote, immigration advocates gathered near a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement office in Plantation to demand the closure of Glades County Detention Center, which has been the target of complaints from immigration advocates and watchdog groups. They advocated to ‘free them all’ and ‘defund hate.’ When asked about Republican lawmakers’ proposals in the Legislature, some said they were not surprised by it and that it continued ‘feeding into this narrative of further demonizing the act of migration into the U.S.’” [Miami Herald, 3/3/22]

- **DeSantis’s Bill Would Require Florida Law Enforcement Agencies Operating County Detention Facilities To Enroll In The 27(G) Federal Immigration Program, Which Trained And Authorized County-Level Officers To Perform Limited Functions Of Federal Immigration Authorities.** The Miami Herald reported, “Some Republican senators defended the proposal by saying it is about ‘transparency’ and ‘law and order.’ The bill, for example, would not allow local authorities to enact policies and procedures that would prohibit them from sharing information with state agencies about the immigration status of people in their custody. ‘What this bill does is asking the federal government for transparency and accountability,’ said Sen. Ileana Garcia, R-Miami. Trying to fix sanctuary cities law The proposed legislation would also expand the scope of a 2019 law that barred sanctuary cities in the state, after a federal judge in Miami ruled portions of the law were unconstitutional and ‘discriminatory.’ ‘We know that a federal court ruled that bill unconstitutional because of its discriminatory motives that rely on an immigrant threat narrative. I don’t know why we are addressing something here that has already been ruled unconstitutional,’ said Sen. Lori Berman, D-Boynton Beach. All Florida law enforcement agencies operating county detention facilities would need to enroll in a federal immigration program, known as 27(g), which trains and authorizes county-level officers to perform limited functions of federal immigration authorities. In the hours leading up to the Senate vote, immigration advocates gathered near a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement office in Plantation to demand the closure of Glades County Detention Center, which has been the target of complaints from immigration advocates and watchdog groups. They advocated to ‘free them all’ and ‘defund hate.’ When asked about Republican lawmakers’ proposals in the Legislature, some said they were not surprised by it and that it continued ‘feeding into this narrative of further demonizing the act of migration into the U.S.’” [Miami Herald, 3/3/22]
- **The 287(G) Federal Immigration Program Was Designed To Identify And Catch Undocumented Immigrants In County Jails After They Were Arrested.** The Miami Herald reported, “All Florida law enforcement officials that operate a county detention center would be required to participate in a federal immigration program, known as the 287(g), designed to identify and catch undocumented immigrants in county jails after they are arrested. Currently, 48 Florida sheriffs are taking part in the program—a number that has soared under the DeSantis administration. The proposal would require county detention facilities that have yet to participate to enter into a cooperative agreement with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement by January 1, 2023. In practice, that means that within the next year, more county-level correctional officers could be traveling to Charleston, South Carolina, to be trained by ICE, at the expense of local jurisdictions. Officers would be trained to identify, interrogate and turn over inmates for being in the country illegally—including some who may still be awaiting trial on criminal charges. They would be working under the supervision of ICE. In order to be certified and allowed to perform immigration officers’ functions, local officers need to pass a test with a minimum score of 70%. ICE may require additional training.” [Miami Herald, 3/9/22]
- **DeSantis’s Bill Could Lead County-Level Correctional Officers To Travel To Charleston, South Carolina To Be Trained By ICE And Meet The 287(G) Requirements At The Expense Of Local Jurisdictions.** The Miami Herald reported, “All Florida law enforcement officials that operate a county detention center would be required to participate in a federal immigration program, known as the 287(g), designed to identify and catch undocumented immigrants in county jails after they are arrested. Currently, 48 Florida sheriffs are taking part in the program—a number that has soared under the DeSantis administration. The proposal would require county detention facilities that have yet to participate to enter into a cooperative agreement with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement by January 1, 2023. In practice, that means that within the next year, more county-level correctional officers could be traveling to Charleston, South Carolina, to be trained by ICE, at the expense of local jurisdictions. Officers would be trained to identify, interrogate and

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- **County Officers Would Be Trained By ICE To Identify, Interrogate And Turn Over Inmates For Being In The Country Illegally, Including Those Still Awaiting Trial On Criminal Charges.** The Miami Herald reported, "All Florida law enforcement officials that operate a county detention center would be required to participate in a federal immigration program, known as the 287(g), designed to identify and catch undocumented immigrants in county jails after they are arrested. Currently, 48 Florida sheriffs are taking part in the program—a number that has soared under the DeSantis administration. The proposal would require county detention facilities that have yet to participate to enter into a cooperative agreement with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement by January 1, 2023. In practice, that means that within the next year, more county-level correctional officers could be traveling to Charleston, South Carolina, to be trained by ICE, at the expense of local jurisdictions. Officers would be trained to identify, interrogate and turn over inmates for being in the country illegally—including some who may still be awaiting trial on criminal charges. They would be working under the supervision of ICE. In order to be certified and allowed to perform immigration officers' functions, local officers need to pass a test with a minimum score of 70%. ICE may require additional training." [Miami Herald, 3/9/22]
- **Leading Up To The Senate Vote On DeSantis's Bill, Immigration Advocates Demanded The Closure Of Glades County Detention Center, A Target Of Complaints From Immigration Advocates And Watchdog Groups.** The Miami Herald reported, "Some Republican senators defended the proposal by saying it is about 'transparency' and 'law and order.' The bill, for example, would not allow local authorities to enact policies and procedures that would prohibit them from sharing information with state agencies about the immigration status of people in their custody. 'What this bill does is asking the federal government for transparency and accountability,' said Sen. Ileana Garcia, R-Miami. [...] In the hours leading up to the Senate vote, immigration advocates gathered near a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement office in Plantation to demand the closure of Glades County Detention Center, which has been the target of complaints from immigration advocates and watchdog groups. They advocated to 'free them all' and 'defund hate.' When asked about Republican lawmakers' proposals in the Legislature, some said they were not surprised by it and that it continued 'feeding into this narrative of further demonizing the act of migration into the U.S.'" [Miami Herald, 3/3/22]
- **Immigration Advocates Said That DeSantis's Bill Continued "Feeding Into This Narrative Of Further Demonizing The Act Of Migration Into The U.S."** The Miami Herald reported, "Some Republican senators defended the proposal by saying it is about 'transparency' and 'law and order.' The bill, for example, would not allow local authorities to enact policies and procedures that would prohibit them from sharing information with state agencies about the immigration status of people in their custody. 'What this bill does is asking the federal government for transparency and accountability,' said Sen. Ileana Garcia, R-Miami. Trying to fix sanctuary cities law The proposed legislation would also expand the scope of a 2019 law that barred sanctuary cities in the state, after a federal judge in Miami ruled portions of the law were unconstitutional and 'discriminatory.' 'We know that a federal court ruled that bill unconstitutional because of its discriminatory motives that rely on an immigrant threat narrative. I don't know why we are addressing something here that has already been ruled unconstitutional,' said Sen. Lori Berman, D-Boynton Beach. All Florida law enforcement agencies operating county detention facilities would need to enroll in a federal immigration program, known as 27(g), which trains and authorizes county-level officers to perform limited functions of federal immigration authorities. In the hours leading up to the Senate vote, immigration advocates gathered near a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement office in Plantation to demand the closure of Glades County Detention Center, which has been the target of complaints from immigration advocates and watchdog groups. They advocated to 'free them all' and 'defund hate.' When asked about Republican lawmakers' proposals in the Legislature, some said they were not surprised by it and that it continued 'feeding into this narrative of further demonizing the act of migration into the U.S.'" [Miami Herald, 3/3/22]



## ***Migrants In The Florida Keys***

**January 2023: In Response To The Arrival Of Hundreds Of Cuban And Haitian Migrants In South Florida, DeSantis Signed An Executive Order Declaring A State Of Emergency And Called Out The State National Guard, Saying That The Surge Was “Likely To Constitute A Major Disaster.”** The Miami Herald reported, “Gov. Ron DeSantis declared a state of emergency Friday and called out the state National Guard as the arrival of hundreds of Cuban and Haitian migrants in South Florida overwhelmed local authorities and raised fears of a major migration event. DeSantis said the surge in migrant arrivals in the Florida Keys is ‘likely to constitute a major disaster’ and called on the Florida National Guard to respond. He said the state will also be using Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission vessels, and if necessary ‘support water interdiction.’ He said the state will also be sending helicopters and airplanes to help authorities reach and ‘ensure the safety’ of migrants when they attempt to reach the Florida shore. The DeSantis administration will be responding to the situation and helping with migrant arrivals as long as there is a state of emergency in place, an executive order signed by the governor Friday said.” [Miami Herald, 1/6/23]

- **DeSantis Said That The State Would Use Florida Fish And Wildlife Conservation Commission Vessels And Also Send Helicopters And Airplanes To Help Authorities Reach And “Ensure The Safety” Of Migrants Attempting To Reach The Florida Shore.** The Miami Herald reported, “Gov. Ron DeSantis declared a state of emergency Friday and called out the state National Guard as the arrival of hundreds of Cuban and Haitian migrants in South Florida overwhelmed local authorities and raised fears of a major migration event. DeSantis said the surge in migrant arrivals in the Florida Keys is ‘likely to constitute a major disaster’ and called on the Florida National Guard to respond. He said the state will also be using Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission vessels, and if necessary ‘support water interdiction.’ He said the state will also be sending helicopters and airplanes to help authorities reach and ‘ensure the safety’ of migrants when they attempt to reach the Florida shore. The DeSantis administration will be responding to the situation and helping with migrant arrivals as long as there is a state of emergency in place, an executive order signed by the governor Friday said.” [Miami Herald, 1/6/23]

**January 2023: The U.S. Coast Guard Sent More Than 200 Migrants Back To Cuba Before They Reached U.S. Shores Just Days After DeSantis Declared A State Of Emergency.** The Miami Herald reported, “By Friday, DeSantis had declared a state of emergency, saying the surge in migrant arrivals in the Florida Keys is ‘likely to constitute a major disaster’ and called on the Florida National Guard to respond to the situation. Hundreds turned back: The Florida National Guard presence was slow to arrive over the weekend as federal officials handled most of the travelers. The U.S. Coast Guard sent more than 200 migrants back to Cuba after the [sic] their boats were stopped before they reached U.S. shores. On Sunday morning, 53 migrants were reported by the U.S. Border Patrol, including 25 Cubans who arrived by boat in Marathon. Their landing spot was Sister Creek, the site of the federal government’s Radio Martí radio tower, which broadcasts Spanish-language programming to Cuba in an effort to promote democracy and freedom of the press on the island.” [Miami Herald, 1/9/23]

**January 2023: Florida’s Emergency Operations Officials Stated That The State’s Emergency Response To Migrants Arriving By Boat From Cuba And Haiti Would Be One Of Surveillance And Not Interdiction.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “Florida’s emergency response to the influx of migrants from Cuba and Haiti arriving by boat will be one of surveillance and not interdiction as 150 to 200 troops and officers work with federal Homeland Security officials ‘to increase coastal vigilance and provide improved situational awareness on migrant activities,’ state emergency operations officials said in a statement on Tuesday. [...] The governor’s executive order gives sweeping powers to state agencies to waive and suspend rules, enter into no-bid contracts and spend unlimited amounts of money by directing that ‘sufficient funding be made available, as needed’ from the governor’s \$500 million emergency fund. The governor tasked the Division of Emergency Management with coordinating the response and gave it the authority to ask other states for assistance, with their aid being reimbursed by Florida taxpayers. Initial indications from the Department of Homeland Security and the Florida National Guard are that the Guard’s role will not involve ground troops but primarily involve aerial support, assisting with surveillance of migrants attempting to reach Florida shores.” [Tampa Bay Times, 1/10/23]

- DeSantis’s Executive Order Gave Powers To State Agencies To Waive And Suspend Rules And Spend Unlimited Amounts Of Money From The Governor’s \$500 Million Emergency Fund.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “Florida’s emergency response to the influx of migrants from Cuba and Haiti arriving by boat will be one of surveillance and not interdiction as 150 to 200 troops and officers work with federal Homeland Security officials ‘to increase coastal vigilance and provide improved situational awareness on migrant activities,’ state emergency operations officials said in a statement on Tuesday. [...] The governor’s executive order gives sweeping powers to state agencies to waive and suspend rules, enter into no-bid contracts and spend unlimited amounts of money by directing that ‘sufficient funding be made available, as needed’ from the governor’s \$500 million emergency fund. The governor tasked the Division of Emergency Management with coordinating the response and gave it the authority to ask other states for assistance, with their aid being reimbursed by Florida taxpayers. Initial indications from the Department of Homeland Security and the Florida National Guard are that the Guard’s role will not involve ground troops but primarily involve aerial support, assisting with surveillance of migrants attempting to reach Florida shores.” [Tampa Bay Times, 1/10/23]
- DeSantis Gave Authority To The Division Of Emergency Management To Ask Other States For Assistance, With Their Aid Being Reimbursed By Florida Taxpayers.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “Florida’s emergency response to the influx of migrants from Cuba and Haiti arriving by boat will be one of surveillance and not interdiction as 150 to 200 troops and officers work with federal Homeland Security officials ‘to increase coastal vigilance and provide improved situational awareness on migrant activities,’ state emergency operations officials said in a statement on Tuesday. [...] The governor’s executive order gives sweeping powers to state agencies to waive and suspend rules, enter into no-bid contracts and spend unlimited amounts of money by directing that ‘sufficient funding be made available, as needed’ from the governor’s \$500 million emergency fund. The governor tasked the Division of Emergency Management with coordinating the response and gave it the authority to ask other states for assistance, with their aid being reimbursed by Florida taxpayers. Initial indications from the Department of Homeland Security and the Florida National Guard are that the Guard’s role will not involve ground troops but primarily involve aerial support, assisting with surveillance of migrants attempting to reach Florida shores.” [Tampa Bay Times, 1/10/23]
- Initial Indications From The DHS And The Florida National Guard Were That The Guard’s Role Would Not Involve Ground Troops But Mostly Aerial Support To Assist With The Surveillance Of Migrants Attempting To Reach Florida.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “Florida’s emergency response to the influx of migrants from Cuba and Haiti arriving by boat will be one of surveillance and not interdiction as 150 to 200 troops and officers work with federal Homeland Security officials ‘to increase coastal vigilance and provide improved situational awareness on migrant activities,’ state emergency operations officials said in a statement on Tuesday. [...] The governor’s executive order gives sweeping powers to state agencies to waive and suspend rules, enter into no-bid contracts and spend unlimited amounts of money by directing that ‘sufficient funding be made available, as needed’ from the governor’s \$500 million emergency fund. The governor tasked the Division of Emergency Management with coordinating the response and gave it the authority to ask other states for assistance, with their aid being reimbursed by Florida taxpayers. Initial indications from the Department of Homeland Security and the Florida National Guard are that the Guard’s role will not involve ground troops but primarily involve aerial support, assisting with surveillance of migrants attempting to reach Florida shores.” [Tampa Bay Times, 1/10/23]
- In Response To DeSantis’s Executive Order, The Florida Fish And Wildlife Conservation Commission Stationed Five More Large Vessels In The Keys And Deployed An Additional 15 Officers And One Mechanic To Provide Assistance.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “The governor’s executive order gives sweeping powers to state agencies to waive and suspend rules, enter into no-bid contracts and spend unlimited amounts of money by directing that ‘sufficient funding be made available, as needed’ from the governor’s \$500 million emergency fund. [...] The state agency with the most frequent contact with migrants is the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. The agency uses two vessels [...] who work with federal agencies to assist with ‘information gathering, humanitarian response, search and rescue efforts, critical infrastructure protection, officer safety and assistance, emergency medical services and other similar duties,’ said Ashlee Sklute, spokesperson for the agency. To assist with the migrant surge, and in response to the governor’s

executive order, FWC has stationed five more large vessels in the Keys and deployed an additional 15 officers and one mechanic to assist, Sklute said.” [Tampa Bay Times, 1/10/23]

**January 2023 – White House Press Secretary: “We Have Seen Gov. DeSantis Do Political Stunts. [...] We’re Talking About People Coming From Countries Who Are Dealing With Political Strife, Who Are Dealing With Issues Where They’re Trying To Find Asylum. And He Treats Them Like Pawns.”** The Miami Herald reported, “The White House issued a sharp rebuke of Ron DeSantis on Wednesday after the Florida governor activated the state’s National Guard in response to a surge in Cuban migrants arriving by sea, accusing the Republican of ‘creating a problem’ as the Biden administration is attempting to crack down on border enforcement. ‘We have seen Gov. DeSantis do political stunts. That is how he perceives to fix this issue from Florida,’ White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre told reporters at a press briefing. ‘We’re talking about people coming from countries who are dealing with political strife, who are dealing with issues where they’re trying to find asylum. And he treats them like pawns,’ Jean-Pierre said. [...] ‘He’s not dealing with the problem. He’s actually creating a problem,’ Jean-Pierre said. ‘And so that’s what I have to say to that. We’ve talked about Gov. DeSantis and, again, the mockery that he’s making of a process that the president is trying to fix.’” [Miami Herald, 1/11/23]

- **The White House Press Secretary Accused DeSantis Of “Not Dealing” With The Immigration Problem And Said He Was “Creating The Problem.”** The Miami Herald reported, “The White House issued a sharp rebuke of Ron DeSantis on Wednesday after the Florida governor activated the state’s National Guard in response to a surge in Cuban migrants arriving by sea, accusing the Republican of ‘creating a problem’ as the Biden administration is attempting to crack down on border enforcement. ‘We have seen Gov. DeSantis do political stunts. That is how he perceives to fix this issue from Florida,’ White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre told reporters at a press briefing. ‘We’re talking about people coming from countries who are dealing with political strife, who are dealing with issues where they’re trying to find asylum. And he treats them like pawns,’ Jean-Pierre said. [...] ‘He’s not dealing with the problem. He’s actually creating a problem,’ Jean-Pierre said. ‘And so that’s what I have to say to that. We’ve talked about Gov. DeSantis and, again, the mockery that he’s making of a process that the president is trying to fix.’” [Miami Herald, 1/11/23]

**January 2023: Days After DeSantis Signed An Executive Order Mobilizing The Florida National Guard To Respond To The Surge Of Migrants, The Florida Division Of Emergency Management Announced That Abandoned Migrant Vessels Would Be Removed From Private Property Free Of Charge.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “On Jan. 11, days after Gov. Ron DeSantis signed an executive order mobilizing the Florida National Guard in response to the surge of migrants arriving on Florida’s shores, the Florida Division of Emergency Management announced in a tweet that the state would now handle abandoned migrant vessels on private property. ‘Abandoned vessels under Mass Migration EO 23-03 are not your problem,’ the tweet read, referring to the order. ‘If an abandoned vessel lands on your property, you are not responsible for its removal. The state will remove these vessels for you free of charge.’ The state’s announcement came one day after WSVN reported that residents of a home in Key Colony Beach had discovered an abandoned vessel docked on their property that they had to pay thousands of dollars to remove, the result of a state law that declares the finder of an abandoned vessel on private property responsible for its removal. [...] ‘We are going to clear the vessels free of charge for those residents because it wasn’t their fault,’ DeSantis said at a Jan. 12 news conference, referring to people who find migrant vessels on their properties. ‘Maybe we’ll send the bill to Biden, we’ll see.’” [Tampa Bay Times, 1/30/23]

- **DeSantis: “We Are Going To Clear The Vessels Free Of Charge For Those Residents Because It Wasn’t Their Fault. Maybe We’ll Send The Bill To Biden, We’ll See.”** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “On Jan. 11, days after Gov. Ron DeSantis signed an executive order mobilizing the Florida National Guard in response to the surge of migrants arriving on Florida’s shores, the Florida Division of Emergency Management announced in a tweet that the state would now handle abandoned migrant vessels on private property. ‘Abandoned vessels under Mass Migration EO 23-03 are not your problem,’ the tweet read, referring to the order. ‘If an abandoned vessel lands on your property, you are not responsible for its removal. The state will remove these vessels for you free of charge.’ The state’s announcement came one day after WSVN reported that residents of a home in Key Colony Beach had discovered an abandoned vessel docked on their property that they had to pay thousands of dollars to remove, the result of a state law that declares the finder of an

abandoned vessel on private property responsible for its removal. [...] ‘We are going to clear the vessels free of charge for those residents because it wasn’t their fault,’ DeSantis said at a Jan. 12 news conference, referring to people who find migrant vessels on their properties. ‘Maybe we’ll send the bill to Biden, we’ll see.’” [Tampa Bay Times, 1/30/23]

## ***National Security & Terrorism***

**March 2016: DeSantis Called A Hearing Of The House Oversight Committee’s National Security Subcommittee Meeting, Where He Stated, “The U.S. Customs And Border Protection Has Apprehended Several Members Of Known Islamist Terrorist Organizations Crossing The Southern Border In Recent Years.”** Tampa Bay Times reported, “Instead of worrying about ISIS infiltrating the country, U.S. Senate candidate and Rep. Ron DeSantis is concerned that members of other terrorist groups have already been caught trying to sneak across the border from Mexico. The Ponte Vedra Beach Republican called a hearing of the House Oversight Committee’s National Security subcommittee to discuss what to do about what he considered a growing threat. ‘Recent reports state that the U.S. Customs and Border Protection has apprehended several members of known Islamist terrorist organizations crossing the southern border in recent years,’ he said March 23, 2016. [...] There have been several reported incidents along the U.S.-Mexico border of several agencies encountering people on terrorism watch lists or with ties (or suspected ties) to terrorist groups. [...] Experts noted that while border security is always a concern, this issue is far from a pressing crisis. The statement is accurate but needs some clarification about the threat involved. We rate it Mostly True.” [Tampa Bay Times, 4/4/16]

- **The Tampa Bay Times Rated DeSantis’s Statement That “Several Members Of Known Islamist Terrorist Organizations” Were Apprehended Crossing The Border As “Mostly True.”** Tampa Bay Times reported, “Instead of worrying about ISIS infiltrating the country, U.S. Senate candidate and Rep. Ron DeSantis is concerned that members of other terrorist groups have already been caught trying to sneak across the border from Mexico. The Ponte Vedra Beach Republican called a hearing of the House Oversight Committee’s National Security subcommittee to discuss what to do about what he considered a growing threat. ‘Recent reports state that the U.S. Customs and Border Protection has apprehended several members of known Islamist terrorist organizations crossing the southern border in recent years,’ he said March 23, 2016. [...] There have been several reported incidents along the U.S.-Mexico border of several agencies encountering people on terrorism watch lists or with ties (or suspected ties) to terrorist groups. [...] Experts noted that while border security is always a concern, this issue is far from a pressing crisis. The statement is accurate but needs some clarification about the threat involved. We rate it Mostly True.” [Tampa Bay Times, 4/4/16]

## ***Remain In Mexico***

**DeSantis Supported Lawsuits To Reinstate The Trump Administration Immigration Policy To Return People Caught At The Border To Detention Centers In Mexico.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “Kurzban, the past national president of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, detailed his objections to DeSantis: the governor’s support of lawsuits to reinstate the Trump administration immigration policy to return people caught at the border to detention centers in Mexico, his use of taxpayer money to send the Florida National Guard to the Texas border, his support of legislation blocking the transport of undocumented immigrants into the state, and his order directing state law enforcement to stop any undocumented persons who are released into Florida. Kurzban, who is nationally recognized for his immigration work and whose ‘Immigration Law Sourcebook,’ is known as a resource in the legal community, was invited to be a panelist at the 2022 EB-5 & Global Immigration Expo, scheduled for April 7-8 in Miami.” [Tampa Bay Times, 3/24/22]

**September 2022: DeSantis Called The “Remain In Mexico” Policy A “Solution” To The Border Crisis.** The Miami Herald reported, “At a news conference Tuesday, DeSantis did not address rumors of the Delaware flight. He did, however, double down on his use of the charter flights, despite criticism from Florida Democrats that spending taxpayer money to transport migrants from Texas, rather than Florida, disregarded language approved in the state budget. Paying for flights out of Texas was necessary, DeSantis suggested, because authorities are not seeing ‘mass movements’ of migrants into Florida but rather a trickle—making it harder to recruit people for trips north in large numbers. ‘If we just ignore the source, then you’re gonna have people trickling in[to Florida] 5, 10 a

day, 20 a day,' DeSantis said. 'I think that at the end of the day, what we're doing is not the ultimate solution. I think it's opening people's eyes to the solution, which is, let's have a secure border. Let's have 'Remain in Mexico.' Let's take the cartels seriously.'" [Miami Herald, 9/20/22]

## ***Sanctuary Cities***

**July 2018: In Response To A Survey About Specific Immigration Policies, DeSantis Issued A Statement Promising To “Work To End Sanctuary Cities And Remove State Officials Who Participate In Abetting Sanctuary City Policies Here In Florida.”** Tampa Bay Times reported, “The Times asked the seven major candidates for governor in both parties five questions regarding Florida’s population of undocumented immigrants, the third largest in the country. [...] While Republicans Adam Putnam and Ron DeSantis have spent months stumping on immigration, neither responded to the questions and their campaigns instead sent a statement. [...] Response to the survey from DeSantis campaign spokesman Dave Vasquez: ‘Adam Putnam fought to kill E-Verify in Florida, supported the gang of eight amnesty deal and voted with Nancy Pelosi against securing our border with troops. Ron DeSantis will sign E-Verify into law here in Florida, ensuring a legal workforce and disincentivizing illegal immigration in our state. He will work to end sanctuary cities and remove state officials who participate in abetting sanctuary city policies here in Florida.’” [Tampa Bay Times, 7/20/18]

**April 2019: DeSantis Supported Florida Legislation To Ban Sanctuary Cities, And When The Bill Passed In The State Senate, The Legislator Who Sponsored That Bill Credited DeSantis’s Support.** The Miami Herald reported, “After months embroiled in emotional testimony, protests, controversy and national news coverage, Sen. Joe Gruters’ version of a bill to ban ‘sanctuary cities’ in Florida passed 22-18 in the Senate Friday. Sen. Anitere Flores of Miami was the only Republican to vote against the bill. [...] The Senate and the House, which passed its version of the bill Wednesday, still need to iron out differences in their proposals, particularly on a tougher stance taken by the House when it comes to penalties. [...] Identical bills must pass both chambers before hitting the governor’s desk. In this case, differences will have to be negotiated and ‘bounced back’ between the House and Senate until they come to an agreement on a piece of legislation. While the House has tried to pass a similar ban the last four years, it died in the Senate the last time around. But Gov. Ron DeSantis has made ‘sanctuary cities’ a key talking point from the start of his campaign to swearing in, an element Gruters says was key. ‘That’s why this is moving forward,’ Gruters said earlier this week. ‘It has opened up some doors that weren’t previously available.’” [Miami Herald, 4/26/19]

- **DeSantis Talked About “Angel Parents” And Used Examples Of People Killed By Undocumented Immigrants To Argue Against Sanctuary Cities.** The Miami Herald reported, “DeSantis—a vocal supporter of President Donald Trump who aired a campaign ad in which he helped his young daughter build a tiny border wall—has also used the examples of people killed by undocumented immigrants to make his point. ‘We do not want to be in a situation where we have more angel parents,’ DeSantis said during a March press conference. ‘I hope that the Legislature moves quickly this session to pass legislation.’” [Miami Herald, 4/26/19]

**May 2019: DeSantis Supported A Florida Bill To Ban Sanctuary Cities, Which Passed The State House And Senate And Required Local Law Enforcement To Cooperate With Federal Immigration Enforcement.** The Miami Herald reported, “After a week of legislative back-and-forth and the stress of rapidly diminishing time weighing on both chambers, the bill to ban so-called ‘sanctuary cities’ is headed to the governor’s desk. [...] Under the bill, local law enforcement and other state agencies would be required to honor federal law enforcement’s request for an ‘immigration detainer,’ meaning a request that another law enforcement agency detain a person based on probable cause to believe that the person is a ‘removable alien’ under federal immigration law. The bill would essentially make the ‘request’ a requirement. [...] Gov. Ron DeSantis, who campaigned on banning sanctuary cities as a hard-line Republican priority, has pushed hard for legislation this session. Banning ‘sanctuary cities’ not only was a campaign promise but a key talking point in his inaugural address and State of the State speech. [...] In a statement Thursday night, he said he was thankful that the Legislature delivered on one of his biggest asks as governor.” [Miami Herald, 5/2/19]

**June 2019: DeSantis Signed Into Law SB 168, Which Banned Sanctuary Cities In Florida.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “Fulfilling a key, controversial campaign promise popular with his party’s base, Republican Gov.

Ron DeSantis signed a bill Friday that will ban ‘sanctuary cities’ in Florida, though the policy is expected to draw a legal skirmish over its constitutionality as it goes into effect next month. The bill, SB 168, requires local and state law enforcement officials and entities to honor federal ‘immigration detainer’ requests, which ask a law enforcement agency to detain someone on probable cause that they are ‘removable’ under federal immigration laws. It also prohibits local officials from implementing ‘sanctuary’ policies, which had previously not been defined in state law. There are no ‘sanctuary cities’ in Florida. Joined by ally U.S. Rep. Matt Gaetz, who represents the area, and bill sponsor state Sen. Joe Gruters, R-Sarasota, DeSantis told a packed crowd in the chambers of the Okaloosa County Commission that the bill ‘is about the rule of law’ and ‘public safety.’ ‘I said we were going to do certain things, and I’m happy to report after having just one legislative session under our belt we’re delivering on the promises we made to the people of Florida,’ he said to applause. Though no local governments currently have such policies in the state, he cast ‘sanctuary cities’ as ‘law-free zones’ where people could arrive illegally and commit crimes, ‘and then just walk out the door and continue to do it.’” [Tampa Bay Times, 6/15/19]

- **SB168 Required Florida Law Enforcement To Honor Federal “Immigration Detainer” Requests.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “Fulfilling a key, controversial campaign promise popular with his party’s base, Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis signed a bill Friday that will ban ‘sanctuary cities’ in Florida, though the policy is expected to draw a legal skirmish over its constitutionality as it goes into effect next month. The bill, SB 168, requires local and state law enforcement officials and entities to honor federal ‘immigration detainer’ requests, which ask a law enforcement agency to detain someone on probable cause that they are ‘removable’ under federal immigration laws. It also prohibits local officials from implementing ‘sanctuary’ policies, which had previously not been defined in state law. There are no ‘sanctuary cities’ in Florida. Joined by ally U.S. Rep. Matt Gaetz, who represents the area, and bill sponsor state Sen. Joe Gruters, R-Sarasota, DeSantis told a packed crowd in the chambers of the Okaloosa County Commission that the bill ‘is about the rule of law’ and ‘public safety.’ ‘I said we were going to do certain things, and I’m happy to report after having just one legislative session under our belt we’re delivering on the promises we made to the people of Florida,’ he said to applause. Though no local governments currently have such policies in the state, he cast ‘sanctuary cities’ as ‘law-free zones’ where people could arrive illegally and commit crimes, ‘and then just walk out the door and continue to do it.’” [Tampa Bay Times, 6/15/19]
- **At The Bill Signing For SB 168, DeSantis Characterized Sanctuary Cities As “Law Free Zones” Where Undocumented Immigrants Could Commit Crimes “And Then Just Walk Out The Door And Continue To Do It.”** Tampa Bay Times reported, “Fulfilling a key, controversial campaign promise popular with his party’s base, Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis signed a bill Friday that will ban ‘sanctuary cities’ in Florida, though the policy is expected to draw a legal skirmish over its constitutionality as it goes into effect next month. [...] Joined by ally U.S. Rep. Matt Gaetz, who represents the area, and bill sponsor state Sen. Joe Gruters, R-Sarasota, DeSantis told a packed crowd in the chambers of the Okaloosa County Commission that the bill ‘is about the rule of law’ and ‘public safety.’ ‘I said we were going to do certain things, and I’m happy to report after having just one legislative session under our belt we’re delivering on the promises we made to the people of Florida,’ he said to applause. Though no local governments currently have such policies in the state, he cast ‘sanctuary cities’ as ‘law-free zones’ where people could arrive illegally and commit crimes, ‘and then just walk out the door and continue to do it.’” [Tampa Bay Times, 6/15/19]
- **Congressman Matt Gaetz Co-Hosted DeSantis’s Bill Signing For The Legislation To Ban Sanctuary Cities In Florida.** The Miami Herald reported, “The bill signing for a piece of legislation to ban so-called ‘sanctuary cities’ in Florida has generated quite a bit of public interest. [...] The bill, set to be signed by Gov. Ron DeSantis Friday, is expected to draw one of the largest crowds the Okaloosa County Commission has ever had, according to spokesman Christopher Saul. [...] Congressman Matt Gaetz, who represents the county and is a key adviser of the governor, is co-hosting the event. Gaetz said the governor is a ‘rising star,’ and that his constituents are turning out to see him more than anything. ‘Ron DeSantis has a big draw in the Florida Panhandle,’ Gaetz said. ‘These are folks who turned out to vote for him. He’s an exciting political figure on the rise.’” [Miami Herald, 6/13/19]

**The Sanctuary City Bill Ron DeSantis Signed Was Written In Part By Federation For American Immigration Reform (FAIR), An Anti-Immigrant Organization Labeled As A “Hate Group” By The**

**Southern Poverty Law Center Due To Its Ties To White Supremacists And Eugenacists.** The Miami Herald reported, “Her recent appearance, sharing the billing at a GOP event with a representative from the misnamed FAIR (Federation for American Immigration Reform) -- an organization that vows to ‘defeat immigration anarchy’ in Florida—is reprehensible. Member of anti-immigration ‘hate group’ joined Lt. Gov. Núñez at Miami event FAIR is rated as a ‘hate group’ by the Southern Poverty Law Center because its leaders have ‘ties to white supremacists and eugenacists and have made many racist statements.’ This same organization helped write the sanctuary ban bill passed by the Republican-dominated Florida Legislature and signed into law by Núñez’s boss, Gov. Ron DeSantis.” [Miami Herald, 8/21/19]

**September 2019: A Judge Overturned A Part Of The Florida Bill Banning Sanctuary Cities, Ruling That Local Police Could Hold Undocumented Immigrants At The Request Of Federal Immigration Officials But Could Not Cross State Lines.** The Miami Herald reported, “A federal judge has temporarily blocked a portion of a controversial Florida law that called on local police to cross state lines to assist federal immigration officials but left in place a provision where the officers would have to hold undocumented immigrants until the feds pick them up. In an order issued on Monday—one day before enforcement of the new law is slated to take effect -- Miami U.S. District Judge Beth Bloom shot down a small piece of the state law requiring Florida police officers to cooperate with federal immigration enforcement agencies, like U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The Florida law—SB 168 -- will continue to forbid sanctuary cities. Bloom ruled that local police cannot transport undocumented immigrants across state lines at the request of the feds, saying it is strictly the job of the federal government. Her ruling can be appealed.” [Miami Herald, 9/30/19]

- **DeSantis And Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody Faced A Lawsuit Over The Legislation Banning Sanctuary Cities, Filed By The City Of South Miami And Numerous Immigrant Groups.** “The City of South Miami and several immigrant advocacy groups filed the case against Gov. Ron DeSantis and Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody in June, hoping to stop the controversial legislation. Some of the groups that sued include the Florida Immigrant Coalition, Farmworker Association of Florida, WeCount!, Americans for Immigrant Justice, Hope Community Center and QLatinx. DeSantis signed the bill in June, the law went into effect July 1 and it will be enforced by police as of Tuesday. The plaintiffs were represented by the Southern Poverty Law Center, the Community Justice Project and the University of Miami School of Law Immigration Clinic. The law allows the governor or attorney general to take action on elected officials who don’t comply with the law, including removing them from office. Gov. Ron DeSantis signs bill that bans sanctuary cities Florida Governor Ron DeSantis signed a bill on June 14, 2019 to ban so-called ‘sanctuary cities.’” [Miami Herald, 9/30/19]

**September 2021: In Response To A Lawsuit Filed Against DeSantis By Immigration Organizations, A Federal Judge Blocked Florida From Enforcing Its Ban On Sanctuary Cities And A Legal Provision Requiring Law Enforcement To “Use Best Efforts To Support The Enforcement Of Federal Immigration Law.”** Tampa Bay Times reported, “A federal judge in Miami on Tuesday blocked Florida from enforcing a ban on so-called sanctuary cities, declaring portions of a law unconstitutional and tinged with ‘discriminatory motives.’ The judge’s ruling struck down a key portion of the 2019 law that prohibits local and state officials from adopting ‘sanctuary’ policies for undocumented migrants, a main focus for Gov. Ron DeSantis, who vowed to ban ‘sanctuary cities’ in Florida when running for governor in 2018 even though there were none in the state. The judge also blocked the state from enforcing a provision in the law that requires law enforcement officers and agencies to ‘use best efforts to support the enforcement of federal immigration law’ when they are acting within their official duties. [...] The ruling was in response to a lawsuit filed by the city of South Miami and other organizations, including the Florida Immigrant Coalition, against DeSantis in an effort to strike down the law.” [Tampa Bay Times, 9/21/21]

**November 2022: During An Interview On Fox News, DeSantis Touted One Of His Key Policy Priorities From 2019, Which Included The Banning Of “Sanctuary Cities” In Florida, Even Though Parts Of The Law Were Deemed Unconstitutional By A Federal Judge In 2021.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “One of DeSantis’ key policy priorities from the 2019 session banned ‘sanctuary cities’ in Florida. But major parts of the law are not being enforced because of a 2021 ruling from a federal judge. The law was an attempt by the DeSantis administration to crack down on cities that refused to comply with some federal immigration actions, though a Senate bill analysis was unclear on whether any such cities existed at the time they passed the bill. U.S. District

Judge Beth Bloom, another Obama appointee, ruled major parts of the law were not constitutional and could not be enforced. However, she did not strike down a requirement that state and local law enforcement hold defendants beyond the date they're to be released if necessary so federal agents can detain them. The state is appealing the ruling before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. As it makes its way through the courts, DeSantis has continued to tout this law, including during an interview with Fox News' Tucker Carlson on the eve of the 2022 election." [Tampa Bay Times, 11/30/22]

## ***Troops At The Border***

**October 2018: DeSantis Said He “Absolutely” Supported President Trump’s Decision To Deploy More Than 5,000 Troops To The U.S.-Mexico Border To Intercept An Estimated 3,500 Migrants.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “DeSantis and Gillum were also asked about the president’s decision to deploy more than 5,000 troops to the southern border to discourage or block an estimated 3,500 migrants heading north toward American soil. (The group is still hundreds of miles and several weeks away from reaching the border.) DeSantis said he ‘absolutely’ supports the president’s decision. ‘This is to try to prove a point that people basically can overrun our border. We’re either a sovereign country or we’re not, and the president needs to step up and support national sovereignty,’ DeSantis said in Tampa. ‘They’re not really even refugees because the Mexican government offered them to be able to stay in Mexico, and they rejected that.’” [Tampa Bay Times, 10/31/18]

- **Regarding President Trump’s Decision To Deploy Troops To The U.S.-Mexico Border, DeSantis Stated, “We’re Either A Sovereign Country Or We’re Not, And The President Needs To Step Up And Support National Sovereignty.”** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “DeSantis and Gillum were also asked about the president’s decision to deploy more than 5,000 troops to the southern border to discourage or block an estimated 3,500 migrants heading north toward American soil. (The group is still hundreds of miles and several weeks away from reaching the border.) DeSantis said he ‘absolutely’ supports the president’s decision. ‘This is to try to prove a point that people basically can overrun our border. We’re either a sovereign country or we’re not, and the president needs to step up and support national sovereignty,’ DeSantis said in Tampa. ‘They’re not really even refugees because the Mexican government offered them to be able to stay in Mexico, and they rejected that.’” [Tampa Bay Times, 10/31/18]
- **DeSantis Stated That The 3,500 Migrants Headed Towards The U.S.-Mexico Border Were “Not Really Even Refugees Because The Mexican Government Offered Them To Be Able To Stay In Mexico, And They Rejected That.”** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “DeSantis and Gillum were also asked about the president’s decision to deploy more than 5,000 troops to the southern border to discourage or block an estimated 3,500 migrants heading north toward American soil. (The group is still hundreds of miles and several weeks away from reaching the border.) DeSantis said he ‘absolutely’ supports the president’s decision. ‘This is to try to prove a point that people basically can overrun our border. We’re either a sovereign country or we’re not, and the president needs to step up and support national sovereignty,’ DeSantis said in Tampa. ‘They’re not really even refugees because the Mexican government offered them to be able to stay in Mexico, and they rejected that.’” [Tampa Bay Times, 10/31/18]

## ***Unaccompanied Minors***

**DeSantis Referenced A Case Of A 24-Year-Old Undocumented Migrant Who Initially Lied That He Was A Minor, Claiming That He Was 17, As Evidence That Some “Unaccompanied Minors” Were Not Actually Minors.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “DeSantis and others have focused on one particular case in Jacksonville of a 24-year-old Honduran migrant, Yery Noel Medina Ulloa, who is accused of second-degree murder in the killing of 46-year-old Francisco Javier Cuellar. Police say Medina Ulloa, who is undocumented, initially lied about his name and said he was 17, a detail DeSantis says is evidence that not all unaccompanied minors are actually minors. On Friday, DeSantis further suggested that not all minors should be treated equally. ‘When I was serving in Iraq, we considered like a 16- or 17-year-old Iraqi to be a military-age male,’ he said. ‘They’re technically minors in that respect, but you have people that are more advanced.’ DeSantis has made Media Ulloa’s case a flash point in the immigration debate, and his office has helped amplify it. On the eve of a press conference in which DeSantis



first highlighted Medina Ulloa's case, Pushaw sent an email to Jacksonville media at 9:30 p.m. inviting television stations to cover Medina Ulloa's first court appearance." [Tampa Bay Times, 12/10/21]

- **DeSantis Suggested That Not All Minors Should Be Treated The Same, Stating, "When I Was Serving In Iraq, We Considered Like A 16- Or 17-Year-Old Iraqi To Be A Military-Age Male. They're Technically Minors In That Respect, But You Have People That Are More Advanced."** The Tampa Bay Times reported, "DeSantis and others have focused on one particular case in Jacksonville of a 24-year-old Honduran migrant, Yery Noel Medina Ulloa, who is accused of second-degree murder in the killing of 46-year-old Francisco Javier Cuellar. Police say Medina Ulloa, who is undocumented, initially lied about his name and said he was 17, a detail DeSantis says is evidence that not all unaccompanied minors are actually minors. On Friday, DeSantis further suggested that not all minors should be treated equally. 'When I was serving in Iraq, we considered like a 16- or 17-year-old Iraqi to be a military-age male,' he said. 'They're technically minors in that respect, but you have people that are more advanced.' DeSantis has made Media Ulloa's case a flash point in the immigration debate, and his office has helped amplify it. On the eve of a press conference in which DeSantis first highlighted Medina Ulloa's case, Pushaw sent an email to Jacksonville media at 9:30 p.m. inviting television stations to cover Medina Ulloa's first court appearance." [Tampa Bay Times, 12/10/21]

**February 2022: DeSantis Called It "Disgusting" To Compare Current Unaccompanied Migrant Children To Operation Pedro Pan, A 1960s Program That Allowed Over 14,000 Children From Cuba To Settle In The U.S.** The Miami Herald reported, "Surrounded by Cuban migrants who came to Florida as children through Operation Pedro Pan, Gov. Ron DeSantis slammed critics of his immigration orders, including faith leaders and some other Pedro Pan migrants. During a roundtable discussion on Monday at the American Museum of the Cuban Diaspora, DeSantis said comparing the 1960s initiative that allowed over 14,000 children from Cuba to settle in the U.S., to the arrival of unaccompanied migrant children into the state under the Biden administration, was 'disgusting.' He argued that Pedro Pan children were fleeing a communist regime with the endorsement of the U.S. government. 'There's a lot of bad analogies that get made in modern political discourse, but to equate what's going on with the southern border...with Operation Pedro Pan, quite frankly is disgusting,' said the governor at the Pedro Pan exhibition at the museum." [Miami Herald, 2/7/22]

- **DeSantis Argued That The Children In Operation Pedro Pan Were Not Analogous To Current Unaccompanied Minors Because Pedro Pan Was Sanctioned By The U.S. Government And The Children Were Fleeing A Communist Regime: "To Equate What's Going On With The Southern Border...With Operation Pedro Pan, Quite Frankly Is Disgusting."** The Miami Herald reported, "Surrounded by Cuban migrants who came to Florida as children through Operation Pedro Pan, Gov. Ron DeSantis slammed critics of his immigration orders, including faith leaders and some other Pedro Pan migrants. During a roundtable discussion on Monday at the American Museum of the Cuban Diaspora, DeSantis said comparing the 1960s initiative that allowed over 14,000 children from Cuba to settle in the U.S., to the arrival of unaccompanied migrant children into the state under the Biden administration, was 'disgusting.' He argued that Pedro Pan children were fleeing a communist regime with the endorsement of the U.S. government. 'There's a lot of bad analogies that get made in modern political discourse, but to equate what's going on with the southern border...with Operation Pedro Pan, quite frankly is disgusting,' said the governor at the Pedro Pan exhibition at the museum." [Miami Herald, 2/7/22]
- **Maximo Alvarez, A Trustee Of An Organization That Connects Former Pedro Pan Children, Expressed Full Support For DeSantis And His Policies On Unaccompanied Migrant Children.** The Miami Herald reported, "Surrounded by Cuban migrants who came to Florida as children through Operation Pedro Pan, Gov. Ron DeSantis slammed critics of his immigration orders, including faith leaders and some other Pedro Pan migrants. [...] Maximo Alvarez, trustee at Operation Pedro Pan, Inc., and a speaker at the 2020 Republican National Convention, assured the roundtable's audience that the governor had the support of Pedro Pan kids, and that 'we are going to die supporting' DeSantis. Operation Pedro Pan, Inc. is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that connects Pedro Pan children who are spread out across the world. 'Don't dare, ever, compare what is happening now because what they're trying to do is to destroy you because you are fighting for us, you're fighting for the state, you're fighting for the children that are coming over here,' Alvarez said to DeSantis, in tears." [Miami Herald, 2/7/22]

## **287(g)**

**May 2019: DeSantis Directed State Corrections Secretary Mark Inch To “Prepare A Strategy To Participate” In The 287(G) Program, Which Would Allow The Florida Department Of Corrections To Collaborate With ICE To Identify And Process Undocumented Immigrants In The Criminal Justice System.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “‘This program will allow (the Florida Department of Corrections) to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with ICE to identify and process criminal aliens who may pose a risk to public safety in Florida,’ Inch said. The request to launch the federal immigration enforcement program, known as 287(g), came as Gov. Ron DeSantis pushed local governments to implement the program at county jails. It also came as state lawmakers passed legislation that would force local law enforcement agencies to hold undocumented immigrants in custody for up to 48 hours if a federal immigration agency sends detainer requests for them. DeSantis, who has taken a hard-line stance on immigration enforcement, is expected to sign the legislation despite opposition from immigrant rights groups and Democrats, who argue, in part, that the state would likely end up helping deport more undocumented immigrants who are arrested for minor, nonviolent crimes.” [Tampa Bay Times, 5/16/19]

**September 2020: The Florida Department Of Corrections Entered Into A Formal Partnership With ICE Under 287(G) Allowing Local Officers To Interrogate And Process Any Detainee They Believed Was In The Country Illegally.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “A select group of correctional officers at a Northwest Florida prison is set to take part in a federal immigration program that will allow officers to interrogate any detainee who they believe is in the country illegally and process them for potential immigration violations. Florida Corrections Secretary Mark Inch signed the agreement with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in mid-August, though corrections officials only made the formal partnership public on Friday. The push to participate in the program - known as 287(g) - began a year and a half ago, at the request of Gov. Ron DeSantis, who has long embraced President Donald Trump’s hard-line immigration policies. DeSantis said Friday he is pleased to see the program moving forward, adding that he directed Inch to seek the program to ‘facilitate greater cooperation in immigration enforcement with the federal government.’ ‘We take our responsibility to protect our citizens, foster safe communities and uphold the rule of law very seriously,’ DeSantis said. [...] But the DeSantis administration maintains the goal is to ‘enhance public safety by identifying criminal aliens received into a correctional facility.’” [Tampa Bay Times, 9/18/20]

- **DeSantis Praised Cooperative Efforts Between The Florida Department Of Corrections And ICE, Saying The Program Was Intended To “Enhance Public Safety By Identifying Criminal Aliens Received Into A Correctional Facility.”** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “A select group of correctional officers at a Northwest Florida prison is set to take part in a federal immigration program that will allow officers to interrogate any detainee who they believe is in the country illegally and process them for potential immigration violations. Florida Corrections Secretary Mark Inch signed the agreement with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in mid-August, though corrections officials only made the formal partnership public on Friday. The push to participate in the program - known as 287(g) - began a year and a half ago, at the request of Gov. Ron DeSantis, who has long embraced President Donald Trump’s hard-line immigration policies. DeSantis said Friday he is pleased to see the program moving forward, adding that he directed Inch to seek the program to ‘facilitate greater cooperation in immigration enforcement with the federal government.’ ‘We take our responsibility to protect our citizens, foster safe communities and uphold the rule of law very seriously,’ DeSantis said. [...] But the DeSantis administration maintains the goal is to ‘enhance public safety by identifying criminal aliens received into a correctional facility.’” [Tampa Bay Times, 9/18/20]
- **DeSantis Commented On Cooperative Efforts Between State Law Enforcement And ICE: “We Take Our Responsibility To Protect Our Citizens, Foster Safe Communities And Uphold The Rule Of Law Very Seriously.”** Tampa Bay Times reported, “A select group of correctional officers at a Northwest Florida prison is set to take part in a federal immigration program that will allow officers to interrogate any detainee who they believe is in the country illegally and process them for potential immigration violations. Florida Corrections Secretary Mark Inch signed the agreement with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in mid-August, though corrections officials only made the formal partnership public on Friday. The push to participate in the program - known as 287(g) - began a year and a half ago, at the request of Gov. Ron

DeSantis, who has long embraced President Donald Trump’s hard-line immigration policies. DeSantis said Friday he is pleased to see the program moving forward, adding that he directed Inch to seek the program to ‘facilitate greater cooperation in immigration enforcement with the federal government.’ ‘We take our responsibility to protect our citizens, foster safe communities and uphold the rule of law very seriously,’ DeSantis said. [...] But the DeSantis administration maintains the goal is to ‘enhance public safety by identifying criminal aliens received into a correctional facility.’” [Tampa Bay Times, 9/18/20]

- **DeSantis Pushed The Florida Department Of Corrections To Cooperate With ICE Under 287(G) On Immigration Enforcement, Which Opponents Said Would Drive More Family Separations In Florida.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “A select group of correctional officers at a Northwest Florida prison is set to take part in a federal immigration program that will allow officers to interrogate any detainee who they believe is in the country illegally and process them for potential immigration violations. Florida Corrections Secretary Mark Inch signed the agreement with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in mid-August, though corrections officials only made the formal partnership public on Friday. The push to participate in the program - known as 287(g) - began a year and a half ago, at the request of Gov. Ron DeSantis, who has long embraced President Donald Trump’s hard-line immigration policies. [...] But, opponents say, the new partnership will fuel more family separations in Florida, where about 20 percent of the state’s population is foreign-born. ‘In a state where 1 in 5 people are immigrants, and where U.S. citizens are often caught in (Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s) sprawling net, we should be taking steps to protect our communities and not furthering our role in the federal deportation agenda leading to the separation of families,’ said Gaby Guadalupe, a spokeswoman for the American Civil Liberties Union Foundation of Florida.” [Tampa Bay Times, 9/18/20]

## Google

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***Researcher’s Note:** We conducted a Google search for [(“Ron DeSantis”) AND (“immigrant” OR “immigrants” OR “immigration” OR “refugee” OR “refugees” OR “border” OR “dreamer” OR “alien” OR “migrant” OR “migrants” OR “undocumented” OR “DACA” OR “Deferred Action”)] and reviewed the first 60 results.*

## Crime

**June 2022: DeSantis Claimed That A New Law Enforcement Operation Would Keep Undocumented Immigrants Out Of Florida, But Local Law Enforcement Agencies Clarified That Operation Was A General Enforcement Against Crime, Not An Effort Targeted At Undocumented Immigrants.** According to a blog post by the ACLU Florida, “Earlier this summer, Gov. DeSantis revealed a law-enforcement operation beginning in June 2022 to allegedly keep undocumented immigrants out of Florida. However, local law enforcement agencies clarified that they were told, and completed the operation, as general enforcement against crime, not an effort targeted at undocumented immigrants. In his press conference about the operation, DeSantis stated that 22 arrests were made, disingenuously conflating that the arrests were made to stop undocumented immigrants involved in drug trafficking. What he failed to specify was that of the 22 arrests, only seven involved undocumented immigrants, and none of those arrests against undocumented immigrants involved any type of drug trafficking or violent crime. All drug-related arrests were made on legal residents. Earlier this year, the Governor also signed Senate Bill 1808, an anti-immigrant bill that insidiously encourages racial profiling. The law prohibits government contracts with private entities and charitable nonprofits that provide transportation to what the Florida legislature misleadingly describes as ‘unauthorized aliens’ – a category that the Governor interprets broadly to include immigrant children and adults who are in fact lawfully present in the United States but whom he wishes to preclude from being reunited with their families in Florida.” [ACLU Florida, Blog, [10/6/22](#)]

- **DeSantis Stated That 22 Arrests Were Made Because Of The Program But Failed To Specify That Only Seven Involved Undocumented Immigrants, And None Of Those Arrests Against Undocumented Immigrants Involved Any Type Of Drug Trafficking Or Violent Crime.** According to a blog post by the ACLU Florida, “Earlier this summer, Gov. DeSantis revealed a law-enforcement operation beginning in June 2022 to allegedly keep undocumented immigrants out of Florida. However, local law enforcement agencies clarified that they were told, and completed the operation, as general enforcement against crime, not an effort

targeted at undocumented immigrants. In his press conference about the operation, DeSantis stated that 22 arrests were made, disingenuously conflating that the arrests were made to stop undocumented immigrants involved in drug trafficking. What he failed to specify was that of the 22 arrests, only seven involved undocumented immigrants, and none of those arrests against undocumented immigrants involved any type of drug trafficking or violent crime. All drug-related arrests were made on legal residents. Earlier this year, the Governor also signed Senate Bill 1808, an anti-immigrant bill that insidiously encourages racial profiling. The law prohibits government contracts with private entities and charitable nonprofits that provide transportation to what the Florida legislature misleadingly describes as ‘unauthorized aliens’ – a category that the Governor interprets broadly to include immigrant children and adults who are in fact lawfully present in the United States but whom he wishes to preclude from being reunited with their families in Florida.” [ACLU Florida, Blog, [10/6/22](#)]

## ***Family Separation***

**June 2018 – DeSantis On Separating Asylum-Seeking Parents And Children: “I’d Keep The Family Together And Repatriate Them Back As A Family Unit.”** The Florida Times-Union reported, “U.S. Rep. Ron DeSantis, a Republican candidate for governor, waded into the contentious issue of separating children of illegal immigrants from their parents Monday, telling a Bradenton crowd that ‘I’d keep the family together and repatriate them back as a family unit.’ DeSantis was asked about the issue by Donna Hayes, the former Manatee County GOP chairwoman, who noted it has been in the news in recent days and asked ‘What is your solution to that problem?’ ‘For the asylum claims I think that you want a speedy adjudication of these claims within two weeks and if they’re valid fine and if they’re not then you keep the family together during that review and then just return them where they came,’ DeSantis said.” [Florida Times-Union, [6/19/18](#)]

- **DeSantis: “For The Asylum Claims I Think That You Want A Speedy Adjudication Of These Claims Within Two Weeks And If They’re Valid Fine And If They’re Not Then You Keep The Family Together During That Review And Then Just Return Them Where They Came.”** The Florida Times-Union reported, “U.S. Rep. Ron DeSantis, a Republican candidate for governor, waded into the contentious issue of separating children of illegal immigrants from their parents Monday, telling a Bradenton crowd that ‘I’d keep the family together and repatriate them back as a family unit.’ DeSantis was asked about the issue by Donna Hayes, the former Manatee County GOP chairwoman, who noted it has been in the news in recent days and asked ‘What is your solution to that problem?’ ‘For the asylum claims I think that you want a speedy adjudication of these claims within two weeks and if they’re valid fine and if they’re not then you keep the family together during that review and then just return them where they came,’ DeSantis said.” [Florida Times-Union, [6/19/18](#)]

## ***February 2023 Legislation***

**A.J. Hernández Anderson, Senior Supervising Attorney Of The Southern Poverty Law Center, On DeSantis’s Legislative Proposal: “DeSantis’ Xenophobic Policies Place Florida Residents — Regardless Of Immigration Status — In Danger Of Unfair Targeting And Racial Profiling.”** City & State Florida reported, “Continuing to criticize federal border and immigration policies, Gov. Ron DeSantis on Thursday called for state lawmakers to pass a series of proposals that include stiffer penalties for smuggling people into Florida and expanding use of the E-Verify employment eligibility system. DeSantis, who is a potential 2024 Republican presidential candidate, wants lawmakers to pass the measures during the legislative session that will start March 7. ‘I think we’re going to be able to do more in the next couple of months, when the Legislature reconvenes, than anyone’s been able to do in the modern history of Florida,’ DeSantis said during an appearance in Jacksonville. But the proposals likely will be controversial, with the Southern Poverty Law Center Action Fund quickly blasting DeSantis on Thursday. ‘DeSantis’ xenophobic policies place Florida residents — regardless of immigration status — in danger of unfair targeting and racial profiling,’ A.J. Hernández Anderson, senior supervising attorney for the organization, said in a prepared statement. ‘DeSantis’ political posturing will have a chilling effect on cooperation between law enforcement and immigrant communities, resulting in serious consequences for immigrant families, children and persons of color across the state.’” [City & State Florida, [2/24/23](#)]

- **A.J. Hernández Anderson: “DeSantis’ Political Posturing Will Have A Chilling Effect On Cooperation Between Law Enforcement And Immigrant Communities, Resulting In Serious Consequences For Immigrant Families, Children And Persons Of Color Across The State.”** City & State Florida reported, “Continuing to criticize federal border and immigration policies, Gov. Ron DeSantis on Thursday called for state lawmakers to pass a series of proposals that include stiffer penalties for smuggling people into Florida and expanding use of the E-Verify employment eligibility system. DeSantis, who is a potential 2024 Republican presidential candidate, wants lawmakers to pass the measures during the legislative session that will start March 7. ‘I think we’re going to be able to do more in the next couple of months, when the Legislature reconvenes, than anyone’s been able to do in the modern history of Florida,’ DeSantis said during an appearance in Jacksonville. But the proposals likely will be controversial, with the Southern Poverty Law Center Action Fund quickly blasting DeSantis on Thursday. ‘DeSantis’ xenophobic policies place Florida residents — regardless of immigration status — in danger of unfair targeting and racial profiling,’ A.J. Hernández Anderson, senior supervising attorney for the organization, said in a prepared statement. ‘DeSantis’ political posturing will have a chilling effect on cooperation between law enforcement and immigrant communities, resulting in serious consequences for immigrant families, children and persons of color across the state.’” [City & State Florida, [2/24/23](#)]

## ***Migrant Resettlement***

**February 2023: DeSantis Signed A Bill Expanding Florida’s Program To Transport Migrants, Shifting It To The Florida Department Of Emergency Management, Where The DeSantis Administration Could Award “Millions Of Dollars” In No-Bid Contracts To Facilitate The Transportation Of Migrants.** CNN reported, “Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis on Wednesday signed a bill expanding a controversial state program to transport migrants. ‘Florida is using all tools available to protect our citizens from Biden’s open border policies,’ DeSantis wrote on Twitter. ‘I am glad to have signed legislation to continue the program of transporting illegal aliens to sanctuary jurisdictions. I thank the legislature for maintaining this valuable tool.’ The measure allows the DeSantis administration to pick up where the governor left off last year when he sent two planes of migrants from San Antonio, Texas, to Martha’s Vineyard, Massachusetts. The action sparked multiple lawsuits and questions as to whether the DeSantis administration had violated state law by rounding up migrants in Texas. The budget law that created the \$12 million program specified that the money was set aside to relocate ‘unauthorized aliens from this state.’ Lawmakers voted last week along party lines to remove the restriction on the location of the migrants. The measure approved by the Republican-controlled legislature also shifted control of the program from the Florida Department of Transportation to the Florida Department of Emergency Management, a move that would allow the DeSantis administration to award millions of dollars in no-bid contracts to facilitate the transportation of migrants. The bill took effect immediately after DeSantis’ signing. Under the legislation, \$10 million is set aside to fund the program through June. DeSantis in his proposed budget allocated another \$12 million to continue the program.” [CNN, [2/15/23](#)]

- **DeSantis: “I Am Glad To Have Signed Legislation To Continue The Program Of Transporting Illegal Aliens To Sanctuary Jurisdictions. I Thank The Legislature For Maintaining This Valuable Tool.”** CNN reported, “Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis on Wednesday signed a bill expanding a controversial state program to transport migrants. ‘Florida is using all tools available to protect our citizens from Biden’s open border policies,’ DeSantis wrote on Twitter. ‘I am glad to have signed legislation to continue the program of transporting illegal aliens to sanctuary jurisdictions. I thank the legislature for maintaining this valuable tool.’ The measure allows the DeSantis administration to pick up where the governor left off last year when he sent two planes of migrants from San Antonio, Texas, to Martha’s Vineyard, Massachusetts. The action sparked multiple lawsuits and questions as to whether the DeSantis administration had violated state law by rounding up migrants in Texas. The budget law that created the \$12 million program specified that the money was set aside to relocate ‘unauthorized aliens from this state.’ Lawmakers voted last week along party lines to remove the restriction on the location of the migrants. The measure approved by the Republican-controlled legislature also shifted control of the program from the Florida Department of Transportation to the Florida Department of Emergency Management, a move that would allow the DeSantis administration to award millions of dollars in no-bid contracts to facilitate the transportation of migrants. The bill took effect immediately after DeSantis’

signing. Under the legislation, \$10 million is set aside to fund the program through June. DeSantis in his proposed budget allocated another \$12 million to continue the program.” [CNN, [2/15/23](#)]

- **\$10 Million Was Set Aside For The Program To Transport Migrants Through June 2023.** CNN reported, “Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis on Wednesday signed a bill expanding a controversial state program to transport migrants. ‘Florida is using all tools available to protect our citizens from Biden’s open border policies,’ DeSantis wrote on Twitter. ‘I am glad to have signed legislation to continue the program of transporting illegal aliens to sanctuary jurisdictions. I thank the legislature for maintaining this valuable tool.’ The measure allows the DeSantis administration to pick up where the governor left off last year when he sent two planes of migrants from San Antonio, Texas, to Martha’s Vineyard, Massachusetts. The action sparked multiple lawsuits and questions as to whether the DeSantis administration had violated state law by rounding up migrants in Texas. The budget law that created the \$12 million program specified that the money was set aside to relocate ‘unauthorized aliens from this state.’ Lawmakers voted last week along party lines to remove the restriction on the location of the migrants. The measure approved by the Republican-controlled legislature also shifted control of the program from the Florida Department of Transportation to the Florida Department of Emergency Management, a move that would allow the DeSantis administration to award millions of dollars in no-bid contracts to facilitate the transportation of migrants. The bill took effect immediately after DeSantis’ signing. Under the legislation, \$10 million is set aside to fund the program through June. DeSantis in his proposed budget allocated another \$12 million to continue the program.” [CNN, [2/15/23](#)]
- **The Bill, Known As The “Unauthorized Alien Transport Program,” Would “Facilitate The Transport Of Inspected Unauthorized Aliens Within The United States.”** The National Review reported, “The Florida Senate passed the ‘Unauthorized Alien Transport Program’ on Friday, sending the measure to DeSantis for final approval. The legislation sets aside \$10 million for Florida’s Department of Emergency Management to spend on the program. A spokesman for the governor said he will review the bill ‘in its final form and decide on the merits of the bill as presented.’ The bill formally creates the program, which first launched unofficially last year to allow government officials to send migrants to sanctuary cities around the country. The new expansion will allow the Sunshine State to relocate migrants from any state in the country. That provision comes after Democratic state Senator Jason Pizzo of Miami sued DeSantis for flying 49 migrants from Texas to Martha’s Vineyard in September. Pizzo argued the relocation violated state law because the illegal immigrants were relocated from Texas, not Florida. The legislation passed on Friday would ‘facilitate the transport of inspected unauthorized aliens within the United States.’ Unauthorized aliens include individuals who have ‘documentation from the United States Government indicating that the United States Government processed and released him or her into the United States without admitting the individual in accordance with the federal Immigration and Nationality Act,’ according to the bill.” [National Review, [2/10/23](#)]
- **The Bill Defined Unauthorized Aliens As Those With “Documentation From The United States Government Indicating That The United States Government Processed And Released” Them “Without Admitting The Individual In Accordance With The Federal Immigration And Nationality Act.”** The National Review reported, “The Florida Senate passed the ‘Unauthorized Alien Transport Program’ on Friday, sending the measure to DeSantis for final approval. The legislation sets aside \$10 million for Florida’s Department of Emergency Management to spend on the program. A spokesman for the governor said he will review the bill ‘in its final form and decide on the merits of the bill as presented.’ The bill formally creates the program, which first launched unofficially last year to allow government officials to send migrants to sanctuary cities around the country. The new expansion will allow the Sunshine State to relocate migrants from any state in the country. That provision comes after Democratic state Senator Jason Pizzo of Miami sued DeSantis for flying 49 migrants from Texas to Martha’s Vineyard in September. Pizzo argued the relocation violated state law because the illegal immigrants were relocated from Texas, not Florida. The legislation passed on Friday would ‘facilitate the transport of inspected unauthorized aliens within the United States.’ Unauthorized aliens include individuals who have ‘documentation from the United States Government indicating that the United States Government processed and released him or her into the United States without admitting the individual in accordance with the federal Immigration and Nationality Act,’ according to the bill.” [National Review, [2/10/23](#)]

**Records And Reporting From The Times/Herald Showed That A Venezuelan Migrant Unable To Legally Work In The United States Was Paid To Help DeSantis’s Migrant Flight Program.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “The proposals unveiled at the news conference are in line with DeSantis’ political stance on undocumented labor and immigration, even though in practice, his own administration has at times struggled to fully abide by those standards. Records and reporting from the Times/Herald show that in at least two instances, the DeSantis administration has paid contractors that paid workers living in the country illegally to get the job done. The administration has maintained its contractors follow ‘strict hiring procedures,’ such as E-Verify, to ensure those workers are not hired. Reporting, however, shows that a Venezuelan migrant unable to legally work in the United States was paid to help DeSantis’ migrant flight program. The administration also continued to pay more than \$8 million to a construction company after authorities found it had hired several workers living in the country illegally — including two men who have been charged in connection to the death of a Pinellas County deputy. The administration defended the contractor, who said federal hiring guidelines were followed and that both individuals arrested were ‘processed and authorized for employment through the federal E-Verify system.’” [Tampa Bay Times, [2/23/23](#)]

- **The DeSantis Administration Had Also Continued To Pay More Than \$8 Million To A Construction Company After Authorities Found It Had Hired Workers Living In The Country Illegally, Including Two Men Charged In Connection To The Death Of A Pinellas County Deputy.** The Tampa Bay Times reported, “The proposals unveiled at the news conference are in line with DeSantis’ political stance on undocumented labor and immigration, even though in practice, his own administration has at times struggled to fully abide by those standards. Records and reporting from the Times/Herald show that in at least two instances, the DeSantis administration has paid contractors that paid workers living in the country illegally to get the job done. The administration has maintained its contractors follow ‘strict hiring procedures,’ such as E-Verify, to ensure those workers are not hired. Reporting, however, shows that a Venezuelan migrant unable to legally work in the United States was paid to help DeSantis’ migrant flight program. The administration also continued to pay more than \$8 million to a construction company after authorities found it had hired several workers living in the country illegally — including two men who have been charged in connection to the death of a Pinellas County deputy. The administration defended the contractor, who said federal hiring guidelines were followed and that both individuals arrested were ‘processed and authorized for employment through the federal E-Verify system.’” [Tampa Bay Times, [2/23/23](#)]

**DeSantis “Secured \$12 Million To Facilitate The Transport Of Illegal Aliens To Martha’s Vineyard And Other Sanctuary States.”** According to a press release from the office of Ron DeSantis, “These measures build upon Governor DeSantis’ previous actions to keep Floridians safe in the face of an unprecedentedly unsecure federal border policy, which include: Sending Florida state law enforcement officers and equipment to Texas where they apprehended thousands of illegal aliens and aided in hundreds of criminal arrests for felonies including human trafficking and drug smuggling; Issuing an executive order that prohibits Florida state agencies from providing support for the resettlement of illegal aliens in Florida and prohibits licensing of facilities that house unaccompanied minors; [...] Securing \$12 million to facilitate the transport of illegal aliens to Martha’s Vineyard and other sanctuary states, bringing the border crisis to the communities that support Biden’s open border policies; and Issuing an executive order to mobilize state law enforcement and National Guard resources to aid in the interdiction of more than 2,000 migrants attempting to land on Florida’s shores.” [Office of Ron DeSantis, Press Release, [2/23/23](#)]

**DeSantis’s Policy To Move 50 Migrants From Texas To Martha’s Vineyard, Massachusetts Cost The State Of Florida Around \$1.5 Million And Was The Subject Of Multiple Legal Challenges.** NPR reported, “TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Fewer than five months after Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis’ administration flew about 50 migrants from Texas to Martha’s Vineyard, Mass. – a move that ended up costing the state around \$1.5 million and is the subject of legal challenges – the Republican supermajority in the legislature has granted the administration another \$10 million to transport migrants from other states.” [NPR, [2/10/23](#)]

**September 2022: Venezuelan Migrants Alleged That They Were Told They Were Going To Be Relocated By The State Of Florida To Boston Or Washington, “Which Was Completely False,” And Were Induced With Perks Such As \$10 McDonald’s Gift Certificates.** PBS News Hour reported, “BOSTON (AP) — Venezuelan

migrants flown to the upscale Massachusetts island of Martha's Vineyard sued Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis and his transportation secretary Tuesday for engaging in a 'fraudulent and discriminatory scheme' to relocate them. The lawsuit, filed in federal court in Boston, alleges that the migrants were told they were going to Boston or Washington, 'which was completely false,' and were induced with perks such as \$10 McDonald's gift certificates. 'No human being should be used as a political pawn,' said Ivan Espinoza-Madrigal, executive director of Lawyers for Civil Rights, which is seeking class-action status in the lawsuit filed on behalf of several migrants who were aboard last week's flights and Alianza Americas, a network of advocacy groups. DeSantis' office did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the lawsuit, which also names Secretary of Transportation Jared W. Perdue as a defendant." [PBS News Hour, [9/20/22](#)]

## ***Senate Bill 1808***

**2022: DeSantis Signed Senate Bill 1808, Which Prohibited Government Contracts With Private Entities And Charitable Nonprofits That Provided Transportation To "Unauthorized Aliens."** According to a blog post by the ACLU Florida, "Earlier this year, the Governor also signed Senate Bill 1808, an anti-immigrant bill that insidiously encourages racial profiling. The law prohibits government contracts with private entities and charitable nonprofits that provide transportation to what the Florida legislature misleadingly describes as 'unauthorized aliens.'" [ACLU Florida, Blog, [10/6/22](#)]

- **Senate Bill 1808 Required Local Law Enforcement To Enter Into 287(G) Agreements With ICE.** According to a blog post by the ACLU Florida, "Earlier this year, the Governor also signed Senate Bill 1808, an anti-immigrant bill that insidiously encourages racial profiling. [...] The new law, which went into effect in July 2022, also undermines trust in local law enforcement by requiring them to collect information on individuals' immigration status and by limiting protections on how this information can be distributed, in the service of an anti-sanctuary policy that a Florida federal court last year ruled unconstitutional as based on 'racially discriminatory views.' The law also forces local law enforcement to enter into 287(g) agreements with ICE. A 287(g) agreement requires local law enforcement to use local resources and taxpayer funds to carry out federal ICE duties, further entangling the federal government in local matters and often leading to illegal racial profiling and other civil rights abuses." [ACLU Florida, Blog, [10/6/22](#)]
- **A 287(G) Agreement Required Local Law Enforcement To Use Local Resources And Taxpayer Funds To Carry Out Federal ICE Duties.** According to a blog post by the ACLU Florida, "Earlier this year, the Governor also signed Senate Bill 1808, an anti-immigrant bill that insidiously encourages racial profiling. [...] The new law, which went into effect in July 2022, also undermines trust in local law enforcement by requiring them to collect information on individuals' immigration status and by limiting protections on how this information can be distributed, in the service of an anti-sanctuary policy that a Florida federal court last year ruled unconstitutional as based on 'racially discriminatory views.' The law also forces local law enforcement to enter into 287(g) agreements with ICE. A 287(g) agreement requires local law enforcement to use local resources and taxpayer funds to carry out federal ICE duties, further entangling the federal government in local matters and often leading to illegal racial profiling and other civil rights abuses." [ACLU Florida, Blog, [10/6/22](#)]

**The ACLU Of Florida Described Senate Bill 1808 As "An Anti-Immigrant Bill That Insidiously Encourages Racial Profiling."** According to a blog post by the ACLU Florida, "Earlier this year, the Governor also signed Senate Bill 1808, an anti-immigrant bill that insidiously encourages racial profiling. The law prohibits government contracts with private entities and charitable nonprofits that provide transportation to what the Florida legislature misleadingly describes as 'unauthorized aliens.'" [ACLU Florida, Blog, [10/6/22](#)]

## ***Tuition Waivers***

**DeSantis: "If We Want To Hold The Line On Tuition, Then You Have Got To Say 'You Need To Be A US Citizen Living In Florida. [...] Why Would We Subsidize A Non-US Citizen When We Want To Make Sure We Can Keep It Affordable For Our Own People?'"** Mother Jones reported, "Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis



announced a legislative proposal to ‘fight against Biden’s border crisis.’ The bill, if approved by the Republican-dominated legislature, would make it a third-degree felony to ‘knowingly transport, conceal, or harbor’ an undocumented migrant ‘within or into the state,’ punishable by up to five years in prison and a \$5,000 fine. If the migrant is a minor, it would be a second-degree felony, with even harsher punishments. ‘Transported individuals will be detained by law enforcement as material witnesses,’ the proposal says [...] Also included in the new proposal is the repeal of a law from 2014 allowing undocumented students who had arrived in the state as children and attended a Florida high school for three years to pay in-state-tuition rates. ‘If we want to hold the line on tuition, then you have got to say ‘you need to be a US citizen living in Florida,’ DeSantis said at a press conference. ‘Why would we subsidize a non-US citizen when we want to make sure we can keep it affordable for our own people?’ Senator Rick Scott, who signed the bill at the time as the governor, recently said he would do it again today.” [Mother Jones, [2/28/23](#)]

**Eduardo Padrón, Former Board Chair Of The Association of American Colleges and Universities On DeSantis’s Decision To Repeal Tuition Waivers For Dreamers: “If You Put Roadblocks At A Time When There Is Great Need In Fields Like Engineering, Doctors, Nursing, It’s An Ill-Advised And Ill-Conceived Idea.”** NBC News reported, “MIAMI — A group of employers, students and community leaders expressed alarm Thursday over Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis’ proposal to reverse a law that allows undocumented immigrants to pay in-state college and university tuition. DeSantis, who is expected to launch a bid for president, has proposed reversing the 2014 measure as part of a package of legislation cracking down on illegal immigration. ‘It never occurred to me in 2014 that we would be convening again to deal with the issue of in-state tuition,’ Eduardo Padrón, former president of Miami Dade College, said Thursday at a news conference in Miami. The news conference was organized by the American Business Immigration Coalition, or ABIC, a bipartisan group that advocates for immigration reform. ‘This is an issue of fairness and common sense and it’s good for our economy. If you put roadblocks at a time when there is great need in fields like engineering, doctors, nursing, it’s an ill-advised and ill-conceived idea,’ said Padrón, a former board chair of the Association of American Colleges and Universities. [...] In-state tuition and affordability for Dreamers has been backed by moderate Republicans and the business sector, as well as Democrats and immigrant groups who argue that expanding educational opportunities is better for the overall economy. ‘Florida would only be handicapping itself by taking away in-state tuition rates for undocumented young people that the state has already invested in for their K-12 years,’ Mike Fernandez, chairman of MBF Healthcare Partners and co-chair of ABIC, said in a news release.” [NBC News, [3/2/23](#)]

**Mike Fernandez, Chairman Of MBF Healthcare Partners On DeSantis’s Decision To Repeal Tuition Waivers For Dreamers: “Florida Would Only Be Handicapping Itself By Taking Away In-State Tuition Rates For Undocumented Young People That The State Has Already Invested In For Their K-12 Years.”** NBC News reported, “MIAMI — A group of employers, students and community leaders expressed alarm Thursday over Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis’ proposal to reverse a law that allows undocumented immigrants to pay in-state college and university tuition. DeSantis, who is expected to launch a bid for president, has proposed reversing the 2014 measure as part of a package of legislation cracking down on illegal immigration. ‘It never occurred to me in 2014 that we would be convening again to deal with the issue of in-state tuition,’ Eduardo Padrón, former president of Miami Dade College, said Thursday at a news conference in Miami. The news conference was organized by the American Business Immigration Coalition, or ABIC, a bipartisan group that advocates for immigration reform. ‘This is an issue of fairness and common sense and it’s good for our economy. If you put roadblocks at a time when there is great need in fields like engineering, doctors, nursing, it’s an ill-advised and ill-conceived idea,’ said Padrón, a former board chair of the Association of American Colleges and Universities. [...] In-state tuition and affordability for Dreamers has been backed by moderate Republicans and the business sector, as well as Democrats and immigrant groups who argue that expanding educational opportunities is better for the overall economy. ‘Florida would only be handicapping itself by taking away in-state tuition rates for undocumented young people that the state has already invested in for their K-12 years,’ Mike Fernandez, chairman of MBF Healthcare Partners and co-chair of ABIC, said in a news release.” [NBC News, [3/2/23](#)]

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## Social Media

**Researcher’s Note:** We conducted immigration-related keyword searches on DeSantis’s known [Facebook](#) and [Twitter profiles](#).

## ***Border Security***

**October 2018: DeSantis Tweeted, “We Can’t Have Open Borders.”** According to a Twitter post from Ron DeSantis, “I’m prepared to lead Florida and protect our future. We can’t destroy our economy with stiff taxes, we can’t have open borders, we have to protect law enforcement, and we will solve toxic algae. It would be an honor to have your vote. #FLGovDebate” [Twitter, @RonDeSantisFL, [10/21/18](#)]



[Twitter, @RonDeSantisFL, [10/21/18](#)]

**December 2021: DeSantis Tweeted, “If The Federal Government Doesn’t Want To Do Their Job And Secure Our Border, The States Must Step Up.”** According to a Twitter post from Ron DeSantis, “If the federal government doesn’t want to do their job and secure our border, the states must step up. That’s why Florida is taking direct action to fight back against Biden’s reckless border policies that are making our own citizens less safe.” [Twitter, @RonDeSantisFL, [12/14/21](#)]

- **December 2021: DeSantis Tweeted, “Florida Is Taking Direct Action To Fight Back Against Biden’s Reckless Border Policies That Are Making Our Own Citizens Less Safe.”** According to a Twitter post from Ron DeSantis, “If the federal government doesn’t want to do their job and secure our border, the states must step up. That’s why Florida is taking direct action to fight back against Biden’s reckless border policies that are making our own citizens less safe.” [Twitter, @RonDeSantisFL, [12/14/21](#)]



[Twitter, @RonDeSantisFL, [12/14/21](#)]

## ***Chain Migration***

**September 2017: DeSantis Posted, “Congress Should Not Expand Chain Migration, Which Could Happen If An Amnesty Recipient Can Sponsor Those Who Did Knowingly Violate Our Immigration Laws. [...] Chain Migration Should Be Discarded In Favor Of Admission Criteria Based On Merit And Skill.”** According to a Facebook post from Ron DeSantis, “The Obama executive amnesty is not constitutional and President Trump was duty bound to discontinue it. [...] First, Congress should not increase incentives for illegal immigration, which a naked codification of Obama’s executive action will do. In addition, Congress should not expand chain migration, which could happen if an amnesty recipient can sponsor those who did knowingly violate our immigration laws. To vindicate the interests of Americans, impediments to illegal immigration, from E-Verify to funding for a border wall, should be enacted. Also, chain migration should be discarded in favor of admission criteria based on merit and skill.” [Facebook, Governor Ron DeSantis, [9/6/17](#)]

- **DeSantis Posted, “The Obama Executive Amnesty Is Not Constitutional And President Trump Was Duty Bound To Discontinue It.”** According to a Facebook post from Ron DeSantis, “The Obama executive amnesty is not constitutional and President Trump was duty bound to discontinue it. [...] First, Congress should not increase incentives for illegal immigration, which a naked codification of Obama’s executive action will do. In addition, Congress should not expand chain migration, which could happen if an amnesty recipient can sponsor those who did knowingly violate our immigration laws. To vindicate the interests of Americans, impediments to illegal immigration, from E-Verify to funding for a border wall, should be enacted. Also, chain migration should be discarded in favor of admission criteria based on merit and skill.” [Facebook, Governor Ron DeSantis, [9/6/17](#)]



[Facebook, Governor Ron DeSantis, [9/6/17](#)]

## ***Comments On Other Politicians***

**June 2018: DeSantis Criticized Adam Putnam For His “Support For Amnesty And Shared Votes With Nancy Pelosi Against Securing Our Borders.”** According to a Twitter post from Ron DeSantis, “After 22 years in office, Adam Putnam’s record on immigration has included support for amnesty and shared votes with Nancy Pelosi against securing our borders. <https://bit.ly/2IB0reF>” [Twitter, @RonDeSantisFL, [6/28/18](#)]



[Twitter, @RonDeSantisFL, [6/28/18](#)]

**August 2022: DeSantis Praised Mark Ronchetti Of New Mexico, Saying That “Mark Will Fight Biden’s Reckless Open Border Policy.”** According to a Twitter post from Ron DeSantis, “New Mexico’s future is promising with @MarkRonchettiNM at the helm. Mark will fight Biden’s reckless open border policy, stand for law-and-order, and protect the rights of NM against lockdowns, mandates, & restrictions. Visit <http://markronchetti.com> to donate & make NM free!” [Twitter, @RonDeSantisFL, [8/14/22](#)]



[Twitter, @RonDeSantisFL, [8/14/22](#)]

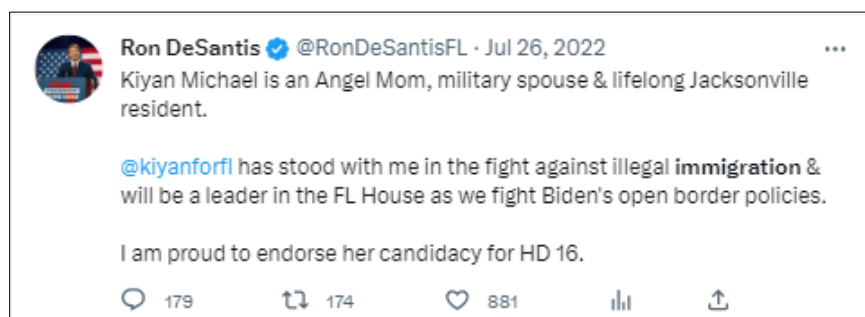
**August 2022: DeSantis Praised Doug Mastriano For His Positions On Immigration, Stating, “He Will Stand Against Biden’s Reckless Immigration And Border Policies.”** According to a Twitter post from Ron DeSantis, “. @dougmastriano is a retired Army colonel who will provide strong leadership for Pennsylvania. He will stand against mandates and restrictions. He will stand for law and order. He will stand against Biden’s reckless immigration and border policies. <http://Doug4Gov.com>” [Twitter, @RonDeSantisFL, [8/20/22](#)]



[Twitter, @RonDeSantisFL, [8/20/22](#)]

**July 2022: DeSantis Tweeted In Support Of Kiyan Michael, Stating She Had “Stood With Me In The Fight Against Illegal Immigration & Will Be A Leader In The FL House As We Fight Biden’s Open Border Policies.”** According to a Twitter post from Ron DeSantis, “Kiyan Michael is an Angel Mom, military spouse & lifelong Jacksonville resident. @kiyanforfl has stood with me in the fight against illegal immigration & will be a leader in the FL House as we fight Biden’s open border policies. I am proud to endorse her candidacy for HD 16.” [Twitter, @RonDeSantisFL, [7/26/22](#)]

- **DeSantis Tweeted That Kiyan Michael Was An “Angel Mom.”** According to a Twitter post from Ron DeSantis, “Kiyan Michael is an Angel Mom, military spouse & lifelong Jacksonville resident. @kiyanforfl has stood with me in the fight against illegal immigration & will be a leader in the FL House as we fight Biden’s open border policies. I am proud to endorse her candidacy for HD 16.” [Twitter, @RonDeSantisFL, [7/26/22](#)]



[Twitter, @RonDeSantisFL, [7/26/22](#)]

## Crime

**January 2015: DeSantis Tweeted, “I Believe In Zero Tolerance For Illegal Immigrant Sex Offenders.”**

According to a Twitter post from Ron DeSantis, “I believe in zero tolerance for illegal immigrant sex offenders. My remarks on my amendment to DHS funding bill here:” [Twitter, @GovRonDeSantis, [1/14/15](#)]



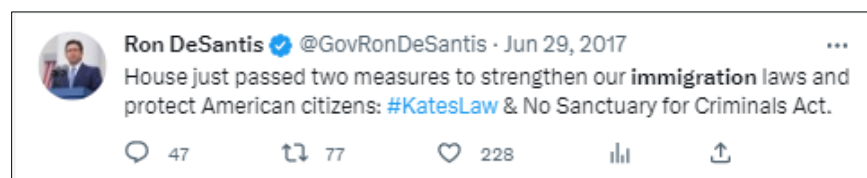
[Twitter, @GovRonDeSantis, [1/14/15](#)]

**July 2015: DeSantis Tweeted That He Had Cosponsored “Kate’s Law,” Which Would “Mandate Prison Time For Illegal Immigrants Who Reenter US After Deportation.”** According to a Twitter post from Ron DeSantis, “I’ve cosponsored #KatesLaw which would mandate prison time for illegal immigrants who reenter US after deportation: <http://bit.ly/1CGcfbD>.” [Twitter, @GovRonDeSantis, [6/16/15](#)]



[Twitter, @GovRonDeSantis, [6/16/15](#)]

**June 2017: DeSantis Praised The Passage Of “Kate’s Law” And “No Sanctuary For Criminals Act.”** According to a Twitter post from Ron DeSantis, “House just passed two measures to strengthen our immigration laws and protect American citizens: #KatesLaw & No Sanctuary for Criminals Act.” [Twitter, @GovRonDeSantis, [6/29/17](#)]



[Twitter, @GovRonDeSantis, [6/29/17](#)]

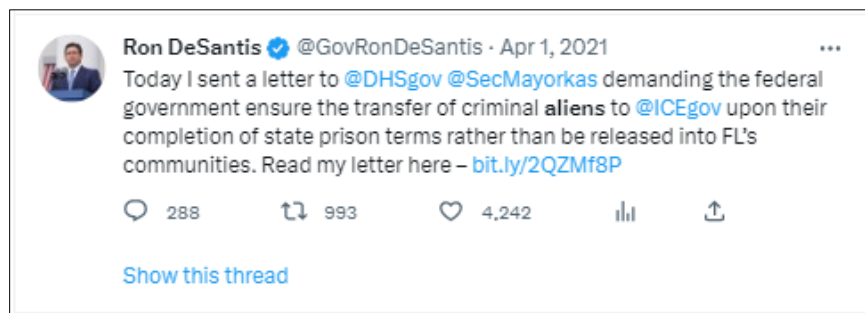
**December 2017: DeSantis Tweeted, “Acquitting The Illegal Immigrant Who Shot And Killed #KateSteinle Of Murder, Involuntary Manslaughter, And Assault Is Unconscionable.”** According to a Twitter post from Ron DeSantis, “Acquitting the illegal immigrant who shot and killed #KateSteinle of murder, involuntary

manslaughter, and assault is unconscionable. 1/3” [Twitter, @RonDeSantisFL, [12/1/17](#)]



[Twitter, @RonDeSantisFL, [12/1/17](#)]

**April 2021: DeSantis Tweeted That He Had Sent A Letter “Demanding The Federal Government Ensure The Transfer Of Criminal Aliens To @ICEgov Upon Their Completion Of State Prison Terms Rather Than Be Released Into FL’s Communities.”** According to a Twitter post from Ron DeSantis, “Today I sent a letter to @DHSgov @SecMayorkas demanding the federal government ensure the transfer of criminal aliens to @ICEgov upon their completion of state prison terms rather than be released into FL’s communities. Read my letter here – <https://bit.ly/2QZMf8P>” [Twitter, @GovRonDeSantis, [4/1/21](#)]



[Twitter, @GovRonDeSantis, [4/1/21](#)]

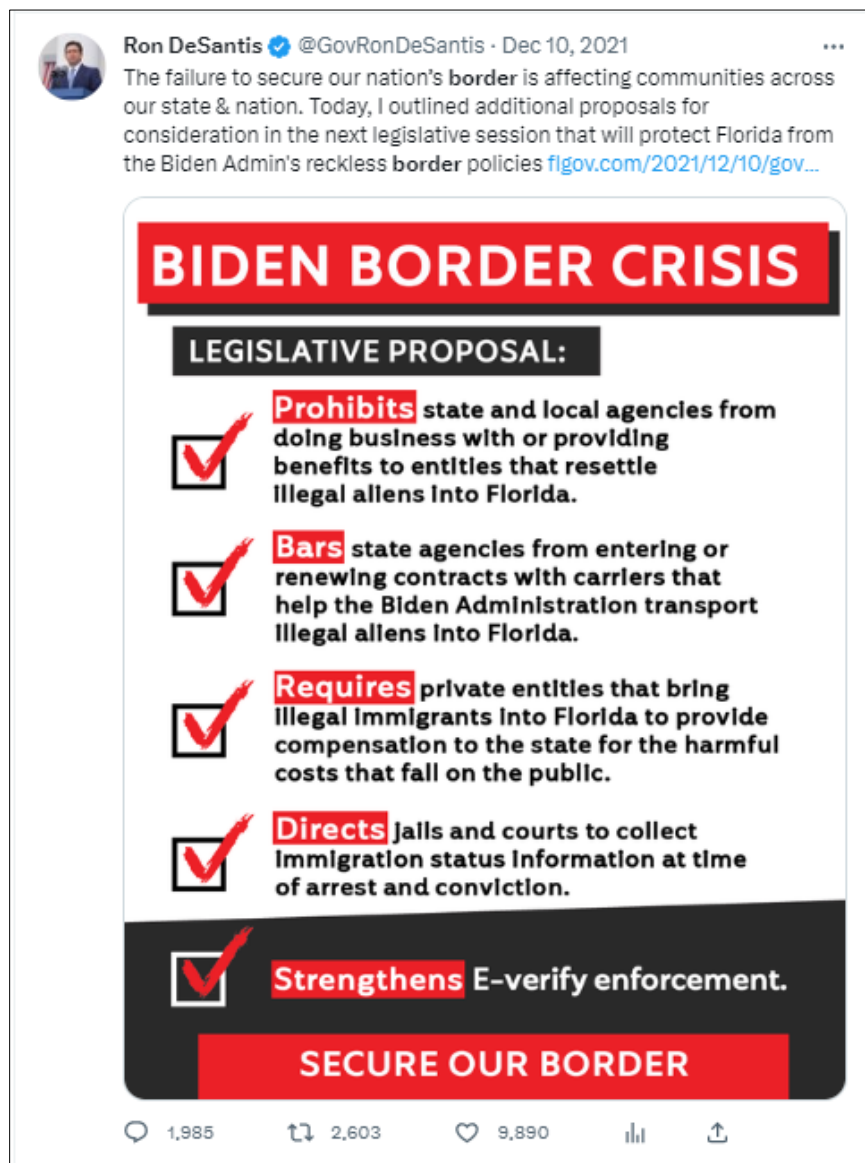
**April 2021: DeSantis Shared The Story Of A Father Whose Son Was “Killed By A Criminal Illegal Alien And Known Gang Member,” Stating, “His Story Exemplifies Why The Biden Administration Must Rescind Its Recent Executive Action Allowing Criminal Aliens To Be Released Into Our Communities.”** According to a Twitter post from Ron DeSantis, “Jamiel Shaw lost his 17-year-old son, Jamiel Shaw II, when he was killed by a criminal illegal alien and known gang member. His story exemplifies why the Biden Administration must rescind its recent executive action allowing criminal aliens to be released into our communities.” [Twitter, @GovRonDeSantis, [4/3/21](#)]





[Twitter, @GovRonDeSantis, [4/3/21](#)]

**December 2021: DeSantis Shared An Image Explaining His Proposed Florida Immigration Policies, Including One That “Directs Jails And Courts To Collect Immigration Status Information At Time Of Arrest And Conviction.”** According to a Twitter post from Ron DeSantis, “The failure to secure our nation’s border is affecting communities across our state & nation. Today, I outlined additional proposals for consideration in the next legislative session that will protect Florida from the Biden Admin’s reckless border policies <https://flgov.com/2021/12/10/governor-ron-desantis-announces-proposals-to-stop-the-flow-of-illegal-aliens-and-protect-floridians-from-the-ongoing-biden-border-crisis/>” [Twitter, @GovRonDeSantis, [12/10/21](#)]



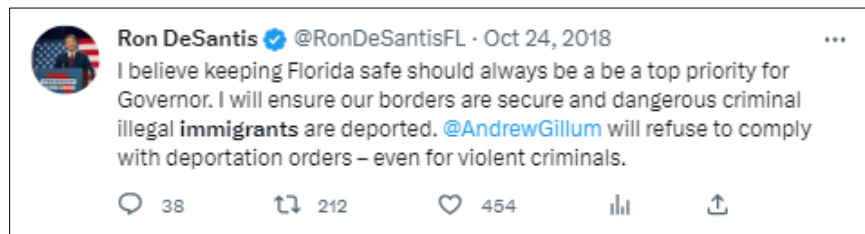
[Twitter, @GovRonDeSantis, [12/10/21](#)]

**October 2018: DeSantis Pledged To Ensure That “Dangerous Criminal Illegal Immigrants Are Deported.”**

According to a Twitter post from Ron DeSantis, “I believe keeping Florida safe should always be a top priority for Governor. I will ensure our borders are secure and dangerous criminal illegal immigrants are deported.

@AndrewGillum will refuse to comply with deportation orders – even for violent criminals.” [Twitter, @RonDeSantisFL, [10/24/18](#)]

- **DeSantis Claimed That His Gubernatorial Opponent, Andrew Gillum, Would “Refuse To Comply With Deportation Orders – Even For Violent Criminals.”** According to a Twitter post from Ron DeSantis, “I believe keeping Florida safe should always be a top priority for Governor. I will ensure our borders are secure and dangerous criminal illegal immigrants are deported. @AndrewGillum will refuse to comply with deportation orders – even for violent criminals.” [Twitter, @RonDeSantisFL, [10/24/18](#)]



[Twitter, @RonDeSantisFL, [10/24/18](#)]

## ***Drugs***

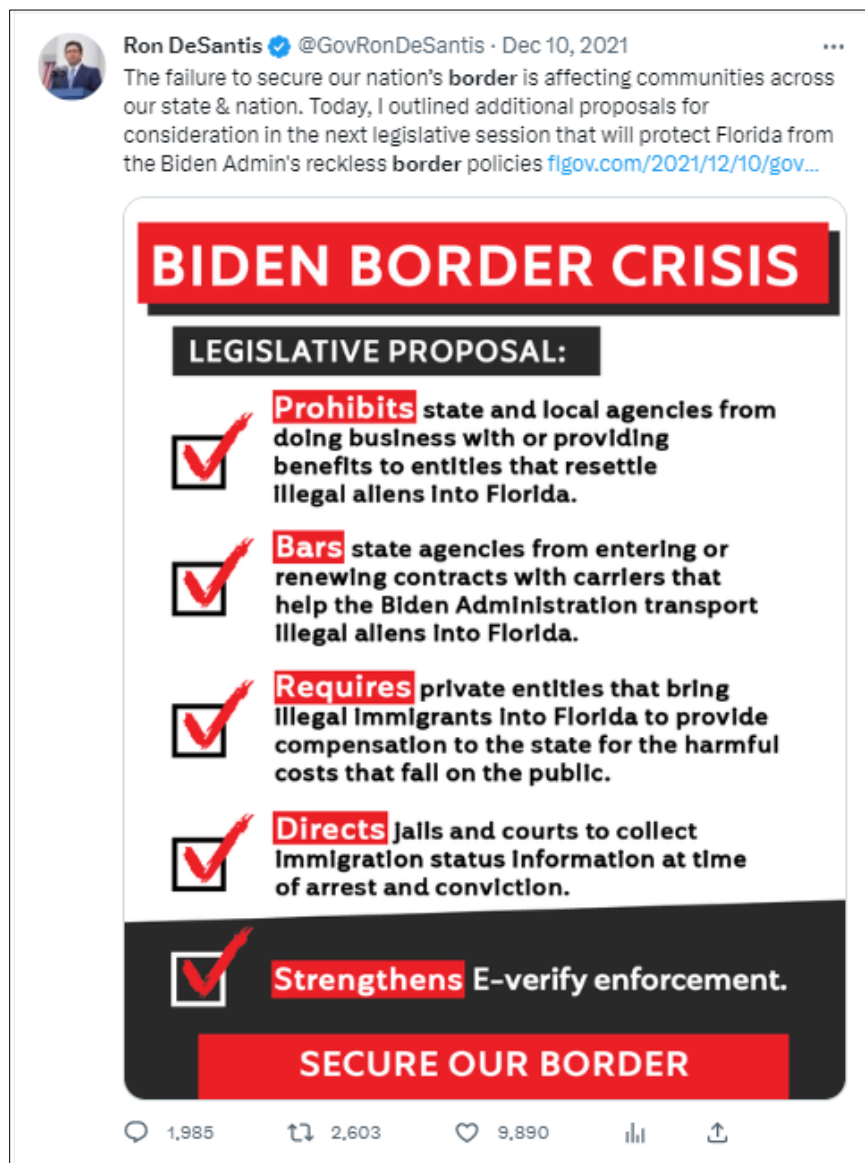
**May 2022: DeSantis Signed “Legislation To Combat The Flow Of Fentanyl From The Open Southern Border.”** According to a Twitter post from Ron DeSantis, “Gov. Ron DeSantis signs legislation to combat the flow of fentanyl from the open southern border.” [Twitter, @GovRonDeSantis, [5/19/22](#)]



[Twitter, @GovRonDeSantis, [5/19/22](#)]

## ***E-Verify***

**December 2021: DeSantis Shared An Image Explaining His Proposed Florida Immigration Policies, Including One That “Strengthens E-Verify Enforcement.”** According to a Twitter post from Ron DeSantis, “The failure to secure our nation’s border is affecting communities across our state & nation. Today, I outlined additional proposals for consideration in the next legislative session that will protect Florida from the Biden Admin’s reckless border policies <https://flgov.com/2021/12/10/governor-ron-desantis-announces-proposals-to-stop-the-flow-of-illegal-aliens-and-protect-floridians-from-the-ongoing-biden-border-crisis/>” [Twitter, @GovRonDeSantis, [12/10/21](#)]



[Twitter, @GovRonDeSantis, [12/10/21](https://twitter.com/GovRonDeSantis/status/1441111111)]

**February 2023: DeSantis Proposed Addressing “The Dangers Of Biden’s Border Crisis” Through Florida Laws Including “Mandatory E-Verify And Prohibiting Local Government From Issuing ID Cards To Illegal Aliens.”** According to a Twitter post from Ron DeSantis, “Florida will not turn a blind eye to the dangers of Biden’s Border Crisis. We are proposing additional steps to protect Floridians from these reckless federal policies, including mandatory E-Verify and prohibiting local government from issuing ID cards to illegal aliens.” [Twitter, @GovRonDeSantis, [2/23/23](https://twitter.com/GovRonDeSantis/status/1623333333)]



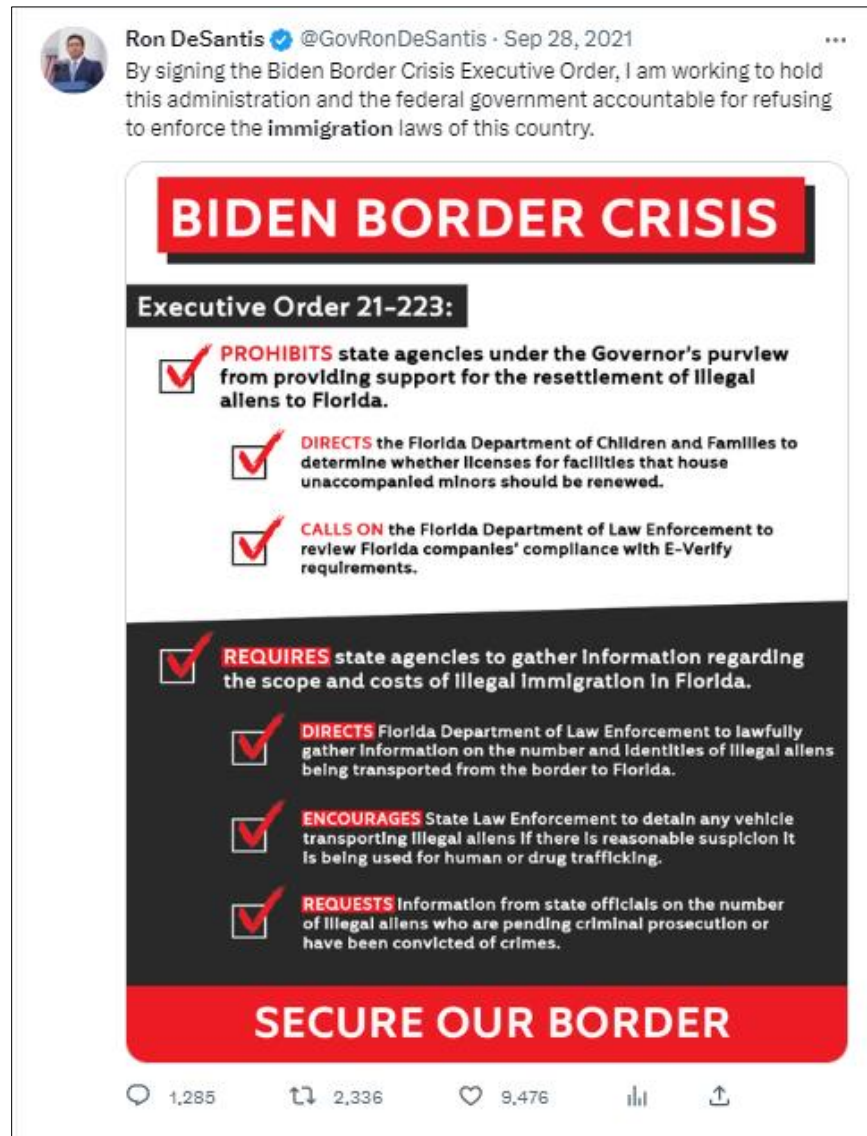
[Twitter, @GovRonDeSantis, [2/23/23](#)]

## ***Executive Order 21-223***

**September 2021: DeSantis Tweeted, “By Signing The Biden Border Crisis Executive Order, I Am Working To Hold This Administration And The Federal Government Accountable For Refusing To Enforce The Immigration Laws Of This Country.”** According to a Twitter post from Ron DeSantis, “By signing the Biden Border Crisis Executive Order, I am working to hold this administration and the federal government accountable for refusing to enforce the immigration laws of this country.” [Twitter, @GovRonDeSantis, [9/28/21](#)]

- **The Executive Order, No. 21-233, “Prohibits State Agencies Under The Governor’s Purview From Providing Support For The Resettlement Of Illegal Aliens To Florida” And “Requires State Agencies To Gather Information Regarding The Scope And Costs Of Illegal Immigration In Florida.”** According to a Twitter post from Ron DeSantis, Executive Order 21-233 “Prohibits state agencies under the Governor’s purview from providing support for the resettlement of illegal aliens to Florida. Directs the Florida Department of Children and Families to determine whether licenses for facilities that house unaccompanied minors should

be reviewed. Calls on the Florida Department of Law Enforcement to review Florida companies' compliance with E-Verify requirements. Requires state agencies to gather information regarding the scope and costs of illegal immigration in Florida. Directs Florida Department of Law Enforcement to lawfully gather information on the number of identities of illegal aliens being transported from the border to Florida. Encourages State Law Enforcement to detain any vehicle transporting illegal aliens if there is reasonable suspicion it is being used for human or drug trafficking. Requests information from state officials on the number of illegal aliens who are pending criminal prosecution or have been convicted of crimes." [Twitter, @GovRonDeSantis, [9/28/21](#)]



[Twitter, @GovRonDeSantis, [9/28/21](#)]

## ***Family Separation***

**November 2021: DeSantis Tweeted, “Paying Illegal Immigrants Hundreds Of Millions Of Taxpayer Dollars For ‘Damages’ Is A Slap In The Face To Hardworking Americans And Individuals Who Legally Immigrated To Our Country.”** According to a Twitter post from Ron DeSantis, “Paying illegal immigrants hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars for ‘damages’ is a slap in the face to hardworking Americans and individuals who legally immigrated to our country.” [Twitter, @GovRonDeSantis, [11/1/21](#)]



[Twitter, @GovRonDeSantis, [11/1/21](#)]

### ***FL Law Enforcement At The Border***

**June 2021: DeSantis Tweeted, “We Have A Crisis At Our Border – A Crisis Created By Bad Policies. With The Federal Government Unable To Get The Job Done, Texas And Arizona Have Asked For Help To Secure Our Border And Florida Is Answering The Call.”** According to a Twitter post from Ron DeSantis, “We have a crisis at our border – a crisis created by bad policies. With the federal government unable to get the job done, Texas and Arizona have asked for help to secure our border and Florida is answering the call.

<https://flgov.com/2021/06/16/governor-ron-desantis-directs-florida-law-enforcement-to-aid-in-border-crisis/>

[Twitter, @GovRonDeSantis, [6/16/21](#)]



[Twitter, @GovRonDeSantis, [6/16/21](#)]

- **July 2021: DeSantis Tweeted, “Today, More Than 50 Officers From Florida State Law Enforcement Are Deployed In Texas, Fighting Human Smuggling And Drug Trafficking At The Border.”** According to a Twitter post from Ron DeSantis, “When @GovAbbott sent out a call for help to secure our southern border, Florida answered. Today, more than 50 officers from Florida state law enforcement are deployed in Texas, fighting human smuggling and drug trafficking at the border.” [Twitter, @GovRonDeSantis, [7/17/21](#)]



[Twitter, @GovRonDeSantis, [7/17/21](#)]

## ***Human Smuggling***

**June 2022: DeSantis Impaneled “A Statewide Grand Jury To Investigate International Human Smuggling Networks That Operate On Our Southern Border” And Tweeted, “We Are United In Fighting Back Against Biden’s Border Crisis And Protecting Floridians.”** According to a Twitter post from Ron DeSantis, “I am glad that the Florida Supreme Court has granted my petition to impanel a statewide grand jury to investigate international human smuggling networks that operate on our southern border. We are united in fighting back against Biden’s border crisis and protecting Floridians.” [Twitter, @GovRonDeSantis, [6/30/22](#)]



[Twitter, @GovRonDeSantis, [6/30/22](#)]

**February 2022: DeSantis Tweeted, “The Biden Administration’s Immigration Policies Have Created A Human Smuggling Operation That Has Increased Human, Sex And Drug Trafficking.”** According to a



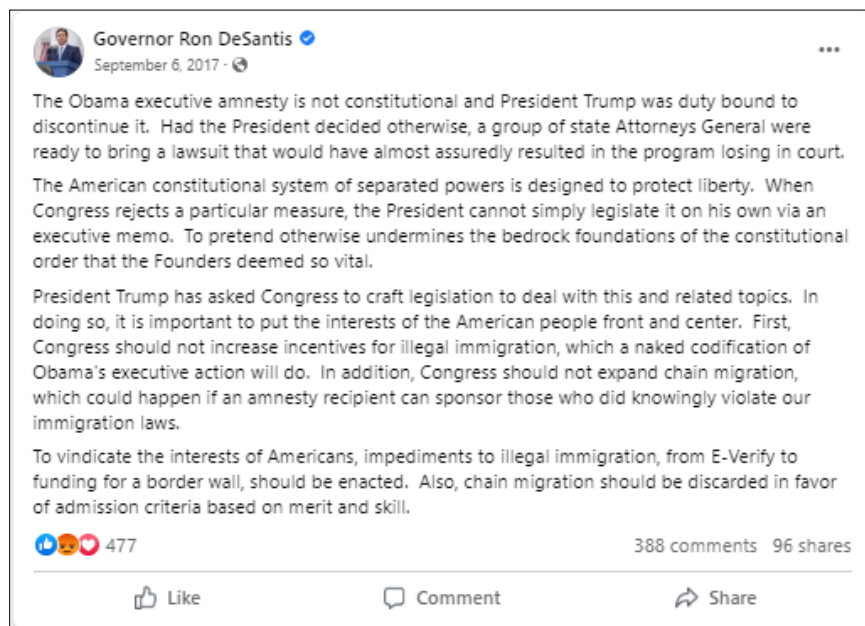
Twitter post from Ron DeSantis, “The Biden Administration’s immigration policies have created a human smuggling operation that has increased human, sex and drug trafficking. Proud to join with Cuban-American exiles to oppose these reckless policies.” [Twitter, @GovRonDeSantis, [2/7/22](#)]



[Twitter, @GovRonDeSantis, [2/7/22](#)]

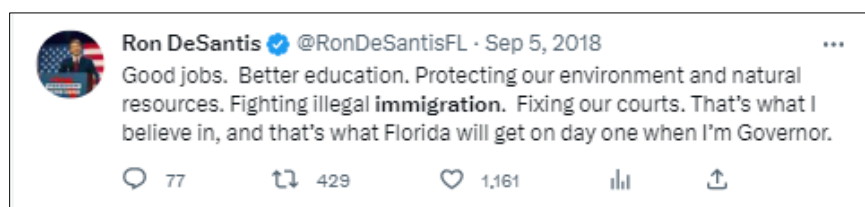
## ***“Illegal” Immigration***

**September 2017: DeSantis Posted, “To Vindicate The Interests Of Americans, Impediments To Illegal Immigration, From E-Verify To Funding For A Border Wall, Should Be Enacted.”** According to a Facebook post from Ron DeSantis, “The Obama executive amnesty is not constitutional and President Trump was duty bound to discontinue it. [...] First, Congress should not increase incentives for illegal immigration, which a naked codification of Obama’s executive action will do. In addition, Congress should not expand chain migration, which could happen if an amnesty recipient can sponsor those who did knowingly violate our immigration laws. To vindicate the interests of Americans, impediments to illegal immigration, from E-Verify to funding for a border wall, should be enacted. Also, chain migration should be discarded in favor of admission criteria based on merit and skill.” [Facebook, Governor Ron DeSantis, [9/6/17](#)]



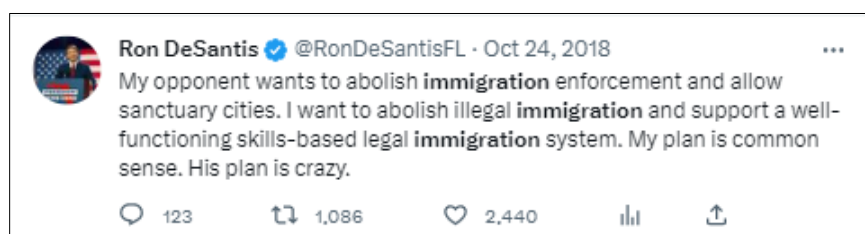
[Facebook, Governor Ron DeSantis, [9/6/17](#)]

**September 2018: DeSantis Stated That “Fighting Illegal Immigration” Would Be One Of His Priorities “On Day One When I’m Governor.”** According to a Twitter post from Ron DeSantis, “Good jobs. Better education. Protecting our environment and natural resources. Fighting illegal immigration. Fixing our courts. That’s what I believe in, and that’s what Florida will get on day one when I’m Governor.” [Twitter, @RonDeSantisFL, [9/5/18](#)]



[Twitter, @RonDeSantisFL, [9/5/18](#)]

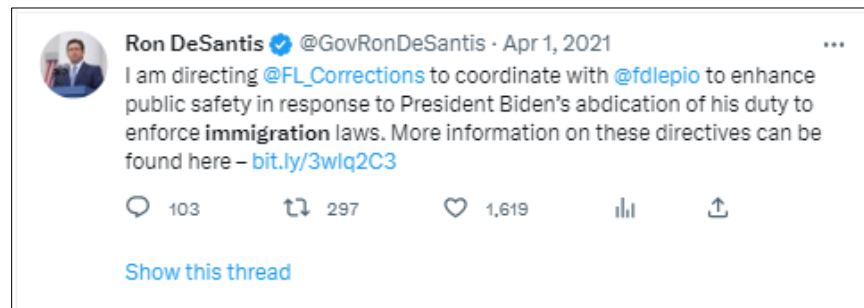
**October 2018: DeSantis Stated That He Wanted To “Abolish Illegal Immigration And Support A Well-Functioning Skills-Based Legal Immigration System.”** According to a Twitter post from Ron DeSantis, “My opponent wants to abolish immigration enforcement and allow sanctuary cities. I want to abolish illegal immigration and support a well-functioning skills-based legal immigration system. My plan is common sense. His plan is crazy.” [Twitter, @RonDeSantisFL, [10/24/18](#)]



[Twitter, @RonDeSantisFL, [10/24/18](#)]

**April 2021: DeSantis Tweeted That He Was Directing Florida Law Enforcement To “Enhance Public Safety In Response To President Biden’s Abdication Of His Duty To Enforce Immigration Laws.”** According to a

Twitter post from Ron DeSantis, “I am directing @FL\_Corrections to coordinate with @fdlepio to enhance public safety in response to President Biden’s abdication of his duty to enforce immigration laws. More information on these directives can be found here – <https://bit.ly/3wlq2C3>” [Twitter, @GovRonDeSantis, 4/1/21]



[Twitter, @GovRonDeSantis, 4/1/21]

## ***Migrant Caravan***

**April 2018: DeSantis Tweeted, “I Will Chair A Nat’l Security Subcommittee Hearing On The ‘Caravan’ Of Foreign Nationals Currently Heading To Our Southern Border. We Must Enforce Our Sovereignty & That Means A Secure Border & Supporting Efforts Of POTUS To Protect The American People.”** According to a Twitter post from Ron DeSantis, “When Congress reconvenes, I will chair a Nat’l Security subcommittee hearing on the ‘caravan’ of foreign nationals currently heading to our southern border. We must enforce our sovereignty & that means a secure border & supporting efforts of POTUS to protect the American people.” [Twitter, @GovRonDeSantis, 4/5/18]



[Twitter, @GovRonDeSantis, 4/5/18]

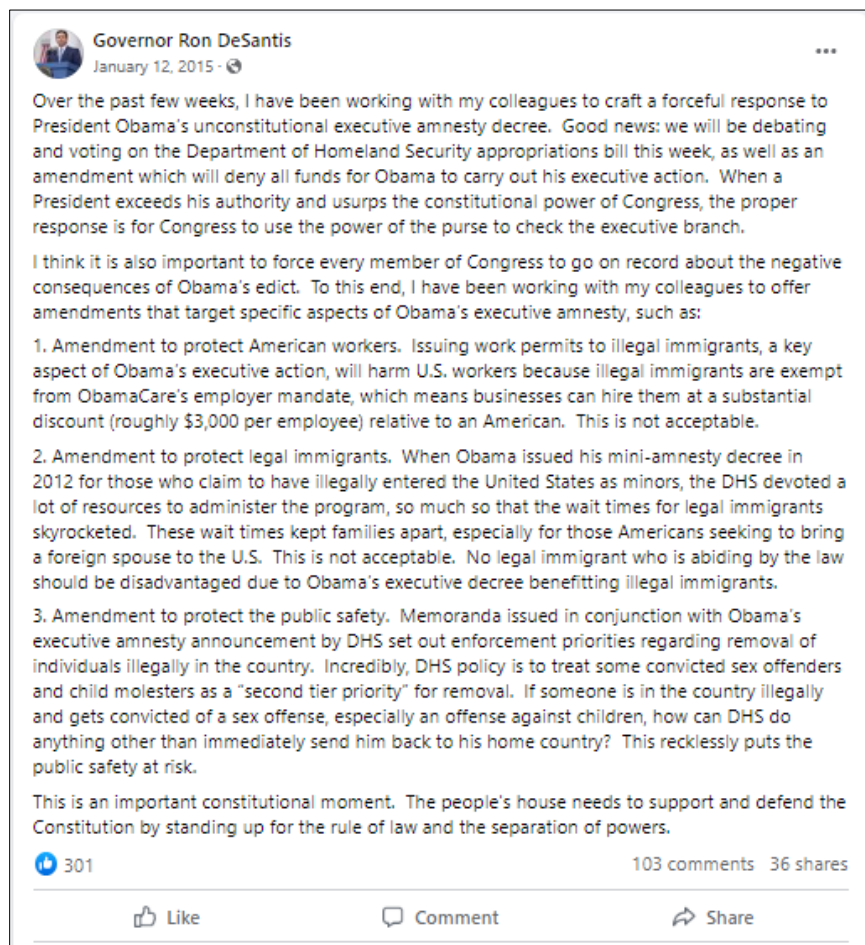
## ***Obama’s Executive Actions***

**January 2015: DeSantis Expressed Opposition To “President Obama’s Unconstitutional Executive Amnesty Decree” And Indicated That He Was Working With Colleagues In Congress To Nullify Obama’s Policies Using Amendments To An Appropriations Bill.** According to a Facebook post from Ron DeSantis, “Over the past few weeks, I have been working with my colleagues to craft a forceful response to President Obama’s unconstitutional executive amnesty decree. Good news: we will be debating and voting on the Department of Homeland Security appropriations bill this week, as well as an amendment which will deny all funds for Obama to carry out his executive action. [...] I think it is also important to force every member of Congress to go on record about the negative consequences of Obama’s edict. To this end, I have been working with my colleagues to offer amendments that target specific aspects of Obama’s executive amnesty....” [Facebook, Governor Ron DeSantis, 1/12/15]

- **DeSantis Supported An “Amendment To Protect American Workers” To Address “Harm” Caused To American Workers By The Presence Of Undocumented Immigrants In The Labor Market, And He Stated That “Issuing Work Permits To Illegal Immigrants” Was “Not Acceptable.”** According to a Facebook post from Ron DeSantis, “Over the past few weeks, I have been working with my colleagues to craft

a forceful response to President Obama’s unconstitutional executive amnesty decree. Good news: we will be debating and voting on the Department of Homeland Security appropriations bill this week, as well as an amendment which will deny all funds for Obama to carry out his executive action. [...] I think it is also important to force every member of Congress to go on record about the negative consequences of Obama’s edict. To this end, I have been working with my colleagues to offer amendments that target specific aspects of Obama’s executive amnesty, such as: 1. Amendment to protect American workers. Issuing work permits to illegal immigrants, a key aspect of Obama’s executive action, will harm U.S. workers because illegal immigrants are exempt from ObamaCare’s employer mandate, which means businesses can hire them at a substantial discount (roughly \$3,000 per employee) relative to an American. This is not acceptable.” [Facebook, Governor Ron DeSantis, [1/12/15](#)]

- **DeSantis Supported An “Amendment To Protect Legal Immigrants” To Address Increases In Legal Immigration Wait Times He Claimed Were Due To DACA.** According to a Facebook post from Ron DeSantis, “Over the past few weeks, I have been working with my colleagues to craft a forceful response to President Obama’s unconstitutional executive amnesty decree. Good news: we will be debating and voting on the Department of Homeland Security appropriations bill this week, as well as an amendment which will deny all funds for Obama to carry out his executive action. [...] I think it is also important to force every member of Congress to go on record about the negative consequences of Obama’s edict. To this end, I have been working with my colleagues to offer amendments that target specific aspects of Obama’s executive amnesty, such as: [...] 2. Amendment to protect legal immigrants. When Obama issued his mini-amnesty decree in 2012 for those who claim to have illegally entered the United States as minors, the DHS devoted a lot of resources to administer the program, so much so that the wait times for legal immigrants skyrocketed. These wait times kept families apart, especially for those Americans seeking to bring a foreign spouse to the U.S. This is not acceptable. No legal immigrant who is abiding by the law should be disadvantaged due to Obama’s executive decree benefitting illegal immigrants.” [Facebook, Governor Ron DeSantis, [1/12/15](#)]
- **DeSantis Supported An “Amendment To Protect The Public Safety” To Address DHS Immigration Enforcement Priorities, Claiming, “Incredibly, DHS Policy Is To Treat Some Convicted Sex Offenders And Child Molesters As A ‘Second Tier Priority.’”** According to a Facebook post from Ron DeSantis, “Over the past few weeks, I have been working with my colleagues to craft a forceful response to President Obama’s unconstitutional executive amnesty decree. Good news: we will be debating and voting on the Department of Homeland Security appropriations bill this week, as well as an amendment which will deny all funds for Obama to carry out his executive action. [...] I think it is also important to force every member of Congress to go on record about the negative consequences of Obama’s edict. To this end, I have been working with my colleagues to offer amendments that target specific aspects of Obama’s executive amnesty, such as: [...] 3. Amendment to protect the public safety. Memoranda issued in conjunction with Obama’s executive amnesty announcement by DHS set out enforcement priorities regarding removal of individuals illegally in the country. Incredibly, DHS policy is to treat some convicted sex offenders and child molesters as a ‘second tier priority’ for removal. If someone is in the country illegally and gets convicted of a sex offense, especially an offense against children, how can DHS do anything other than immediately send him back to his home country? This recklessly puts the public safety at risk.” [Facebook, Governor Ron DeSantis, [1/12/15](#)]



[Facebook, Governor Ron DeSantis, [1/12/15](#)]

**November 2014: DeSantis Signed A Letter Encouraging The House Committee On Appropriations To Draft Spending Bills That Would Prohibit Funding For Policies To Create Work Permits And Green Cards For Undocumented Immigrants In The United States.** According to a Facebook post from Ron DeSantis, “I will be joining Neil Cavuto on Fox News at 4 PM to discuss a letter I signed encouraging the House Committee on Appropriations to ‘include language that would prohibit funding for the President’s reported intentions to create work permits and green cards for undocumented immigrants currently in the United States’ in the upcoming spending bills. Please tune in!” [Facebook, Governor Ron DeSantis, [11/17/14](#)]



[Facebook, Governor Ron DeSantis, [11/17/14](#)]

**November 2014: DeSantis Tweeted, “The [President] Can Confer No Privileges Whatever; The [King] Can Make Denizens Of Aliens, Noblemen Of Commoners...” A. Hamilton Fed No. 69.”** According to a Twitter post from Ron DeSantis, “The [President] can confer no privileges whatever; the [King] can make denizens of aliens,

noblemen of commoners...' A. Hamilton Fed No. 69" [Twitter, @RonDeSantisFL, [11/19/14](#)]



[Twitter, @RonDeSantisFL, [11/19/14](#)]

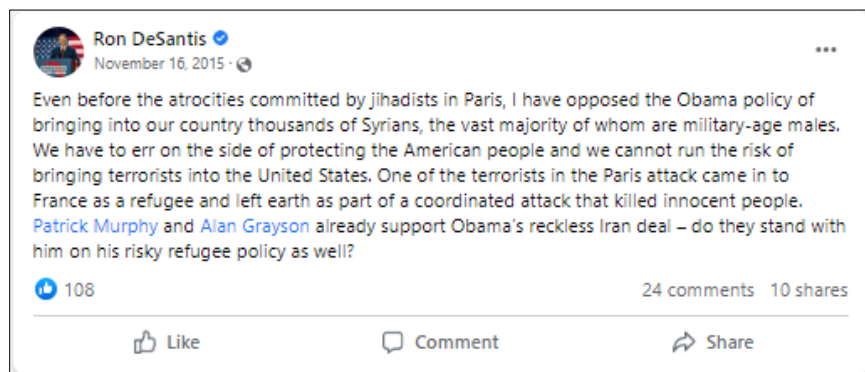
**September 2017: DeSantis Referred To DACA As “The Obama Executive Amnesty,” Stating, “The Obama Executive Amnesty Is Not Constitutional And President Trump Was Duty Bound To Discontinue It.”** According to a Twitter post from Ron DeSantis, “The Obama executive amnesty is not constitutional and President Trump was duty bound to discontinue it. #DACA” [Twitter, @GovRonDeSantis, [9/6/17](#)]



[Twitter, @GovRonDeSantis, [9/6/17](#)]

## ***Refugees***

**November 2015: DeSantis Posted, “Even Before The Atrocities Committed By Jihadists In Paris, I Have Opposed The Obama Policy Of Bringing Into Our Country Thousands Of Syrians, The Vast Majority Of Whom Are Military-Age Males.”** According to a Facebook post from Ron DeSantis, “Even before the atrocities committed by jihadists in Paris, I have opposed the Obama policy of bringing into our country thousands of Syrians, the vast majority of whom are military-age males. We have to err on the side of protecting the American people and we cannot run the risk of bringing terrorists into the United States. One of the terrorists in the Paris attack came in to France as a refugee and left earth as part of a coordinated attack that killed innocent people. Patrick Murphy and Alan Grayson already support Obama’s reckless Iran deal – do they stand with him on his risky refugee policy as well?” [Facebook, Ron DeSantis, [11/16/15](#)]



[Facebook, Ron DeSantis, [11/16/15](#)]

**January 2017: DeSantis Stated That The U.S. Needed Time To Develop “Adequate Vetting... Especially When Foreigners Seek To Come To The United States From Nations That Sponsor Terrorism Or Are Hotbeds Of Islamic Radicalism.”** According to a Facebook post from Ron DeSantis, “Defending the American people against the threat of radical Islamic terrorism is a central responsibility of the federal government and it is clear that our national policies need to be reformed to better discharge this duty. Recently, we have seen terrorist attacks perpetrated by refugees from Somalia (at Ohio State and in St. Cloud, MN, respectively) and witnessed the conviction of an Iraqi refugee, Omar Faraj Saeed Al Hardan, for attempting to bomb shopping malls in Houston, TX. It is incumbent upon the federal government to undertake adequate vetting so that those who seek to do Americans harm are not permitted to enter the United States, especially when foreigners seek to come to the United States from nations that sponsor terrorism or are hotbeds of Islamic radicalism. President Trump is right to be concerned about this and I hope that, during the 90 day period outlined in the President’s executive order, the administration develops policies that will better protect the American people from this potent threat.” [Facebook, Governor Ron DeSantis, [1/30/17](#)]

- **DeSantis Pointed To “Terrorist Attacks Perpetrated By Refugees From Somalia” And An Attempted Attack By An Iraqi Refugee As Evidence That “President Trump Is Right To Be Concerned” About Refugees From “Nations That Sponsor Terrorism Or Are Hotbeds Of Islamic Radicalism.”** According to a Facebook post from Ron DeSantis, “Defending the American people against the threat of radical Islamic terrorism is a central responsibility of the federal government and it is clear that our national policies need to be reformed to better discharge this duty. Recently, we have seen terrorist attacks perpetrated by refugees from Somalia (at Ohio State and in St. Cloud, MN, respectively) and witnessed the conviction of an Iraqi refugee, Omar Faraj Saeed Al Hardan, for attempting to bomb shopping malls in Houston, TX. It is incumbent upon the federal government to undertake adequate vetting so that those who seek to do Americans harm are not permitted to enter the United States, especially when foreigners seek to come to the United States from nations that sponsor terrorism or are hotbeds of Islamic radicalism. President Trump is right to be concerned about this and I hope that, during the 90 day period outlined in the President’s executive order, the administration develops policies that will better protect the American people from this potent threat.” [Facebook, Governor Ron DeSantis, [1/30/17](#)]



[Facebook, Governor Ron DeSantis, [1/30/17](#)]

**November 2015: DeSantis Referred To “Obama’s Risky Policy Of Taking In Syrian Refugees.”** According to a Twitter post from Ron DeSantis, “. @PatrickMurphyFL @AlanGrayson Where do you stand on Obama’s risky policy of taking in Syrian refugees? #Sayfie” [Twitter, @RonDeSantisFL, [11/16/15](#)]



[Twitter, @RonDeSantisFL, [11/16/15](#)]

**November 2015: DeSantis Tweeted, “Do You Trust President Obama To Vet The Syrian Refugees He Wants To Bring To Florida?”** According to a Twitter post from Ron DeSantis, “Do you trust President Obama to vet the Syrian refugees he wants to bring to Florida? <http://bit.ly/1SqjyV>” [Twitter, @RonDeSantisFL, [11/21/15](#)]



[Twitter, @RonDeSantisFL, [11/21/15](#)]



**December 2015: DeSantis Tweeted, “Stop ISIS From Exploiting Our Refugee Program And Become A Citizen Co-Sponsor Today!”** According to a Twitter post from Ron DeSantis, “Stop ISIS from exploiting our refugee program and become a citizen co-sponsor today! #Sayfie <http://bit.ly/1NO05Cv>” [Twitter, @RonDeSantisFL, [12/5/15](https://twitter.com/RonDeSantisFL/status/674111111111111111)]



[Twitter, @RonDeSantisFL, [12/5/15](https://twitter.com/RonDeSantisFL/status/674111111111111111)]

**December 2015: DeSantis Called On Patrick Murphy And Alan Grayson To “Help Block Dangerous Refugees From Coming To The US!”** According to a Twitter post from Ron DeSantis, “. @PatrickMurphyFL @AlanGrayson help block dangerous refugees from coming to the US! #Sayfie <http://bit.ly/1LYVaqQ>” [Twitter, @RonDeSantisFL, [12/7/15](https://twitter.com/RonDeSantisFL/status/674111111111111111)]



[Twitter, @RonDeSantisFL, [12/7/15](https://twitter.com/RonDeSantisFL/status/674111111111111111)]

**February 2016: DeSantis Tweeted, “Without A Proper Vetting Process, We Should Not Allow Any Syrian Refugees Into The US.”** According to a Twitter post from Ron DeSantis, “Without a proper vetting process, we should not allow any Syrian refugees into the US. Sign here if you agree: <http://desantis2016.com/landing/keep-america-safe/>” [Twitter, @RonDeSantisFL, [2/8/16](https://twitter.com/RonDeSantisFL/status/698111111111111111)]



[Twitter, @RonDeSantisFL, [2/8/16](#)]

**March 2016: DeSantis Tweeted, “To Keep Americans Safe, I Introduced A Bill To Prevent Terrorists From Infiltrating Our Refugee Program.”** According to a Twitter post from Ron DeSantis, “To keep Americans safe, I introduced a bill to prevent terrorists from infiltrating our refugee program: <http://desantis2016.com/bring-belgium-terrorists-to-justice-and-protect-americans-against-terror-infiltration/> #sayfie” [Twitter, @RonDeSantisFL, [3/23/16](#)]



[Twitter, @RonDeSantisFL, [3/23/16](#)]

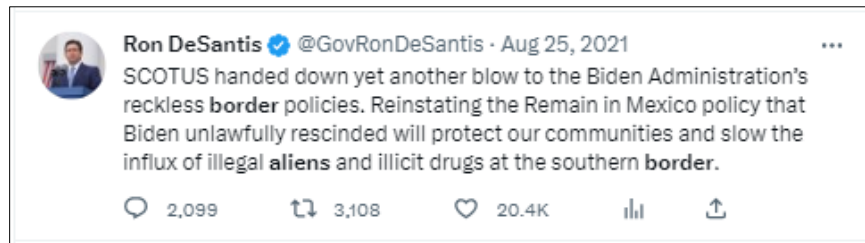
**March 2016: DeSantis Tweeted That HR4143 “Would Strengthen Our Nation, & Prevent Terrorists From Infiltrating Our Refugee Program.”** According to a Twitter post from Ron DeSantis, “#HR4143 would strengthen our nation, & prevent terrorists from infiltrating our refugee program. <http://freebeacon.com/national-security/rise-in-u-s-terror-plots-tied-to-unprecedented-spike-in-immigration/> #sayfie #flapol” [Twitter, @RonDeSantisFL, [3/24/16](#)]



[Twitter, @RonDeSantisFL, [3/24/16](#)]

## ***“Remain In Mexico”***

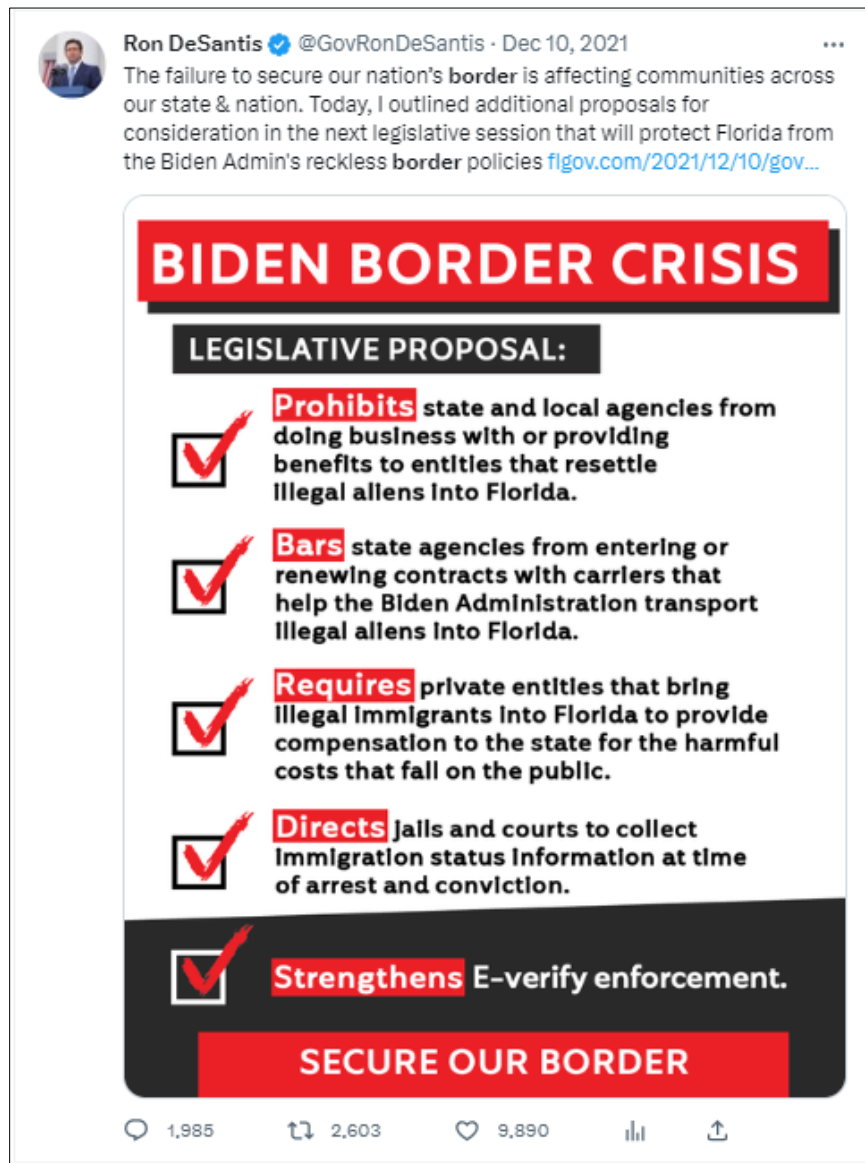
**August 2021: DeSantis Tweeted, “Reinstating The Remain In Mexico Policy That Biden Unlawfully Rescinded Will Protect Our Communities And Slow The Influx Of Illegal Aliens And Illicit Drugs At The Southern Border.”** According to a Twitter post from Ron DeSantis, “SCOTUS handed down yet another blow to the Biden Administration’s reckless border policies. Reinstating the Remain in Mexico policy that Biden unlawfully rescinded will protect our communities and slow the influx of illegal aliens and illicit drugs at the southern border.” [Twitter, @GovRonDeSantis, [8/25/21](#)]



[Twitter, @GovRonDeSantis, [8/25/21](#)]

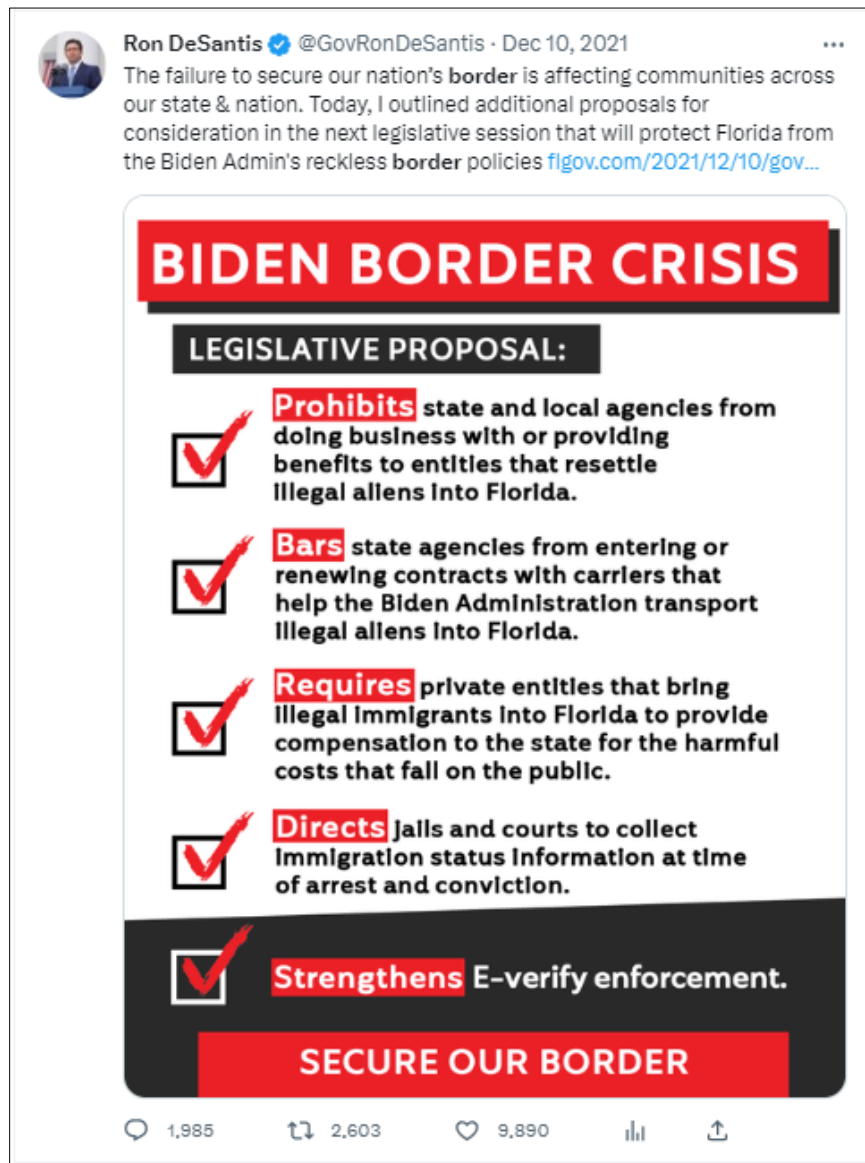
## ***Resettling Immigrants In Florida***

**December 2021: DeSantis Shared An Image Explaining His Proposed Florida Immigration Policies, Including One That “Prohibits State And Local Agencies From Doing Business With Or Providing Benefits To Entities That Resettle Illegal Aliens Into Florida.”** According to a Twitter post from Ron DeSantis, “The failure to secure our nation’s border is affecting communities across our state & nation. Today, I outlined additional proposals for consideration in the next legislative session that will protect Florida from the Biden Admin’s reckless border policies <https://flgov.com/2021/12/10/governor-ron-desantis-announces-proposals-to-stop-the-flow-of-illegal-aliens-and-protect-floridians-from-the-ongoing-biden-border-crisis/>” [Twitter, @GovRonDeSantis, [12/10/21](#)]



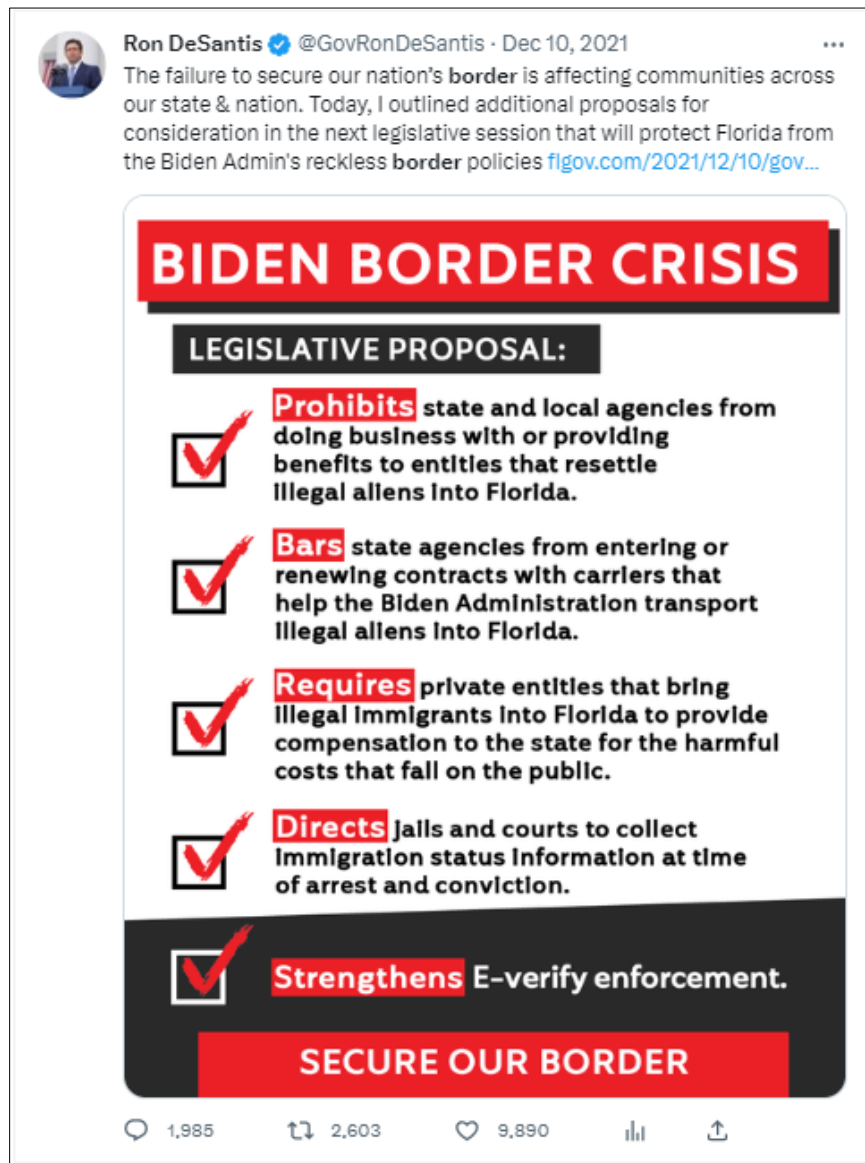
[Twitter, @GovRonDeSantis, [12/10/21](#)]

**December 2021: DeSantis Shared An Image Explaining His Proposed Florida Immigration Policies, Including One That “Bars State Agencies From Entering Or Renewing Contracts With Carriers That Help The Biden Administration Transport Illegal Aliens Into Florida.”** According to a Twitter post from Ron DeSantis, “The failure to secure our nation’s border is affecting communities across our state & nation. Today, I outlined additional proposals for consideration in the next legislative session that will protect Florida from the Biden Admin’s reckless border policies <https://flgov.com/2021/12/10/governor-ron-desantis-announces-proposals-to-stop-the-flow-of-illegal-aliens-and-protect-floridians-from-the-ongoing-biden-border-crisis/>” [Twitter, @GovRonDeSantis, [12/10/21](#)]



[Twitter, @GovRonDeSantis, [12/10/21](#)]

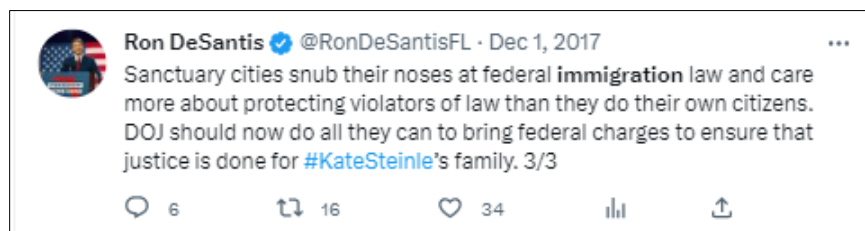
**December 2021: DeSantis Shared An Image Explaining His Proposed Florida Immigration Policies, Including One That “Requires Private Entities That Bring Illegal Immigrants Into Florida To Provide Compensation To The State For The Harmful Costs That Fall On The Public.”** According to a Twitter post from Ron DeSantis, “The failure to secure our nation’s border is affecting communities across our state & nation. Today, I outlined additional proposals for consideration in the next legislative session that will protect Florida from the Biden Admin’s reckless border policies <https://flgov.com/2021/12/10/governor-ron-desantis-announces-proposals-to-stop-the-flow-of-illegal-aliens-and-protect-floridians-from-the-ongoing-biden-border-crisis/>” [Twitter, @GovRonDeSantis, [12/10/21](#)]



[Twitter, @GovRonDeSantis, [12/10/21](https://twitter.com/GovRonDeSantis/status/1414111111)]

## Sanctuary Cities

**December 2017: DeSantis Tweeted, “Sanctuary Cities Snub Their Noses At Federal Immigration Law And Care More About Protecting Violators Of Law Than They Do Their Own Citizens.”** According to a Twitter post from Ron DeSantis, “Sanctuary cities snub their noses at federal immigration law and care more about protecting violators of law than they do their own citizens. DOJ should now do all they can to bring federal charges to ensure that justice is done for #KateSteinle’s family. 3/3” [Twitter, @RonDeSantisFL, [12/1/17](https://twitter.com/RonDeSantisFL/status/933333333)]



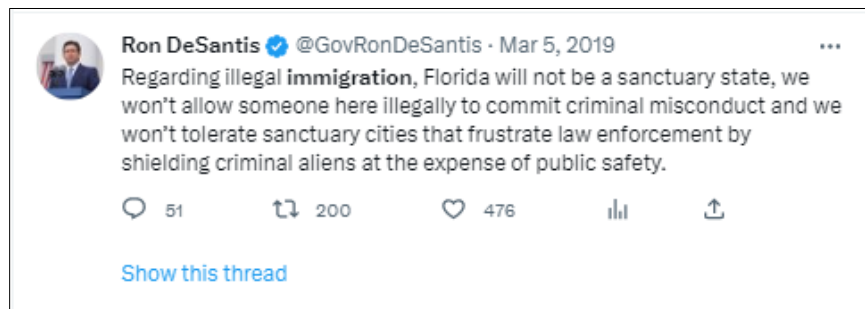
[Twitter, @RonDeSantisFL, [12/1/17](#)]

**August 2018: DeSantis Tweeted, “We Can Fight Illegal Immigration Here In Florida By Enacting E-Verify And Stopping Sanctuary Cities!”** According to a Twitter post from Ron DeSantis, “We can fight illegal immigration here in Florida by enacting E-Verify and stopping sanctuary cities!” [Twitter, @RonDeSantisFL, [8/1/18](#)]



[Twitter, @RonDeSantisFL, [8/1/18](#)]

**March 2019: DeSantis Tweeted, “Florida Will Not Be A Sanctuary State, We Won’t Allow Someone Here Illegally To Commit Criminal Misconduct And We Won’t Tolerate Sanctuary Cities That Frustrate Law Enforcement By Shielding Criminal Aliens At The Expense Of Public Safety.”** According to a Twitter post from Ron DeSantis, “Regarding illegal immigration, Florida will not be a sanctuary state, we won’t allow someone here illegally to commit criminal misconduct and we won’t tolerate sanctuary cities that frustrate law enforcement by shielding criminal aliens at the expense of public safety.” [Twitter, @GovRonDeSantis, [3/5/19](#)]

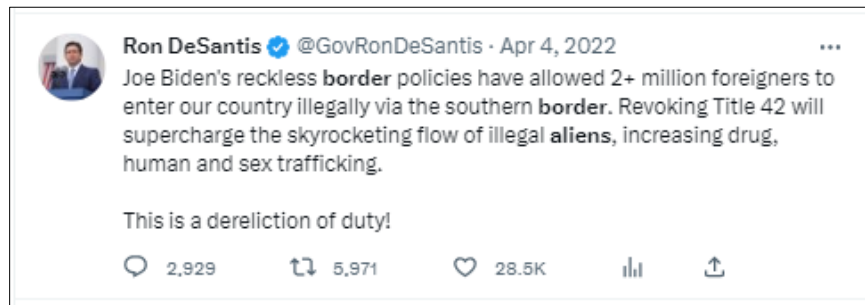


[Twitter, @GovRonDeSantis, [3/5/19](#)]

## ***Title 42***

**April 2022: DeSantis Called Biden’s Border Policies “Reckless” And “A Dereliction Of Duty,” Tweeting, “Revoking Title 42 Will Supercharge The Skyrocketing Flow Of Illegal Aliens, Increasing Drug, Human And Sex Trafficking.”** According to a Twitter post from Ron DeSantis, “Joe Biden’s reckless border policies have allowed 2+ million foreigners to enter our country illegally via the southern border. Revoking Title 42 will

supercharge the skyrocketing flow of illegal aliens, increasing drug, human and sex trafficking. This is a dereliction of duty!” [Twitter, @GovRonDeSantis, [4/4/22](#)]



[Twitter, @GovRonDeSantis, [4/4/22](#)]

### ***Transporting Immigrants To “Sanctuary” Jurisdictions***

**September 2022: DeSantis Stated That Florida Was “Not A Sanctuary State, And We Will Gladly Facilitate The Transport Of Illegal Immigrants To Sanctuary Jurisdictions.”** According to a Twitter post from Ron DeSantis, “In Florida, we take what is happening at the southern border seriously. We are not a sanctuary state, and we will gladly facilitate the transport of illegal immigrants to sanctuary jurisdictions.” [Twitter, @GovRonDeSantis, [9/15/22](#)]



[Twitter, @GovRonDeSantis, [9/15/22](#)]

**February 2023: DeSantis Celebrated Signing “Legislation To Continue The Program Of Transporting Illegal Aliens To Sanctuary Jurisdictions.”** According to a Twitter post from Ron DeSantis, “Florida is using all tools available to protect our citizens from Biden’s open border policies. I am glad to have signed legislation to continue the program of transporting illegal aliens to sanctuary jurisdictions. I thank the legislature for maintaining this valuable tool.” [Twitter, @GovRonDeSantis, [2/15/23](#)]





[Twitter, @GovRonDeSantis, [2/15/23](#)]

## Press Releases

**Researcher’s Note:** To review DeSantis’s press releases from his tenure as a congressman, we conducted the following Nexis search: [“Rep. Ron DeSantis: <http://desantis.house.gov/> Delivered by Newstex” and (immigrat! OR refug! OR illegal! OR border! OR dreamer! OR alien! OR migrant OR immigrant OR undocumented OR DACA OR “Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals”)] To review press releases from press releases from DeSantis’s tenure as governor, we conducted a series of site-specific Google searches for the years 2019 through the present: [site:<https://www.flgov.com/2019> (“immigrant” OR “immigrants” OR “immigration” OR “refugee” OR “refugees” OR “border” OR “dreamer” OR “alien” OR “aliens” OR “migrant” OR “migrants” OR “undocumented” OR “DACA” OR “deferred action” OR “illegals”)]

## Budgets

**December 2021: DeSantis Released His “Freedom First Budget” Proposal For FY 2022-2023, Which Included \$8 Million To Implement A Program To “Protect Against Harms From Illegal Immigration” And \$2.4 Million In E-Verify Enforcement.** According to a press release from the Office of the Governor of Florida, “Today, Governor Ron DeSantis released his Freedom First Budget proposal with recommendations for fiscal year 2022-2023. The Freedom First Budget totals \$99.7 billion, with total reserves exceeding \$15 billion. [...] The Freedom First Budget also includes \$8 million to implement a program to protect against harms from illegal immigration, and \$2.4 million in E-Verify enforcement.” [Office of the Governor of Florida, Press Release, [12/9/21](#)]

**February 2023: In His Budget Proposal For FY 2023-2024, DeSantis Recommended \$12 Million To Deal With Illegal Immigration By Facilitating The Transport Of Unauthorized Aliens From Any Point Of Origin In The U.S. To Any Jurisdiction And \$98 Million To Grow The Florida State Guard.** According to a press release from the Office of the Governor of Florida, “Today, Governor Ron DeSantis announced his Framework for

Freedom Budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2023–2024. [...] \$12 million is recommended to continue implementation of the Governor’s initiative to protect Floridians against the harms resulting from illegal immigration by facilitating the transport of unauthorized aliens from any point of origin in the U.S. to any jurisdiction. [...] To ensure Florida remains fully fortified to respond to not only natural disasters but also to protect its people and borders from illegal aliens and civil unrest, it is now more important than ever to augment our Florida National Guard with the support of the Florida State Guard. The Framework for Freedom Budget provides \$98 million to grow the Florida State Guard, a civilian volunteer force, to aid during emergencies.” [Office of the Governor of Florida, Press Release, [2/1/23](#)]

## ***Central American Minors Program***

**January 2022: Florida Joined Other States, Including Texas, Indiana, Missouri, Montana, Oklahoma, Arkansas And Alaska, In Filing Suit Against The Biden Administration For Reinstating The Central America Minors Program.** According to a press release from the Office of the Governor of Florida, “Today, Florida joined states from across the nation, including Texas, Indiana, Missouri, Montana, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Alaska in filing suit against the Biden Administration for reinstating the Central America Minors (CAM) Program. This program is another example of the Biden Administration’s utter contempt for the faithful enforcement of our nation’s immigration laws. [...] It allows foreign nationals from the Northern Triangle – El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras – many of whom are already in the country illegally, to bring their children (including adult children up to the age of 21) and other family members into the country, even if they do not qualify for asylum or refugee status. The Federal Government’s parole authority is only meant to be exercised on a case-by-case basis for urgent humanitarian reasons and significant public benefit. Granting broad based parole without individualized findings is a blatant violation of federal immigration law. This illegal program should be terminated immediately.” [Office of the Governor of Florida, Press Release, [1/28/22](#)]

## ***Child Tax Credit***

**January 2014: DeSantis Proposed Requiring A Social Security Number For Child Tax Credits, Stating, “This Loophole Allows Individuals, Some Of Whom Are In The Country Illegally, To Fraudulently Claim Child Tax Credits.”** According to a press release from Rep. Ron DeSantis, “The Ryan-Murray budget deal contained a provision to reduce the cost-of-living increases for military pensions for retired military personnel under the age of 62. Military retirees are essentially the only group affected by the budget; the changes to federal civilian retirement programs only applied to federal civilian employees not yet hired. [...] There are much better ways to save money. I am cosponsoring H.R. 3788, which will repeal the changes to military retirement programs and replace those changes with a requirement that taxpayers provide a valid Social Security number in order to be eligible for tax refunds under the child tax credit. This loophole allows individuals, some of whom are in the country illegally, to fraudulently claim child tax credits. This reform will save roughly \$7 billion over 10 years, which is more than the changes to military pensions are forecasted to save over the same time. Shouldn’t we take this sensible step to stop fraud and abuse in the federal government before fiddling with the pensions of military retirees?” [Rep. Ron DeSantis, Press Release, 1/8/14]

- **DeSantis Linked Closing This “Loophole” To Making Room In The Budget To Reverse Reductions In Cost-Of-Living Adjustments To Military Pensions.** According to a press release from Rep. Ron DeSantis, “The Ryan-Murray budget deal contained a provision to reduce the cost-of-living increases for military pensions for retired military personnel under the age of 62. Military retirees are essentially the only group affected by the budget; the changes to federal civilian retirement programs only applied to federal civilian employees not yet hired. [...] There are much better ways to save money. I am cosponsoring H.R. 3788, which will repeal the changes to military retirement programs and replace those changes with a requirement that taxpayers provide a valid Social Security number in order to be eligible for tax refunds under the child tax credit. This loophole allows individuals, some of whom are in the country illegally, to fraudulently claim child tax credits. This reform will save roughly \$7 billion over 10 years, which is more than the changes to military pensions are forecasted to save over the same time. Shouldn’t we take this sensible step to stop fraud and abuse in the federal government before fiddling with the pensions of military retirees?” [Rep. Ron DeSantis, Press Release, 1/8/14]

## ***Clashes With Biden Administration***

**April 2021: DeSantis Called On The Federal Government To Ensure The Transfer Of “Criminal Aliens” To ICE Facilities Upon Completion Of Their State Prison Terms And Remove Them If They Were Found To Be In The U.S. Illegally.** According to a press release from the Office of the Governor of Florida, “Today, Governor DeSantis demanded that the Biden Administration rescind its recent executive action allowing criminal aliens to go free. [...] The Governor called on the federal government to return to the rule of law and ensure the transfer of criminal aliens to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) facilities upon completion of their state prison terms. The Governor insisted that ICE continue to detain these criminals, and if found to be in this country illegally, remove them.” [Office of the Governor of Florida, Press Release, [4/1/21](#)]

**April 2021: DeSantis Directed The Florida Department Of Corrections (FDC) Secretary To Pursue All Legal Means Available To Transfer All Florida Inmates With Detainer Agreements To ICE Custody Upon Completion Of Their Florida Prison Terms.** According to a press release from the Office of the Governor of Florida, “Today, to combat the inaction of the federal government, the Governor sent a letter to FDC Secretary Mark Inch directing him to: Identify all Florida inmates with detainer agreements and pursue all legal means available to transfer them to ICE custody upon completion of their Florida prison terms. [...] Provide monthly updates to FDLE and the Office of the Governor on all undocumented inmates released at the direction of ICE. Notify local law enforcement whenever undocumented individuals may be released in their communities. [...] Work with Florida Sheriffs to facilitate use of the national Law Enforcement Notification System (LENS), which provides local law enforcement with information on criminal aliens released from ICE custody in Florida. Submit formal requests to ICE under 8 U.S.C. 1373© to confirm the citizenship status of all inmates where citizenship status is inconclusive.” [Office of the Governor of Florida, Press Release, [4/1/21](#)]

- **DeSantis Directed The FDC Secretary To Provide Monthly Updates To The Governor’s Office On All Undocumented Inmates Released At The Direction Of ICE And Notify Law Enforcement Whenever Undocumented Individuals Were Released In Their Communities.** According to a press release from the Office of the Governor of Florida, “Today, to combat the inaction of the federal government, the Governor sent a letter to FDC Secretary Mark Inch directing him to: Identify all Florida inmates with detainer agreements and pursue all legal means available to transfer them to ICE custody upon completion of their Florida prison terms. [...] Provide monthly updates to FDLE and the Office of the Governor on all undocumented inmates released at the direction of ICE. Notify local law enforcement whenever undocumented individuals may be released in their communities. [...] Work with Florida Sheriffs to facilitate use of the national Law Enforcement Notification System (LENS), which provides local law enforcement with information on criminal aliens released from ICE custody in Florida. Submit formal requests to ICE under 8 U.S.C. 1373© to confirm the citizenship status of all inmates where citizenship status is inconclusive.” [Office of the Governor of Florida, Press Release, [4/1/21](#)]
- **DeSantis Directed The FDC Secretary To Work With Florida Sheriffs To Facilitate The Use Of The National Law Enforcement Notification System, Which Provided Local Law Enforcement With Information On Criminal Aliens Released From ICE Custody In Florida.** According to a press release from the Office of the Governor of Florida, “Today, to combat the inaction of the federal government, the Governor sent a letter to FDC Secretary Mark Inch directing him to: Identify all Florida inmates with detainer agreements and pursue all legal means available to transfer them to ICE custody upon completion of their Florida prison terms. [...] Provide monthly updates to FDLE and the Office of the Governor on all undocumented inmates released at the direction of ICE. Notify local law enforcement whenever undocumented individuals may be released in their communities. [...] Work with Florida Sheriffs to facilitate use of the national Law Enforcement Notification System (LENS), which provides local law enforcement with information on criminal aliens released from ICE custody in Florida. Submit formal requests to ICE under 8 U.S.C. 1373© to confirm the citizenship status of all inmates where citizenship status is inconclusive.” [Office of the Governor of Florida, Press Release, [4/1/21](#)]

- **DeSantis Directed The FDC Secretary To Submit Formal Requests To ICE To Confirm The Citizenship Status Of All Inmates Where Citizenship Status Was Inconclusive.** According to a press release from the Office of the Governor of Florida, “Today, to combat the inaction of the federal government, the Governor sent a letter to FDC Secretary Mark Inch directing him to: [...] Provide monthly updates to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) and the Office of the Governor on all inmates who have detainers lifted by ICE during the ninety days prior to release date. Provide monthly updates to FDLE and the Office of the Governor on all undocumented inmates released at the direction of ICE. Notify local law enforcement whenever undocumented individuals may be released in their communities. Work with FDLE to cross-check, on a weekly basis, any released criminal aliens against Florida law enforcement’s statewide reports of new crimes. Work with Florida Sheriffs to facilitate use of the national Law Enforcement Notification System (LENS), which provides local law enforcement with information on criminal aliens released from ICE custody in Florida. Submit formal requests to ICE under 8 U.S.C. 1373© to confirm the citizenship status of all inmates where citizenship status is inconclusive.” [Office of the Governor of Florida, Press Release, [4/1/21](#)]

**August 2021: In A Letter To Secretary Of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas, DeSantis Requested That The DHS Provide The Personal Information, Including Names, Criminal Records And COVID-19 Test Results, Of “Illegal Aliens” Who Had Resettled In Florida.** According to a press release from the Office of the Governor of Florida, “In a letter sent to the U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas, Governor DeSantis calls attention to the administration’s disastrous immigration policies and requests an end to the mass resettlement of illegal aliens into the United States. [...] The letter also requests that DHS provides information to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) no later than September 30, 2021, regarding: the number of illegal aliens resettled in Florida; the names and destination of the illegal aliens; the number of illegal aliens resettled in Florida who were tested for COVID-19 and the results of such tests; the identities of illegal aliens who have criminal records and who have previously entered the U.S. illegally; and the number and identity of illegal aliens resettled in Florida who have failed to appear for their removal proceedings.” [Office of the Governor of Florida, Press Release, [8/26/21](#)]

**September 2021: DeSantis And Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody Announced That Florida Filed A Lawsuit Against The Biden Administration Challenging Its “Catch And Release” Policy.** According to a press release from the Office of the Governor of Florida, “Today, Governor DeSantis was joined by Attorney General Ashley Moody to announce three significant actions Florida is taking to address the Biden Border Crisis. First, Governor DeSantis has issued Executive Order 21-223 to prohibit all Florida agencies under the purview of the Governor from facilitating illegal immigration into Florida, unless otherwise required by federal or state law, and require the collection of information from state officials on the scope and costs of illegal immigration in Florida. Second, Governor DeSantis announced the appointment of Larry Keefe, former U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Florida, as Public Safety Czar to ensure the actions directed by the executive order are carried out. Finally, Governor DeSantis and Attorney General Moody announced that Florida has filed suit against the Biden Administration challenging its ‘catch and release’ policy.” [Office of the Governor of Florida, Press Release, [9/28/21](#)]

**February 2022: Following An Initial Suit Filed In September 2021, Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody Filed An Amended Complaint Challenging Biden’s “Catch And Release” Immigration Policy.** According to a press release from the Office of the Governor of Florida, “Today, Attorney General Ashley Moody announced Florida is taking legal action against the Biden administration for ignoring federal immigration law as the out-of-control situation at the U.S. southwest border continues. The Attorney General filed an amended complaint challenging President Joe Biden’s latest unlawful immigration policy. Instead of commencing immigration court proceedings against illegal immigrants caught at the border, the federal government is releasing them into the interior without even starting the legal process for their removal. [...] ‘The Biden administration has not only consciously refused to enforce immigration laws, but it has also developed an operation to secretly resettle illegal aliens into communities across Florida and the rest of the United States,’ said Governor Ron DeSantis. ‘[...] I am glad Attorney General Moody is continuing our fight to hold the Biden Administration accountable for its reckless disregard for immigration laws.’” [Office of the Governor of Florida, Press Release, [2/2/22](#)]

- **DeSantis: “I Am Glad Attorney General Moody Is Continuing Our Fight To Hold The Biden Administration Accountable For Its Reckless Disregard For Immigration Laws.”** According to a press release from the Office of the Governor of Florida, “Today, Attorney General Ashley Moody announced Florida is taking legal action against the Biden administration for ignoring federal immigration law as the out-of-control situation at the U.S. southwest border continues. The Attorney General filed an amended complaint challenging President Joe Biden’s latest unlawful immigration policy. Instead of commencing immigration court proceedings against illegal immigrants caught at the border, the federal government is releasing them into the interior without even starting the legal process for their removal. [...] ‘The Biden administration has not only consciously refused to enforce immigration laws, but it has also developed an operation to secretly resettle illegal aliens into communities across Florida and the rest of the United States,’ said Governor Ron DeSantis. ‘[...] I am glad Attorney General Moody is continuing our fight to hold the Biden Administration accountable for its reckless disregard for immigration laws.’” [Office of the Governor of Florida, Press Release, [2/2/22](#)]

**February 2022: DeSantis Met With Cuban Americans Who As Children Were Brought To Miami As Part Of “Operation Pedro Pan” To “Expose” The Effects Of The Biden Border Crisis On Migrant Children.**

According to a press release from the Office of the Governor of Florida, “Today, Governor Ron DeSantis, Lt. Governor Jeanette Nuñez, and Attorney General Ashley Moody met with Cuban Americans who as children were brought to Miami as part of Operation Pedro Pan and faith leaders who help human trafficking victims to bring light to the Biden administration’s failed border policies which are endangering migrant children and our nation as a whole. By its own admission, the Biden Administration has stated that they lose contact with roughly one out of every three unaccompanied alien children (UAC) coming across the southwest border. ‘Operation Pedro Pan was an organized, pre-planned program administered with visas and flight manifests to specifically rescue children from an oppressive Communist regime,’ said Governor Ron DeSantis. ‘[...] The current UAC process smuggles in illegal immigrants from many different countries with no vetting, no transparency, and no consideration for child and public safety. Today, Pedro Pans and faith leaders joined together to expose how the Biden border crisis is increasing human trafficking, increasing sex trafficking, and increasing drug trafficking.’” [Office of the Governor of Florida, Press Release, [2/7/22](#)]

**DeSantis Sued The Biden Administration Over Its “Unlawful ‘Catch And Release’ Policy.”** According to a press release from the office of Ron DeSantis, “These measures build upon Governor DeSantis’ previous actions to keep Floridians safe in the face of an unprecedentedly unsecure federal border policy, which include: Sending Florida state law enforcement officers and equipment to Texas where they apprehended thousands of illegal aliens and aided in hundreds of criminal arrests for felonies including human trafficking and drug smuggling; Issuing an executive order that prohibits Florida state agencies from providing support for the resettlement of illegal aliens in Florida and prohibits licensing of facilities that house unaccompanied minors; Signing legislation that prohibits government contracts with private entities that assist the Biden administration in resettling illegal immigrants into Florida; Signing legislation that requires all public employers, contractors, and subcontractors attempting to enter into contracts with public employers to use E-Verify to determine employment eligibility; Suing the Biden administration over its unlawful ‘catch and release’ policy and speaking out when the administration announced plans to end Title 42, ludicrously claiming that pandemic restrictions and ‘emergency measures’ were still required domestically while attempting to do away with the pandemic measures at the border;” [Office of Ron DeSantis, Press Release, [2/23/23](#)]

## **Crime**

**February 2015: DeSantis Called For An Investigation Following Reports That “Of Approximately 36,000 Convicted Criminals Released By The Department Of Homeland Security (DHS) In 2013, More Than 1,000 Of Them Have Already Been Convicted Of New Crimes.”** According to a press release from Rep. Ron DeSantis, “In light of reports[1] showing that of approximately 36,000 convicted criminals released by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in 2013, more than 1,000 of them have already been convicted of new crimes, Rep. Ron DeSantis (FL-06), chairman of the House Oversight Subcommittee on National Security, is calling for an investigation.” [Rep. Ron DeSantis, Press Release, 2/5/15]

## ***DCF Licenses***

**December 2021: DeSantis Announced That The Department Of Children And Families (DCF) Published An Emergency Rule To Prohibit The Issuance Or Renewal Of Any License That Provided Services To Unaccompanied “Alien” Children Who Sought To Be Resettled In Florida.** According to a press release from the Office of the Governor of Florida, “Governor DeSantis also announced that DCF published an emergency rule today that prohibits the issuance or renewal of any license to provide services to Unaccompanied Alien Children (UAC) who seek to be resettled in Florida unless resettlement is governed by a cooperative agreement between the State of Florida and the U.S. Government. For UAC already present in the state, the emergency rule requires licensees to conduct regular welfare checks.” [Office of the Governor of Florida, Press Release, [12/10/21](#)]

**February 2022: The Florida Department Of Children And Families Filed A Proposed Permanent Rule That Prohibited The Issuance Or Renewal Of Licenses For Facilities That Housed Unaccompanied Alien Children, Unless There Was A Cooperative Agreement Between Florida And The Federal Government.** According to a press release from the Office of the Governor of Florida, “Today, the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) filed a proposed permanent rule that prohibits the issuance or renewal of licenses for facilities or organizations that house Unaccompanied Alien Children (UAC) whom the Federal Government is resettling across the United States, including Florida, unless there is a cooperative agreement between the State of Florida and the Federal Government.” [Office of the Governor of Florida, Press Release, [2/10/22](#)]

## ***Deferred Action***

**November 2014: DeSantis Criticized “President Barack Obama’s Announced Plans To Unilaterally Expand Deferred Action For Illegal Immigrants,” Calling The Program “The President’s Illegal Executive Amnesty.”** According to a press release from Rep. Ron DeSantis, “St. Augustine, FL - Rep. Ron DeSantis (FL-06) issued the following statement in response to President Barack Obama’s announced plans to unilaterally expand deferred action for illegal immigrants: ‘The President cannot change the law by fiat. Obama’s edict usurps the legislative power of Congress, damages our constitutional system, and creates a precedent that will likely lead to the further erosion of our liberty. [...] The President’s illegal executive amnesty is bigger than the 1986 amnesty which was actually passed by Congress and signed by President Reagan. Obama’s arrogance and contempt for the people are breathtaking. And make no mistake, by issuing work permits to illegal immigrants, the President’s edict will have serious policy consequences: it will fuel more illegal immigration, thereby exacerbating the problem, will further disadvantage legal immigrants and U.S. citizens seeking to utilize our immigration system in accordance with the laws of our land, and will put a downward pressure on the wages of American blue collar workers.’” [Rep. Ron DeSantis, Press Release, 11/21/14]

- **DeSantis Issued A Press Release Claiming That President Obama’s Executive Order Allowing Undocumented Immigrants To Get Work Permits Would “Fuel More Illegal Immigration” And “Further Disadvantage” Immigrants Using Legal Channels.** According to a press release from Rep. Ron DeSantis, “St. Augustine, FL - Rep. Ron DeSantis (FL-06) issued the following statement in response to President Barack Obama’s announced plans to unilaterally expand deferred action for illegal immigrants: ‘The President cannot change the law by fiat. Obama’s edict usurps the legislative power of Congress, damages our constitutional system, and creates a precedent that will likely lead to the further erosion of our liberty. [...] The President’s illegal executive amnesty is bigger than the 1986 amnesty which was actually passed by Congress and signed by President Reagan. Obama’s arrogance and contempt for the people are breathtaking. And make no mistake, by issuing work permits to illegal immigrants, the President’s edict will have serious policy consequences: it will fuel more illegal immigration, thereby exacerbating the problem, will further disadvantage legal immigrants and U.S. citizens seeking to utilize our immigration system in accordance with the laws of our land, and will put a downward pressure on the wages of American blue collar workers.’” [Rep. Ron DeSantis, Press Release, 11/21/14]
- **DeSantis Also Claimed That Allowing Undocumented Immigrants To Get Work Permits Would “Put A Downward Pressure On The Wages Of American Blue Collar Workers.”** According to a press release from Rep. Ron DeSantis, “St. Augustine, FL - Rep. Ron DeSantis (FL-06) issued the following statement in response

to President Barack Obama’s announced plans to unilaterally expand deferred action for illegal immigrants: ‘The President cannot change the law by fiat. Obama’s edict usurps the legislative power of Congress, damages our constitutional system, and creates a precedent that will likely lead to the further erosion of our liberty. [...] The President’s illegal executive amnesty is bigger than the 1986 amnesty which was actually passed by Congress and signed by President Reagan. Obama’s arrogance and contempt for the people are breathtaking. And make no mistake, by issuing work permits to illegal immigrants, the President’s edict will have serious policy consequences: it will fuel more illegal immigration, thereby exacerbating the problem, will further disadvantage legal immigrants and U.S. citizens seeking to utilize our immigration system in accordance with the laws of our land, and will put a downward pressure on the wages of American blue collar workers.’” [Rep. Ron DeSantis, Press Release, 11/21/14]

- **DeSantis Discussed President Obama’s Expansion Of Deferred Action, Stating, “Obama’s Arrogance And Contempt For The People Are Breathtaking.”** According to a press release from Rep. Ron DeSantis, “St. Augustine, FL - Rep. Ron DeSantis (FL-06) issued the following statement in response to President Barack Obama’s announced plans to unilaterally expand deferred action for illegal immigrants: ‘The President cannot change the law by fiat. Obama’s edict usurps the legislative power of Congress, damages our constitutional system, and creates a precedent that will likely lead to the further erosion of our liberty. [...] The President’s illegal executive amnesty is bigger than the 1986 amnesty which was actually passed by Congress and signed by President Reagan. Obama’s arrogance and contempt for the people are breathtaking. And make no mistake, by issuing work permits to illegal immigrants, the President’s edict will have serious policy consequences: it will fuel more illegal immigration, thereby exacerbating the problem, will further disadvantage legal immigrants and U.S. citizens seeking to utilize our immigration system in accordance with the laws of our land, and will put a downward pressure on the wages of American blue collar workers.’” [Rep. Ron DeSantis, Press Release, 11/21/14]

## ***E-Verify***

**November 2019 – DeSantis: “... I Am Calling On The Florida Legislature To Pass And Send To My Desk Common Sense E-Verify Legislation To Ensure A Safe And Legal Labor Market In Florida... It’s About Fairness For Lawful Immigrants And Native-Born Workers, And It’s About Public Safety.”** According to a press release from the Office of the Governor of Florida, “Today, Governor Ron DeSantis called on the Florida Legislature to pass an E-Verify requirement during the 2020 Legislative Session. E-Verify is a United States Department of Homeland Security Internet-based system that allows businesses to determine the eligibility of their employees, both U.S. or foreign citizens, to work in the United States. [...] ‘Today, I am calling on the Florida Legislature to pass and send to my desk common sense E-Verify legislation to ensure a safe and legal labor market in Florida,’ said Governor DeSantis. ‘The reason this is so timely is twofold – it’s about fairness for lawful immigrants and native-born workers, and it’s about public safety. I trust the Legislature will act swiftly in the 2020 Legislative Session and pass an E-Verify requirement for employers in this state to protect Florida workers, preserve the rule of law, and make our communities safer.’” [Office of the Governor of Florida, Press Release, [11/25/19](#)]

**DeSantis Signed Legislation “That Requires All Public Employers, Contractors, And Subcontractors Attempting To Enter Into Contracts With Public Employers To Use E-Verify To Determine Employment Eligibility.”** According to a press release from the Office of the Governor of Florida, “These measures build upon Governor DeSantis’ previous actions to keep Floridians safe in the face of an unprecedentedly unsecure federal border policy, which include: Sending Florida state law enforcement officers and equipment to Texas where they apprehended thousands of illegal aliens and aided in hundreds of criminal arrests for felonies including human trafficking and drug smuggling; Issuing an executive order that prohibits Florida state agencies from providing support for the resettlement of illegal aliens in Florida and prohibits licensing of facilities that house unaccompanied minors; Signing legislation that prohibits government contracts with private entities that assist the Biden administration in resettling illegal immigrants into Florida; Signing legislation that requires all public employers, contractors, and subcontractors attempting to enter into contracts with public employers to use E-Verify to determine employment eligibility;” [Office of the Governor of Florida, Press Release, [2/23/23](#)]

## ***Executive Order 21-223***

**September 2021: DeSantis Issued Executive Order 21-223 To Prohibit All Florida Agencies Under The Purview Of The Governor From Facilitating Illegal Immigration Into Florida And Require The Collection Of Information From State Officials On The Scope And Costs Of Illegal Immigration.** According to a press release from the Office of the Governor of Florida, “Today, Governor DeSantis was joined by Attorney General Ashley Moody to announce three significant actions Florida is taking to address the Biden Border Crisis. First, Governor DeSantis has issued Executive Order 21-223 to prohibit all Florida agencies under the purview of the Governor from facilitating illegal immigration into Florida, unless otherwise required by federal or state law, and require the collection of information from state officials on the scope and costs of illegal immigration in Florida. Second, Governor DeSantis announced the appointment of Larry Keefe, former U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Florida, as Public Safety Czar to ensure the actions directed by the executive order are carried out. Finally, Governor DeSantis and Attorney General Moody announced that Florida has filed suit against the Biden Administration challenging its ‘catch and release’ policy.” [Office of the Governor of Florida, Press Release, [9/28/21](#)]

- **DeSantis Announced The Appointment Of Larry Keefe, Former U.S. Attorney For The Northern District Of Florida, As Public Safety Czar To Oversee The Implementation Of Executive Order 21-223.** According to a press release from the Office of the Governor of Florida, “Today, Governor DeSantis was joined by Attorney General Ashley Moody to announce three significant actions Florida is taking to address the Biden Border Crisis. First, Governor DeSantis has issued Executive Order 21-223 to prohibit all Florida agencies under the purview of the Governor from facilitating illegal immigration into Florida, unless otherwise required by federal or state law, and require the collection of information from state officials on the scope and costs of illegal immigration in Florida. Second, Governor DeSantis announced the appointment of Larry Keefe, former U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Florida, as Public Safety Czar to ensure the actions directed by the executive order are carried out. Finally, Governor DeSantis and Attorney General Moody announced that Florida has filed suit against the Biden Administration challenging its ‘catch and release’ policy.” [Office of the Governor of Florida, Press Release, [9/28/21](#)]

**DeSantis Issued An Executive Order “That Prohibits Florida State Agencies From Providing Support For The Resettlement Of Illegal Aliens In Florida And Prohibits Licensing Of Facilities That House Unaccompanied Minors.”** According to a press release from the office of Ron DeSantis, “These measures build upon Governor DeSantis’ previous actions to keep Floridians safe in the face of an unprecedentedly unsecure federal border policy, which include: Sending Florida state law enforcement officers and equipment to Texas where they apprehended thousands of illegal aliens and aided in hundreds of criminal arrests for felonies including human trafficking and drug smuggling; Issuing an executive order that prohibits Florida state agencies from providing support for the resettlement of illegal aliens in Florida and prohibits licensing of facilities that house unaccompanied minors.” [Office of Ron DeSantis, Press Release, [2/23/23](#)]

## ***February 2023 Legislation***

**February 2023: DeSantis Announced A Proposal To Increase Penalties For Human Smuggling, Strengthen Statutes For The Detention Of “Illegal Aliens,” Require Universal Use Of E-Verify, Enhance Penalties For Document Falsification And Prohibit The Issuance Of ID Cards To Those Not Lawfully In The U.S.**

According to a press release from the Office of the Governor of Florida, “Today, Governor Ron DeSantis announced an extensive legislative proposal to take action against the increasing threats posed by illegal immigration as a result of the Biden administration’s failure to secure our nation’s borders. By increasing penalties for human smuggling, strengthening statutes for the detention of illegal aliens, requiring universal use of E-Verify, enhancing penalties for document falsification, and prohibiting the issuance by local governments of ID cards to people who are not lawfully in the country, Florida will lead the way in protecting Americans from the deleterious effects of the Left’s open borders agenda.” [Office of the Governor of Florida, Press Release, [2/23/23](#)]

- **February 2023: DeSantis’s Proposed Legislation Would Invalidate All Out-Of-State Licenses To “Unauthorized Aliens” And Require Those Registering To Vote To Affirm They Are U.S. Citizens And**



**Legal Residents Of Florida.** According to a press release from the Office of the Governor of Florida, “The legislation also invalidates all out-of-state licenses to unauthorized aliens, requires those registering to vote to affirm they are United States citizens and legal residents of Florida, prevents unauthorized immigrants from being admitted to practice law, and eliminates out-of-state tuition fee waivers for undocumented immigrant students. Additionally, the proposal requires hospitals to collect data on the immigration status of patients and the costs to provide care to illegal aliens and regularly report the data to the Governor and Legislature.” [Office of the Governor of Florida, Press Release, [2/23/23](#)]

- **DeSantis’s Proposed Legislation Would Prevent “Unauthorized” Immigrants From Being Admitted To Practice Law And Eliminate Out-Of-State Tuition Fee Waivers For Undocumented Immigrant Students.** According to a press release from the Office of the Governor of Florida, “The legislation also invalidates all out-of-state licenses to unauthorized aliens, requires those registering to vote to affirm they are United States citizens and legal residents of Florida, prevents unauthorized immigrants from being admitted to practice law, and eliminates out-of-state tuition fee waivers for undocumented immigrant students. Additionally, the proposal requires hospitals to collect data on the immigration status of patients and the costs to provide care to illegal aliens and regularly report the data to the Governor and Legislature.” [Office of the Governor of Florida, Press Release, [2/23/23](#)]
- **DeSantis’s Proposed Legislation Would Require Hospitals To Collect Data On Immigration Status Of Patients And Costs To Provide Care To “Illegal Aliens” And Regularly Report The Data To The Governor.** According to a press release from the Office of the Governor of Florida, “The legislation also invalidates all out-of-state licenses to unauthorized aliens, requires those registering to vote to affirm they are United States citizens and legal residents of Florida, prevents unauthorized immigrants from being admitted to practice law, and eliminates out-of-state tuition fee waivers for undocumented immigrant students. Additionally, the proposal requires hospitals to collect data on the immigration status of patients and the costs to provide care to illegal aliens and regularly report the data to the Governor and Legislature.” [Office of the Governor of Florida, Press Release, [2/23/23](#)]

**February 2023: DeSantis Introduced A Legislative Proposal “Increasing Penalties For Human Smuggling, Strengthening Statutes For The Detention Of Illegal Aliens, Requiring Universal Use Of E-Verify, Enhancing Penalties For Document Falsification” And Prohibiting Unlawful ID Issuance.** According to a press release from the Office of the Governor of Florida, “JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Today, Governor Ron DeSantis announced an extensive legislative proposal to take action against the increasing threats posed by illegal immigration as a result of the Biden administration’s failure to secure our nation’s borders. By increasing penalties for human smuggling, strengthening statutes for the detention of illegal aliens, requiring universal use of E-Verify, enhancing penalties for document falsification, and prohibiting the issuance by local governments of ID cards to people who are not lawfully in the country, Florida will lead the way in protecting Americans from the deleterious effects of the Left’s open borders agenda. To see the full proposal, click here. To watch the full press conference, click here. ‘With this legislation, Florida is continuing to crack down on the smuggling of illegal aliens, stopping municipalities from issuing ID cards to people here illegally, and ensuring that employers are hiring American citizens or those here legally,’ said Governor Ron DeSantis. ‘Florida is a law and order state, and we won’t turn a blind eye to the dangers of Biden’s Border Crisis. We will continue to take steps to protect Floridians from reckless federal open border policies.’” [Office of the Governor of Florida, Press Release, [2/23/23](#)]

- **DeSantis: “Florida Is A Law And Order State, And We Won’t Turn A Blind Eye To The Dangers Of Biden’s Border Crisis. We Will Continue To Take Steps To Protect Floridians From Reckless Federal Open Border Policies.”** According to a press release from the Office of the Governor of Florida, “JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Today, Governor Ron DeSantis announced an extensive legislative proposal to take action against the increasing threats posed by illegal immigration as a result of the Biden administration’s failure to secure our nation’s borders. By increasing penalties for human smuggling, strengthening statutes for the detention of illegal aliens, requiring universal use of E-Verify, enhancing penalties for document falsification, and prohibiting the issuance by local governments of ID cards to people who are not lawfully in the country, Florida will lead the way in protecting Americans from the deleterious effects of the Left’s open borders agenda. To see the full proposal, click here. To watch the full press conference, click here. ‘With this

legislation, Florida is continuing to crack down on the smuggling of illegal aliens, stopping municipalities from issuing ID cards to people here illegally, and ensuring that employers are hiring American citizens or those here legally,' said Governor Ron DeSantis. 'Florida is a law and order state, and we won't turn a blind eye to the dangers of Biden's Border Crisis. We will continue to take steps to protect Floridians from reckless federal open border policies.'" [Office of the Governor of Florida, Press Release, [2/23/23](#)]

- **DeSantis's Legislation "Invalidates All Out-Of-State Licenses To Unauthorized Aliens" And "Requires Those Registering To Vote To Affirm They Are United States Citizens And Legal Residents Of Florida."** According to a press release from the Office of the Governor of Florida, "The legislation also invalidates all out-of-state licenses to unauthorized aliens, requires those registering to vote to affirm they are United States citizens and legal residents of Florida, prevents unauthorized immigrants from being admitted to practice law, and eliminates out-of-state tuition fee waivers for undocumented immigrant students. Additionally, the proposal requires hospitals to collect data on the immigration status of patients and the costs to provide care to illegal aliens and regularly report the data to the Governor and Legislature. As directed by Executive Order 21-223, this data was collected and during the 2021-22 Fiscal Year health care costs for illegal aliens in Florida was nearly \$340 million and taxpayers were on the hook for more than two-thirds of this cost. More information on this data can be found here. The increased penalties for human smuggling follow the recommendations of the grand jury impaneled by the Florida Supreme Court at Governor DeSantis' request and will: Make it a third degree felony, punishable by up to five years in prison, a \$5,000 fine, and five years of probation, to knowingly transport, conceal, or harbor an illegal alien within or into the state; Make it a second degree felony, punishable by up to 15 years in prison and a fine up to \$10,000, if the illegal alien is younger than 18 years old; and Specify that a person commits a separate offense for each individual transported, concealed, or harbored and allow transported individuals to be detained by law enforcement as material witnesses." [Office of the Governor of Florida, Press Release, [2/23/23](#)]
- **DeSantis's Legislation Would Make It "A Third Degree Felony, Punishable By Up To Five Years In Prison, A \$5,000 Fine, And Five Years Of Probation, To Knowingly Transport, Conceal, Or Harbor An Illegal Alien Within Or Into The State."** According to a press release from the Office of the Governor of Florida, "The legislation also invalidates all out-of-state licenses to unauthorized aliens, requires those registering to vote to affirm they are United States citizens and legal residents of Florida, prevents unauthorized immigrants from being admitted to practice law, and eliminates out-of-state tuition fee waivers for undocumented immigrant students. Additionally, the proposal requires hospitals to collect data on the immigration status of patients and the costs to provide care to illegal aliens and regularly report the data to the Governor and Legislature. As directed by Executive Order 21-223, this data was collected and during the 2021-22 Fiscal Year health care costs for illegal aliens in Florida was nearly \$340 million and taxpayers were on the hook for more than two-thirds of this cost. More information on this data can be found here. The increased penalties for human smuggling follow the recommendations of the grand jury impaneled by the Florida Supreme Court at Governor DeSantis' request and will: Make it a third degree felony, punishable by up to five years in prison, a \$5,000 fine, and five years of probation, to knowingly transport, conceal, or harbor an illegal alien within or into the state; Make it a second degree felony, punishable by up to 15 years in prison and a fine up to \$10,000, if the illegal alien is younger than 18 years old; and Specify that a person commits a separate offense for each individual transported, concealed, or harbored and allow transported individuals to be detained by law enforcement as material witnesses." [Office of the Governor of Florida, Press Release, [2/23/23](#)]
- **DeSantis's Legislation Would Make It "A Second Degree Felony, Punishable By Up To 15 Years In Prison And A Fine Up To \$10,000" To Knowingly Transport, Conceal, Or Harbor An "Illegal Alien" Younger Than 18 Within Or Into The State.** According to a press release from the Office of the Governor of Florida, "The legislation also invalidates all out-of-state licenses to unauthorized aliens, requires those registering to vote to affirm they are United States citizens and legal residents of Florida, prevents unauthorized immigrants from being admitted to practice law, and eliminates out-of-state tuition fee waivers for undocumented immigrant students. Additionally, the proposal requires hospitals to collect data on the immigration status of patients and the costs to provide care to illegal aliens and regularly report the data to the Governor and Legislature. As directed by Executive Order 21-223, this data was collected and during the 2021-22 Fiscal Year health care costs for illegal aliens in Florida was nearly \$340 million and taxpayers were on the

hook for more than two-thirds of this cost. More information on this data can be found here. The increased penalties for human smuggling follow the recommendations of the grand jury impaneled by the Florida Supreme Court at Governor DeSantis' request and will: Make it a third degree felony, punishable by up to five years in prison, a \$5,000 fine, and five years of probation, to knowingly transport, conceal, or harbor an illegal alien within or into the state; Make it a second degree felony, punishable by up to 15 years in prison and a fine up to \$10,000, if the illegal alien is younger than 18 years old; and Specify that a person commits a separate offense for each individual transported, concealed, or harbored and allow transported individuals to be detained by law enforcement as material witnesses.” [Office of the Governor of Florida, Press Release, [2/23/23](#)]

## ***FL Law Enforcement At The Border***

**June 2021: DeSantis Announced That State And Local Law Enforcement Officers Were Planning To Be Deployed To Texas And Arizona To Provide Additional Resources In Response To The “Border Security Crisis.”** According to a press release from the Office of the Governor of Florida, “Today, Governor Ron DeSantis announced that state and local law enforcement officers have committed to deploying to Texas and Arizona to provide additional resources in response to the border crisis. ‘America’s border security crisis impacts every state and every American,’ said Governor Ron DeSantis. ‘The Biden Administration ended policies implemented by President Trump that were curbing illegal immigration, securing our border, and keeping Americans safe. Governors Abbott and Ducey recently sent out a call for help to every state in the nation, needing additional law enforcement manpower and other resources to aid with border security. I’m proud to announce today that the state of Florida is answering the call. Florida has your back.’ [...] The move comes following a letter late last week from Governors Greg Abbott of Texas and Doug Ducey of Arizona requesting immediate assistance to quell the surge of illegal migrants, apprehend illegal criminal aliens, and secure our border.” [Office of the Governor of Florida, Press Release, [6/16/21](#)]

- **DeSantis: “Governors Abbott And Ducey Recently Sent Out A Call For Help To Every State In The Nation, Needing Additional Law Enforcement Manpower And Other Resources To Aid With Border Security. I’m Proud To Announce Today That The State Of Florida Is Answering The Call.”** According to a press release from the Office of the Governor of Florida, “Today, Governor Ron DeSantis announced that state and local law enforcement officers have committed to deploying to Texas and Arizona to provide additional resources in response to the border crisis. ‘America’s border security crisis impacts every state and every American,’ said Governor Ron DeSantis. ‘The Biden Administration ended policies implemented by President Trump that were curbing illegal immigration, securing our border, and keeping Americans safe. Governors Abbott and Ducey recently sent out a call for help to every state in the nation, needing additional law enforcement manpower and other resources to aid with border security. I’m proud to announce today that the state of Florida is answering the call. Florida has your back.’ [...] The move comes following a letter late last week from Governors Greg Abbott of Texas and Doug Ducey of Arizona requesting immediate assistance to quell the surge of illegal migrants, apprehend illegal criminal aliens, and secure our border.” [Office of the Governor of Florida, Press Release, [6/16/21](#)]

**July 2021: DeSantis Visited The Southern Border To Meet With Texas Governor Abbott And Florida Law Enforcement Who Had Been Deployed To Texas To Provide Additional Support At The Border.** According to a press release from the Office of the Governor of Florida, “Today, Governor Ron DeSantis visited the Southern Border to meet with Florida law enforcement who have been deployed to Texas to provide additional resources in response to the border crisis. While in Texas, Governor DeSantis also met with Governor Abbott for a tour and to receive a briefing on the rise in crime and drug trafficking that Texas is experiencing because of the Biden Administration’s failed border policies. At the briefing, Governor DeSantis announced that the Florida National Guard will remain in Texas to provide additional support at the border until October 2022. Florida law enforcement have assisted with the apprehension of more than 2,800 undocumented aliens in 23 days and aided in more than 100 criminal arrests for felonies including human trafficking, drug smuggling and stolen vehicles. ‘We appreciate Texas stepping up where the federal government won’t,’ said Governor Ron DeSantis. ‘[...] Of the individuals our law enforcement have apprehended at the border, more than 70% said they ultimately wanted to go to Florida.’” [Office of the Governor of Florida, Press Release, [7/17/21](#)]

- DeSantis Announced At A Briefing With Governor Abbott That The Florida National Guard Would Remain In Texas To Provide Additional Support At The Southern Border Until October 2022.** According to a press release from the Office of the Governor of Florida, “Today, Governor Ron DeSantis visited the Southern Border to meet with Florida law enforcement who have been deployed to Texas to provide additional resources in response to the border crisis. While in Texas, Governor DeSantis also met with Governor Abbott for a tour and to receive a briefing on the rise in crime and drug trafficking that Texas is experiencing because of the Biden Administration’s failed border policies. At the briefing, Governor DeSantis announced that the Florida National Guard will remain in Texas to provide additional support at the border until October 2022. Florida law enforcement have assisted with the apprehension of more than 2,800 undocumented aliens in 23 days and aided in more than 100 criminal arrests for felonies including human trafficking, drug smuggling and stolen vehicles. ‘We appreciate Texas stepping up where the federal government won’t,’ said Governor Ron DeSantis. ‘[...] Of the individuals our law enforcement have apprehended at the border, more than 70% said they ultimately wanted to go to Florida.’” [Office of the Governor of Florida, Press Release, [7/17/21](#)]
- A Press Release By DeSantis’s Office Claimed That Florida Law Enforcement Had Assisted With The Apprehension Of More Than 2,800 Undocumented “Aliens” In 23 Days And Aided In More Than 100 Criminal Arrests For Felonies Including Human Trafficking, Drug Smuggling And Stolen Vehicles.** According to a press release from the Office of the Governor of Florida, “Today, Governor Ron DeSantis visited the Southern Border to meet with Florida law enforcement who have been deployed to Texas to provide additional resources in response to the border crisis. While in Texas, Governor DeSantis also met with Governor Abbott for a tour and to receive a briefing on the rise in crime and drug trafficking that Texas is experiencing because of the Biden Administration’s failed border policies. At the briefing, Governor DeSantis announced that the Florida National Guard will remain in Texas to provide additional support at the border until October 2022. Florida law enforcement have assisted with the apprehension of more than 2,800 undocumented aliens in 23 days and aided in more than 100 criminal arrests for felonies including human trafficking, drug smuggling and stolen vehicles. ‘We appreciate Texas stepping up where the federal government won’t,’ said Governor Ron DeSantis. ‘[...] Of the individuals our law enforcement have apprehended at the border, more than 70% said they ultimately wanted to go to Florida.’” [Office of the Governor of Florida, Press Release, [7/17/21](#)]
- DeSantis: “Of The Individuals Our Law Enforcement Have Apprehended At The Border, More Than 70% Said They Ultimately Wanted To Go To Florida.”** According to a press release from the Office of the Governor of Florida, “Today, Governor Ron DeSantis visited the Southern Border to meet with Florida law enforcement who have been deployed to Texas to provide additional resources in response to the border crisis. While in Texas, Governor DeSantis also met with Governor Abbott for a tour and to receive a briefing on the rise in crime and drug trafficking that Texas is experiencing because of the Biden Administration’s failed border policies. At the briefing, Governor DeSantis announced that the Florida National Guard will remain in Texas to provide additional support at the border until October 2022. Florida law enforcement have assisted with the apprehension of more than 2,800 undocumented aliens in 23 days and aided in more than 100 criminal arrests for felonies including human trafficking, drug smuggling and stolen vehicles. ‘We appreciate Texas stepping up where the federal government won’t,’ said Governor Ron DeSantis. ‘[...] Of the individuals our law enforcement have apprehended at the border, more than 70% said they ultimately wanted to go to Florida.’” [Office of the Governor of Florida, Press Release, [7/17/21](#)]

**DeSantis Sent “Florida State Law Enforcement Officers And Equipment To Texas Where They Apprehended Thousands Of Illegal Aliens And Aided In Hundreds Of Criminal Arrests For Felonies Including Human Trafficking And Drug Smuggling.”** According to a press release from the office of Ron DeSantis, “These measures build upon Governor DeSantis’ previous actions to keep Floridians safe in the face of an unprecedentedly unsecure federal border policy, which include: Sending Florida state law enforcement officers and equipment to Texas where they apprehended thousands of illegal aliens and aided in hundreds of criminal arrests for felonies including human trafficking and drug smuggling; Issuing an executive order that prohibits Florida state agencies from providing support for the resettlement of illegal aliens in Florida and prohibits licensing of facilities that house unaccompanied minors; Signing legislation that prohibits government contracts with private entities that assist the Biden administration in resettling illegal immigrants into Florida; Signing legislation that

requires all public employers, contractors, and subcontractors attempting to enter into contracts with public employers to use E-Verify to determine employment eligibility.” [Office of Ron DeSantis, Press Release, [2/23/23](#)]

## ***“Illegal” Immigration***

**March 2023: DeSantis Announced Nearly 11,000 Migrants Had Been Repatriated After Attempting To Enter The State Illegally Since August 21, 2022.** According to a press release from the Office of the Governor of Florida, “Today, Governor Ron DeSantis announced since August 21, 2022, nearly 11,000 migrants have been repatriated after attempting to enter the state illegally. Over the weekend, 167 migrants were interdicted, with 51 migrants apprehended upon landing. Nearly 350 migrant vessels have been reported, with 259 removed by the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC).” [Office of the Governor of Florida, Press Release, [3/10/23](#)]

## ***International Human Smuggling***

**June 2022: DeSantis Announced That He Filed A Petition With The Florida Supreme Court To Impanel A Statewide Grand Jury To Examine International Human Smuggling Networks That Brought “Aliens” To The Southern Border And To Florida.** According to a press release from the Office of the Governor of Florida, “Second, Governor DeSantis has filed a petition with the Florida Supreme Court to impanel a statewide grand jury to examine international human smuggling networks that bring aliens to the southern border, and ultimately to Florida. [...] The jury will examine these networks’ impact on the State of Florida and how they have violated state laws. In addition, the grand jury will investigate local governments that are aiding this smuggling scheme by intentionally violating state law, which requires them to cooperate with the federal government on immigration matters.” [Office of the Governor of Florida, Press Release, [6/17/22](#)]

- **The Grand Jury Impaneled At DeSantis’s Request Recommended Increased Penalties For Human Smuggling.** According to a press release from the Office of the Governor of Florida, “The increased penalties for human smuggling follow the recommendations of the grand jury impaneled by the Florida Supreme Court at Governor DeSantis’ request and will: Make it a third degree felony, punishable by up to five years in prison, a \$5,000 fine, and five years of probation, to knowingly transport, conceal, or harbor an illegal alien within or into the state; Make it a second degree felony, punishable by up to 15 years in prison and a fine up to \$10,000, if the illegal alien is younger than 18 years old; and Specify that a person commits a separate offense for each individual transported, concealed, or harbored and allow transported individuals to be detained by law enforcement as material witnesses.” [Office of the Governor of Florida, Press Release, [2/23/23](#)]

## ***Legislation To Prohibit Discretionary Benefits To “Illegal Aliens”***

**December 2021: DeSantis Announced A Proposal That Florida Would Not Provide Any Discretionary Benefits To “Illegal Aliens” And Would Prohibit State And Local Agencies From Doing Business With Any Private Entities That Facilitated The Resettlement Of “Illegal Aliens” From The Border.** According to a press release from the Office of the Governor of Florida, “Today, Governor Ron DeSantis was joined by Congressman John Rutherford, Jacksonville Mayor Lenny Curry, Jacksonville Sheriff Mike Williams, and Public Safety Czar Larry Keefe to announce new proposals to fight illegal immigration and protect Floridians from the Biden Border Crisis. The legislation proposed today will make clear that the State of Florida will not provide any discretionary benefits to illegal aliens and will also prohibit state and local agencies from doing business with any private entities that facilitate the resettlement of illegal aliens in the state of Florida from the southern border.” [Office of the Governor of Florida, Press Release, [12/10/21](#)]

## ***Migrants In The Florida Keys***

**January 2023: DeSantis Signed Executive Order 23-03, Which Activated The Florida National Guard And Directed State Agencies To Provide Resources And Additional Support To Local Governments Responding To Migrants Landing In The Florida Keys.** According to a press release from the Office of the Governor of

Florida, “Today, Governor Ron DeSantis signed Executive Order (EO) 23- 03 (Emergency Management – Illegal Migration), activating the Florida National Guard, directing state law enforcement agencies and other state agencies to provide resources in support of local governments responding to the alarming influx of migrants landing in the Florida Keys, and providing additional support toward efforts to prevent further migrant landings on Florida’s shores. [...] The State of Florida will deploy air assets, including airplanes and helicopters from the Florida National Guard, and will bolster Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission marine patrol to support water interdictions and ensure the safety of migrants attempting to reach Florida through the Florida Straits.” [Office of the Governor of Florida, Press Release, [1/6/23](#)]

- **The Governor’s Office Announced That Airplanes And Helicopters Would Be Deployed From The Florida National Guard And The Florida Fish And Wildlife Conservation Commission Marine Patrol Would Be Bolstered To Support Water Interdictions Of Migrants.** According to a press release from the Office of the Governor of Florida, “Today, Governor Ron DeSantis signed Executive Order (EO) 23- 03 (Emergency Management – Illegal Migration), activating the Florida National Guard, directing state law enforcement agencies and other state agencies to provide resources in support of local governments responding to the alarming influx of migrants landing in the Florida Keys, and providing additional support toward efforts to prevent further migrant landings on Florida’s shores. [...] The State of Florida will deploy air assets, including airplanes and helicopters from the Florida National Guard, and will bolster Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission marine patrol to support water interdictions and ensure the safety of migrants attempting to reach Florida through the Florida Straits.” [Office of the Governor of Florida, Press Release, [1/6/23](#)]

### **DeSantis Issued An Executive Order “To Mobilize State Law Enforcement And National Guard Resources To Aid In The Interdiction Of More Than 2,000 Migrants Attempting To Land On Florida’s Shores.”**

According to a press release from the office of Ron DeSantis, “These measures build upon Governor DeSantis’ previous actions to keep Floridians safe in the face of an unprecedentedly unsecure federal border policy, which include: Sending Florida state law enforcement officers and equipment to Texas where they apprehended thousands of illegal aliens and aided in hundreds of criminal arrests for felonies including human trafficking and drug smuggling; Issuing an executive order that prohibits Florida state agencies from providing support for the resettlement of illegal aliens in Florida and prohibits licensing of facilities that house unaccompanied minors; Signing legislation that prohibits government contracts with private entities that assist the Biden administration in resettling illegal immigrants into Florida; [...] Securing \$12 million to facilitate the transport of illegal aliens to Martha’s Vineyard and other sanctuary states, bringing the border crisis to the communities that support Biden’s open border policies; and Issuing an executive order to mobilize state law enforcement and National Guard resources to aid in the interdiction of more than 2,000 migrants attempting to land on Florida’s shores.” [Office of Ron DeSantis, Press Release, [2/23/23](#)]

## ***Operation Fast And Furious***

**January 2016: DeSantis Called On The Obama Administration To Release Documents Related To “Operation Fast And Furious” Following A Judicial Order And Highlighted The Death Of A U.S. Border Patrol Agent Associated With The Operation.** According to a press release from Rep. Ron DeSantis, “U.S. District Court Judge Amy Berman Jackson ruled today that the Obama Administration cannot claim executive privilege regarding records requested by Congress pertaining to Operation Fast and Furious. Rep. Ron DeSantis (FL-06), Chairman of the Subcommittee on National Security, issued the following statement: ‘Operation Fast and Furious was a disaster that not only violated federal law but resulted in the death of a U.S. Border Patrol agent. For years, the Obama Administration has stonewalled congressional oversight over this scandal. Today’s ruling recognizes that President Obama’s attempt to claim executive privilege regarding key documents was not based in law. The administration needs to cough up the documents and the American people deserve answers.’” [Rep. Ron DeSantis, Press Release, 1/20/16]

## ***Refugees***

**December 2015: DeSantis Introduced The Terrorist Refugee Infiltration Act, Which Would Prohibit**

**Refugees From “Countries That Have Significant Territory Controlled By An Organization Designate By The State Department To Be A Foreign Terrorist Organization.”** According to a press release from Rep. Ron DeSantis, “Rep. Ron DeSantis (FL-06) today introduced the Terrorist Refugee Infiltration Prevention Act in order to strengthen national security and ensure that terrorists cannot exploit the United States’ refugee resettlement program. [...] This legislation prohibits refugees from countries that have significant territory controlled by an organization designated by the State Department to be a Foreign Terrorist Organization. [...] ‘Congress must take action to secure any vulnerabilities within our refugee resettlement program that terrorists could exploit to harm the American people,’ DeSantis said. ‘Government officials such as the FBI Director acknowledge that they cannot adequately screen refugees from terrorist havens such as Syria and bad actors such as ISIS have already stated their intent to use these programs to infiltrate the United States. The first duty of the United States government is to protect the American people.’ The Terrorist Refugee Infiltration Prevention Act allows for refugees from identified high-risk countries to be admitted under a narrow exception: prospective refugees must prove ‘clearly and beyond doubt’ that they satisfy the requirements for refugee status and are a member of a group that has been designated as a victim of genocide.” [Rep. Ron DeSantis, Press Release, 12/1/15]

- **Identified “High-Risk” Countries Included Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Syria, And Yemen.** According to a press release from Rep. Ron DeSantis, “Rep. Ron DeSantis (FL-06) today introduced the Terrorist Refugee Infiltration Prevention Act in order to strengthen national security and ensure that terrorists cannot exploit the United States’ refugee resettlement program. [...] This legislation prohibits refugees from countries that have significant territory controlled by an organization designated by the State Department to be a Foreign Terrorist Organization. The bill specifically names Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Syria, and Yemen as countries containing terrorist-controlled territory while also giving the State Department authority to identify and designate additional countries.” [Rep. Ron DeSantis, Press Release, 12/1/15]
- **DeSantis’s Act Would Allow For Narrow Exceptions For Refugees Who Could Prove “‘Clearly And Beyond Doubt’ That They Satisfy The Requirements For Refugee Status And Are A Member Of A Group That Has Been Designated As A Victim Of Genocide.”** According to a press release from Rep. Ron DeSantis, “Rep. Ron DeSantis (FL-06) today introduced the Terrorist Refugee Infiltration Prevention Act in order to strengthen national security and ensure that terrorists cannot exploit the United States’ refugee resettlement program. [...] This legislation prohibits refugees from countries that have significant territory controlled by an organization designated by the State Department to be a Foreign Terrorist Organization. [...] ‘Congress must take action to secure any vulnerabilities within our refugee resettlement program that terrorists could exploit to harm the American people,’ DeSantis said. ‘Government officials such as the FBI Director acknowledge that they cannot adequately screen refugees from terrorist havens such as Syria and bad actors such as ISIS have already stated their intent to use these programs to infiltrate the United States. The first duty of the United States government is to protect the American people.’ The Terrorist Refugee Infiltration Prevention Act allows for refugees from identified high-risk countries to be admitted under a narrow exception: prospective refugees must prove ‘clearly and beyond doubt’ that they satisfy the requirements for refugee status and are a member of a group that has been designated as a victim of genocide.” [Rep. Ron DeSantis, Press Release, 12/1/15]
- **DeSantis: “Congress Must Take Action To Secure Any Vulnerabilities Within Our Refugee Resettlement Program That Terrorists Could Exploit To Harm The American People. [...] The First Duty Of The United States Government Is To Protect The American People.”** According to a press release from Rep. Ron DeSantis, “Rep. Ron DeSantis (FL-06) today introduced the Terrorist Refugee Infiltration Prevention Act in order to strengthen national security and ensure that terrorists cannot exploit the United States’ refugee resettlement program. [...] This legislation prohibits refugees from countries that have significant territory controlled by an organization designated by the State Department to be a Foreign Terrorist Organization. [...] ‘Congress must take action to secure any vulnerabilities within our refugee resettlement program that terrorists could exploit to harm the American people,’ DeSantis said. ‘Government officials such as the FBI Director acknowledge that they cannot adequately screen refugees from terrorist havens such as Syria and bad actors such as ISIS have already stated their intent to use these programs to infiltrate the United States. The first duty of the United States government is to protect the American people.’ The Terrorist Refugee Infiltration Prevention Act allows for refugees from identified high-risk countries to be admitted under a narrow

exception: prospective refugees must prove ‘clearly and beyond doubt’ that they satisfy the requirements for refugee status and are a member of a group that has been designated as a victim of genocide.” [Rep. Ron DeSantis, Press Release, 12/1/15]

## ***Sanctuary Cities***

**March 2019 – DeSantis: “Florida Will Not Be A Sanctuary State — We Won’t Allow Someone Here Illegally To Commit Criminal Misconduct And Simply Be Returned To Our Communities.”** According to DeSantis’s State of the State address as prepared for delivery, “Florida will not be a sanctuary state — we won’t allow someone here illegally to commit criminal misconduct and simply be returned to our communities. And we won’t tolerate sanctuary cities that actively frustrate law enforcement by shielding criminal aliens from accountability at the expense of public safety. Here with us today are two angel parents, Bobby and Kiyon Michael from Jacksonville. Their son Brandon was killed by a foreign national who was illegally in our country and who been deported on two prior occasions. Brandon was a young man engaged to be married, but instead of planning a wedding Bobby and Kiyon had to plan a funeral. Had our laws simply been enforced, Bobby and Kiyon might not have had to bury their son. Lets [sic] do right by the Michael family; lets prohibit sanctuary cities in Florida.” [Office of the Governor of Florida, Press Release, [3/5/19](#)]

- **During His State Of The State Address, DeSantis Addressed The Death Of Bobby and Kiyon Michael’s Son Bobby Who Was Killed By A “Foreign National” In The U.S. Illegally, Stating, “Had Our Laws Simply Been Enforced, Bobby And Kiyon Might Not Have Had To Bury Their Son.”** According to DeSantis’s State of the State address as prepared for delivery, “Florida will not be a sanctuary state — we won’t allow someone here illegally to commit criminal misconduct and simply be returned to our communities. And we won’t tolerate sanctuary cities that actively frustrate law enforcement by shielding criminal aliens from accountability at the expense of public safety. Here with us today are two angel parents, Bobby and Kiyon Michael from Jacksonville. Their son Brandon was killed by a foreign national who was illegally in our country and who been deported on two prior occasions. Brandon was a young man engaged to be married, but instead of planning a wedding Bobby and Kiyon had to plan a funeral. Had our laws simply been enforced, Bobby and Kiyon might not have had to bury their son. Lets [sic] do right by the Michael family; lets prohibit sanctuary cities in Florida.” [Office of the Governor of Florida, Press Release, [3/5/19](#)]
- **Kiyon And Bobby Michael, The Parents Of A Man Who Died In A Collision With A “Criminal Alien,” Were Invited Guests To DeSantis’s 2019 State Of The State Address.** According to a press release from the Office of the Governor of Florida, “Kiyon and Bobby are Angel Parents who lost their son, Brandon Randolph Michael, in a collision that took his life. Brandon was struck by a criminal alien who was twice deported and driving without a driver’s license or registration. After a lengthy and difficult trial, the criminal alien was only sentenced to two years and ordered to pay restitution, after which he was again deported. The Governor first met the Michaels in February at an event in Brooksville where he called for increased state and federal cooperation for immigration enforcement.” [Office of the Governor of Florida, Press Release, [3/5/19](#)]

**June 2019: Following Up On His Promise To Ban Sanctuary Cities, DeSantis Signed SB 168, A Bill That Prohibited State And Local Governments From Having Sanctuary Policies In Effect And Required Such Entities To Cooperate With Federal Immigration Enforcement.** According to a press release from the Office of the Governor of Florida, “Today, Governor Ron DeSantis signed SB 168: Federal Immigration Enforcement. The bill prohibits state and local governments from having sanctuary policies in effect and requires such entities to support and cooperate with federal immigration enforcement. ‘Earlier this year, I made a promise that we would ban sanctuary cities in Florida and today we are delivering on that promise,’ said Governor DeSantis. ‘I am proud to sign the bill presented to me by the Florida Legislature to uphold the rule of law and ensure that no city or county jurisdiction can get in the way of Florida’s cooperation with our federal partners to enforce immigration law. This is about public safety, not about politics. We must do everything within our power, and use all the tools available to us, to ensure that our communities are safe.’” [Office of the Governor of Florida, Press Release, [6/14/19](#)]



## ***Senate Bill 1808***

**June 2022: DeSantis Announced The Signing Of Senate Bill 1808, Which Prohibited A Governmental Entity From Executing, Amending, Or Renewing A Contract With A Common Carrier If The Carrier Was Willfully Providing Service In Transporting An “Unauthorized Alien” Into Florida.** According to a press release from the Office of the Governor of Florida, “Third, Governor DeSantis signed Senate Bill 1808, sweeping legislation he proposed to further protect Floridians from the Biden Border Crisis. [...] Senate Bill (SB) 1808 prohibits a governmental entity from executing, amending, or renewing a contact with a common carrier if the carrier is willfully providing any service in furtherance of transporting an unauthorized alien into the State of Florida knowing that he or she is an unauthorized alien, except to facilitate the detention, removal, or departure of the unauthorized person from Florida or the United States.” [Office of the Governor of Florida, Press Release, [6/17/22](#)]

**June 2022: DeSantis Directed The Department Of Management Services To Implement The Provisions Of Senate Bill 1808 And Directed Executive Agencies To Notify Any Vendors Transporting “Illegal Aliens” Into Florida That Their Contracts Would Not Be Renewed Unless They Complied With Florida Law.** According to a press release from the Office of the Governor of Florida, “On Friday, June 17, 2022, Governor Ron DeSantis signed Senate Bill 1808, which prohibits governmental entities, including state agencies and local governments, from contracting with common carriers who knowingly transport illegal aliens into Florida. Today, Governor DeSantis has directed the Department of Management Services (DMS) to immediately enter into rulemaking to implement the provisions of the new law. Additionally, Governor DeSantis has directed executive agencies to review all current contracts, notify all applicable vendors of the new law, and provide written communication to any vendors currently transporting illegal aliens into Florida that their contracts will not be renewed or amended unless they comply with Florida law. [...] Effective October 1, 2022, all contracts, including grant agreements and economic incentive programs, between governmental entities and common carriers or contracted carriers must include an attestation that the carrier will comply with the new law and a provision for termination of the contract for cause if the carrier violates the new law. Governor DeSantis has directed DMS to immediately develop by rule a common carrier and contracted carrier attestation form.” [Office of the Governor of Florida, Press Release, [6/23/22](#)]

- **DeSantis Directed The Department Of Management Services To Develop By Rule A Common Carrier And Contracted Carrier Attestation Form, Which Would Go Into Effect On October 1, 2022.** According to a press release from the Office of the Governor of Florida, “On Friday, June 17, 2022, Governor Ron DeSantis signed Senate Bill 1808, which prohibits governmental entities, including state agencies and local governments, from contracting with common carriers who knowingly transport illegal aliens into Florida. Today, Governor DeSantis has directed the Department of Management Services (DMS) to immediately enter into rulemaking to implement the provisions of the new law. Additionally, Governor DeSantis has directed executive agencies to review all current contracts, notify all applicable vendors of the new law, and provide written communication to any vendors currently transporting illegal aliens into Florida that their contracts will not be renewed or amended unless they comply with Florida law. [...] Effective October 1, 2022, all contracts, including grant agreements and economic incentive programs, between governmental entities and common carriers or contracted carriers must include an attestation that the carrier will comply with the new law and a provision for termination of the contract for cause if the carrier violates the new law. Governor DeSantis has directed DMS to immediately develop by rule a common carrier and contracted carrier attestation form.” [Office of the Governor of Florida, Press Release, [6/23/22](#)]

**DeSantis Signed Legislation “That Prohibits Government Contracts With Private Entities That Assist The Biden Administration In Resettling Illegal Immigrants Into Florida.”** According to a press release from the office of Ron DeSantis, “These measures build upon Governor DeSantis’ previous actions to keep Floridians safe in the face of an unprecedentedly unsecure federal border policy, which include: Sending Florida state law enforcement officers and equipment to Texas where they apprehended thousands of illegal aliens and aided in hundreds of criminal arrests for felonies including human trafficking and drug smuggling; Issuing an executive order that prohibits Florida state agencies from providing support for the resettlement of illegal aliens in Florida and prohibits licensing of facilities that house unaccompanied minors; Signing legislation that prohibits government contracts with private entities that assist the Biden administration in resettling illegal immigrants into Florida.” [Office of Ron DeSantis, Press Release, [2/23/23](#)]

## ***Strike Force***

**June 2022: DeSantis Announced The Launch Of A “Strike Force” Of State And Local Law Enforcement To Interdict Human Smuggling And Human Trafficking, And To Seize Illegal Weapons Being Transported Through Florida.** According to a press release from the Office of the Governor of Florida, “Today, Governor DeSantis announced three significant actions Florida is taking to address the Biden Border Crisis. First, Governor DeSantis announced that Florida has formed a strike force of state and local law enforcement to interdict human smuggling, human trafficking, and to seize illegal weapons being transported through the state. [...] In the span of just three days, in Northwest Florida, law enforcement interdicted five illegal aliens from Honduras and two from El Salvador who were arrested and charged with human smuggling or solicitation to commit human smuggling. The strike force also recovered almost four grams of fentanyl, which is enough to kill nearly 2,000 Floridians.” [Office of the Governor of Florida, Press Release, [6/17/22](#)]

- **The Office Of The Governor Stated In A Press Release That In Just Three Days, The Strike Force Interdicted Five “Illegal Aliens” From Honduras And Two From El Salvador Who Were Arrested And Charged With Human Smuggling, And Also Recovered Almost Four Grams Of Fentanyl.** According to a press release from the Office of the Governor of Florida, “Today, Governor DeSantis announced three significant actions Florida is taking to address the Biden Border Crisis. First, Governor DeSantis announced that Florida has formed a strike force of state and local law enforcement to interdict human smuggling, human trafficking, and to seize illegal weapons being transported through the state. [...] In the span of just three days, in Northwest Florida, law enforcement interdicted five illegal aliens from Honduras and two from El Salvador who were arrested and charged with human smuggling or solicitation to commit human smuggling. The strike force also recovered almost four grams of fentanyl, which is enough to kill nearly 2,000 Floridians.” [Office of the Governor of Florida, Press Release, [6/17/22](#)]

## ***Terrorism***

**December 2015: DeSantis Issued A Press Release Regarding A Hearing About Terrorism, Stating That Congress Needed To “Plug Holes In Immigration Programs Ranging From The Visa Waiver Program To The Refugee Program” Following A Terrorist Attack In San Bernardino.** According to a press release from Rep. Ron DeSantis, “Rep. Ron DeSantis (FL-06), Chairman of the Subcommittee on National Security, in conjunction with the Subcommittee on Health Care, Benefits, and Administrative Rules, held a hearing today examining terrorism and the Visa Waiver Program. Kelli Ann Burriesci, the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Screening Coordination for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), was unable to provide to the committee basic information and continually evaded questioning. ‘Islamic jihadists are on the march and 13 people were massacred in San Bernardino, yet DHS seems clueless about what is going on with potential threats to our security,’ DeSantis said. ‘Congress needs to plug holes in immigration programs ranging from the visa waiver program to the refugee program. The testimony by DHS today gave Americans serious cause for concern about whether our government has a handle on the threats we face.’” [Rep. Ron DeSantis, Press Release, 12/10/15]

## ***UNRWA***

**July 2014: DeSantis Called On Congress To Pass A Law Withholding Funding To The United Nations Relief And Works Agency For Palestine Refugees In The Near East (UNRWA) After The Organization Discovered Rockets Placed By Militants In An UNRWA-Run School.** According to a press release from Rep. Ron DeSantis, “In reaction to news that the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) discovered that approximately 20 rockets were placed by militants in a UNRWA-run school in the Gaza Strip, Rep. Ron DeSantis (FL-06) has renewed his call for Congress to pass his Palestinian Accountability Act. The Palestinian Accountability Act would withhold funds from UNRWA until certain conditions are met.” [Rep. Ron DeSantis, Press Release, 7/18/14]

## **287(g) Immigration Enforcement Program**

### **February 2019: Governor DeSantis Joined The Hernando County Sheriff's Office To Announce The Implementation Of The 287(g) Immigration Enforcement Program And Made A Request To The Florida Legislature To Address Immigration Enforcement And Sanctuary Cities And Counties In The State.**

According to a press release from the Office of the Governor of Florida, "Today, Governor Ron DeSantis joined the Hernando County Sheriff's Office to announce their implementation of the 287(g) immigration enforcement program. At the event, the Governor called for increased participation from county sheriffs in various federal immigration programs and made a request to the Florida Legislature to address immigration enforcement during the 2019 legislative session. 'I am asking the legislature to send me a bill during the 2019 legislative session that addresses sanctuary cities and counties in Florida,' said Governor DeSantis. 'We take our responsibility to protect our citizens, foster safe communities and uphold the rule of law very seriously. I am also calling on more local law enforcement agencies to work with the federal government to ensure that accountability and justice are being upheld throughout our state.'" [Office of the Governor of Florida, Press Release, [2/26/19](#)]

- **DeSantis Directed The Florida Department Of Corrections (FDC) To Review The 287(g) Program And Asked The FDC Secretary To Identify Facilities In The Department Of Corrections System Where The Implementation Of Federal Immigration Would Be "Most Beneficial".** According to a press release from the Office of the Governor of Florida, "In addition to his request to the Florida Legislature, Governor DeSantis is directing the Florida Department of Corrections (FDC) to review the 287(g) program and prepare a strategy to participate. The Governor has asked FDC Secretary Mark Inch to identify facilities within the Department of Corrections system where the implementation of federal immigration enforcement programs would be most beneficial. He is also asking the Florida Sheriffs Association to encourage increased participation in programs that facilitate greater cooperation in immigration enforcement with the federal government." [Office of the Governor of Florida, Press Release, [2/26/19](#)]
- **The 287(g) Program, An Agreement Between ICE And Law Enforcement Offices That Assisted With The Identification And Removal Of Criminal "Aliens," Established Guidelines For ICE To Gather Citizenship And Immigration Information Of A Detainee.** According to a press release from the Office of the Governor of Florida, "This program is an agreement between U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the respective law enforcement office that assists with the identification and removal of criminal aliens. The program establishes guidelines and conditions for ICE to gather citizenship information and the immigration status of a detainee to make a final determination of further proceedings and allows personnel of the respective sheriff's office to be selected, trained and approved by ICE to perform certain functions as a Designated Immigration Officer within the detention facility of the local law enforcement agency." [Office of the Governor of Florida, Press Release, [2/26/19](#)]

## **State Of The State Speeches**

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**Researcher's Note:** *We reviewed transcripts of DeSantis's State of the State speeches for 2019 through 2023.*

### **2023**

**March 2023: DeSantis Claimed He Had Banned Sanctuary Cities In The State Of Florida.** According to DeSantis's 2023 State of the State address, "We believe that borders matter and we have fought against illegal immigration in the state of Florida from banning sanctuary cities to suing the Biden Administration over its catch and release policies to transporting illegal aliens to sanctuary jurisdictions. We have put Floridians first and we will continue to do that." [Office of Governor Ron DeSantis, State of the State Transcript, [3/7/23](#)]

**March 2023: DeSantis Said He Had Sued The Biden Administration Over Its "Catch And Release" Policies.** According to DeSantis's 2023 State of the State address, "We believe that borders matter and we have fought against illegal immigration in the state of Florida from banning sanctuary cities to suing the Biden Administration

over its catch and release policies to transporting illegal aliens to sanctuary jurisdictions. We have put Floridians first and we will continue to do that.” [Office of Governor Ron DeSantis, State of the State Transcript, [3/7/23](#)]

**March 2023 – DeSantis: “We Must Further Strengthen Our Laws Against Illegal Immigration By Enhancing Employment Verification, Increasing Penalties For Human Smuggling And Further Disincentivizing Illegal Immigration To The State Of Florida.”** According to DeSantis’s 2023 State of the State address, “We need to increase penalties for fentanyl dealers, especially those who target our children. And to do that we must treat them like the murderers that they are. We must further strengthen our laws against illegal immigration by enhancing employment verification, increasing penalties for human smuggling and further disincentivizing illegal immigration to the state of Florida. Florida is not a sanctuary state and we will uphold the rule of law.” [Office of Governor Ron DeSantis, State of the State Transcript, [3/7/23](#)]

## **2022**

**DeSantis: “Rather Than Defend Our Sovereignty And Enforce The Border, The Federal Government Has Released Hundreds Of Thousands Of Illegal Aliens To Communities Across The U.S., Shipping Them To Florida At Alarming Rates, Including By Sending Clandestine Flights In The Dark Of Night.”** According to DeSantis’s 2022 State of the State address, “Law and order requires strong borders. The crisis at the US-Mexico border over the past year has witnessed staggering illegal migration and a massive influx of narcotics like fentanyl. Rather than defend our sovereignty and enforce the border, the federal government has released hundreds of thousands of illegal aliens to communities across the U.S., shipping them to Florida at alarming rates, including by sending clandestine flights in the dark of night.” [Office of Governor Ron DeSantis, State of the State Transcript, [1/11/22](#)]

- **DeSantis: “Companies Who Are Facilitating The Movement Of Illegal Aliens From The Southern Border To Florida Should Be Held Accountable, Including By Paying Restitution To The State For All The Costs They Are Imposing On Our Communities.”** According to DeSantis’s 2022 State of the State address, “As a state, we cannot be a party to what is effectively a massive human smuggling operation run by the federal government. Companies who are facilitating the movement of illegal aliens from the southern border to Florida should be held accountable, including by paying restitution to the state for all the costs they are imposing on our communities. I am also requesting funds so that when the feds dump illegal aliens in Florida, the state can re-route them to states that have sanctuary policies. Florida should not be made to bear the burden of our federal government’s lawless open border policies.” [Office of Governor Ron DeSantis, State of the State Transcript, [1/11/22](#)]

**DeSantis: “I Am Also Requesting Funds So That When The Feds Dump Illegal Aliens In Florida, The State Can Re-Route Them To States That Have Sanctuary Policies. Florida Should Not Be Made To Bear The Burden Of Our Federal Government’s Lawless Open Border Policies.”** According to DeSantis’s 2022 State of the State address, “As a state, we cannot be a party to what is effectively a massive human smuggling operation run by the federal government. Companies who are facilitating the movement of illegal aliens from the southern border to Florida should be held accountable, including by paying restitution to the state for all the costs they are imposing on our communities. I am also requesting funds so that when the feds dump illegal aliens in Florida, the state can re-route them to states that have sanctuary policies. Florida should not be made to bear the burden of our federal government’s lawless open border policies.” [Office of Governor Ron DeSantis, State of the State Transcript, [1/11/22](#)]

## **2021**

**Researcher’s Note:** DeSantis did not appear to discuss immigration-related issues in his [2021](#) State of the State address.

## **2020**

**DeSantis: “Lower-Income Workers Also Shouldn’t Have Their Wages Depressed By Cheap Foreign Labor. Assuring A Legal Workforce Through E-Verify Will Be Good For The Rule Of Law, Protect Taxpayers, And Place An Upward Pressure On The Wages Of Floridians Who Work In Blue Collar Jobs.”** According to DeSantis’s 2020 State of the State address, “Our citizens shouldn’t need a permission slip from the government in order to earn a living. We have a good reform bill pending before the Legislature that made it to the 1 yard line last year. Let’s punch it in the end zone this year. Lower-income workers also shouldn’t have their wages depressed by cheap foreign labor. Assuring a legal workforce through E-verify will be good for the rule of law, protect taxpayers, and place an upward pressure on the wages of Floridians who work in blue collar jobs. We are a state that has an economy, not the other way around. And we need to make sure that our Florida citizens from all walks of life come first.” [Office of Governor Ron DeSantis, State of the State Transcript, [1/14/20](#)]

## **2019**

**March 2019: DeSantis Expressed His Desire To “Prohibit Sanctuary Cities In Florida” And Highlighted Two “Angel” Parents Whose Son Was Killed By “A Foreign National Who Was Illegally In Our Country And Who Been Deported On Two Prior Occasions.”** According to DeSantis’s 2019 State of the State address, “Florida will not be a sanctuary state — we won’t allow someone here illegally to commit criminal misconduct and simply be returned to our communities. And we won’t tolerate sanctuary cities that actively frustrate law enforcement by shielding criminal aliens from accountability at the expense of public safety. Here with us today are two angel parents, Bobby and Kiyon Michael from Jacksonville. Their son Brandon was killed by a foreign national who was illegally in our country and who been deported on two prior occasions. Brandon was a young man engaged to be married, but instead of planning a wedding Bobby and Kiyon had to plan a funeral. Had our laws simply been enforced, Bobby and Kiyon might not have had to bury their son. Lets do right by the Michael family; lets prohibit sanctuary cities in Florida.” [Office of Governor Ron DeSantis, State of the State Transcript, [3/5/19](#)]

## **Campaign Website**

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***Researcher’s Note:** We reviewed archived versions of [DeSantis’s campaign websites](#) for immigration-related flags.*

### **Border Wall**

**2016: DeSantis Supported Building A Wall Along The U.S./Mexico Border.** According to the campaign website for Ron DeSantis, “The United States is a sovereign nation that has a duty to defend its borders and enforce its laws. Ron supports stopping illegal immigration by building a wall along the southern border and instituting a visa tracking system to prevent individuals from illegally overstaying visas. He has led efforts in the House to stop President Obama’s unconstitutional executive amnesty and to prevent the release of sexual offenders and domestic abusers who are in the country illegally.” [RonDeSantis.com via the Internet Archive, view from [9/23/16](#)]

### **Crime**

**2015: DeSantis Held A Joint Subcommittee Hearing With Congressman Jim Jordan “Examining The Department Of Homeland Security’s Policies And The Release Of Convicted Criminals Illegally In Our Country.”** According to the House website for Ron DeSantis, “In light of reports showing that of approximately 36,000 convicted criminals released by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in 2013, more than 1,000 of them have already been convicted of new crime, Congressman DeSantis and Congressman Jim Jordan held a joint subcommittee hearing examining the Department of Homeland Security’s policies and the release of convicted criminals illegally in our country.” [DeSantis.House.gov via the Internet Archive, view from [4/10/15](#)]

**2016: DeSantis Co-Sponsored “Kate’s Law.”** According to the campaign website for Ron DeSantis, “Ron has also spearheaded investigations into the Obama administration’s reckless release, during 2013 and 2014, of 66,000 convicted criminals who are illegally in the country. He opposes sanctuary cities and supports efforts to remove funding for cities that flout federal law. He is also a co-sponsor of Kate’s law.” [RonDeSantis.com via the Internet

Archive, view from [9/23/16](#)]

**2016: DeSantis “Led Efforts In The House... To Prevent The Release Of Sexual Offenders And Domestic Abusers Who Are In The Country Illegally.”** According to the campaign website for Ron DeSantis, “The United States is a sovereign nation that has a duty to defend its borders and enforce its laws. Ron supports stopping illegal immigration by building a wall along the southern border and instituting a visa tracking system to prevent individuals from illegally overstaying visas. He has led efforts in the House to stop President Obama’s unconstitutional executive amnesty and to prevent the release of sexual offenders and domestic abusers who are in the country illegally.” [RonDeSantis.com via the Internet Archive, view from [9/23/16](#)]

**2016: DeSantis “Spearheaded Investigations Into The Obama Administration’s Reckless Release, During 2013 And 2014, Of 66,000 Convicted Criminals Who Are Illegally In The Country.”** According to the campaign website for Ron DeSantis, “Ron has also spearheaded investigations into the Obama administration’s reckless release, during 2013 and 2014, of 66,000 convicted criminals who are illegally in the country. He opposes sanctuary cities and supports efforts to remove funding for cities that flout federal law. He is also a co-sponsor of Kate’s law.” [RonDeSantis.com via the Internet Archive, view from [9/23/16](#)]

## ***In-State Tuition***

**August 2012: DeSantis Stated That Undocumented Immigrants Should Not Receive “Special Benefits” Such As In-State Tuition Rates, Stating, “This Approach Is Best For American Citizens And Is Fair To Those Who Have Taken The Time And Effort To Go Through The Legal Immigration Process.”** According to a press release from Ron DeSantis for Congress, “‘I am pleased to be endorsed by Sheriff Joe Arpaio,’ DeSantis said. ‘Like Sheriff Joe, I believe that illegal immigration is a major problem that undermines the rule of law. We must enforce the laws we have on the books, secure our borders and deny special benefits to illegal immigrants such as in-state tuition rates. This approach is best for American citizens and is fair to those who have taken the time and effort to go through the legal immigration process.’” [Ron DeSantis for Congress via the Internet Archive, Press Release, [8/2/12](#)]

## ***Refugees***

**December 2015: DeSantis Sponsored The Terrorist Refugee Infiltration Prevention Act, Which Would Block Refugees From Countries With “Significant Territory Controlled By Groups Considered Terrorist Organizations Like ISIS,” Including Somalia, Syria And Yemen, From Coming To The U.S.** According to the campaign website for Ron DeSantis, “Today, Congressman Ron DeSantis issued a challenge to all Florida Democratic Senate candidates to join him in sponsoring the Terrorist Refugee Infiltration Prevention Act. Congressman DeSantis’s bill blocks refugees from coming into America from countries like Somalia, Syria, and Yemen that have significant territory controlled by groups considered terrorist organizations like ISIS. ‘I’m hopeful that Alan Grayson and Patrick Murphy will join me in supporting legislation to protect against the exploitation of the refugee program by terrorists seeking to do harm to Floridians,’ said Congressman Ron DeSantis. ‘ISIS wants to use these programs to sneak militant radical Islamists into our country. I’ll be steadfast in defending our security in the U.S. Senate and I’m proud to lead the fight in the House on this important legislation.’” [RonDeSantis.com via the Internet Archive, view from [9/23/16](#)]

- **DeSantis Discussed Refugee Programs, Stating, “ISIS Wants To Use These Programs To Sneak Militant Radical Islamists Into Our Country. I’ll Be Steadfast In Defending Our Security In The U.S. Senate And I’m Proud To Lead The Fight In The House On This Important Legislation.”** According to the campaign website for Ron DeSantis, “Today, Congressman Ron DeSantis issued a challenge to all Florida Democratic Senate candidates to join him in sponsoring the Terrorist Refugee Infiltration Prevention Act. Congressman DeSantis’s bill blocks refugees from coming into America from countries like Somalia, Syria, and Yemen that have significant territory controlled by groups considered terrorist organizations like ISIS. ‘I’m hopeful that Alan Grayson and Patrick Murphy will join me in supporting legislation to protect against the exploitation of the refugee program by terrorists seeking to do harm to Floridians,’ said Congressman Ron DeSantis. ‘ISIS wants to use these programs to sneak militant radical Islamists into our country. I’ll be steadfast in defending

our security in the U.S. Senate and I'm proud to lead the fight in the House on this important legislation.”  
[RonDeSantis.com via the Internet Archive, view from [9/23/16](#)]

## **Sanctuary Cities**

**2016: DeSantis Supported Efforts To Remove Federal Funding From Sanctuary Cities.** According to the campaign website for Ron DeSantis, “Ron has also spearheaded investigations into the Obama administration’s reckless release, during 2013 and 2014, of 66,000 convicted criminals who are illegally in the country. He opposes sanctuary cities and supports efforts to remove funding for cities that flout federal law. He is also a co-sponsor of Kate’s law.” [RonDeSantis.com via the Internet Archive, view from [9/23/16](#)]

## **Visas**

**2016: DeSantis Supported “Instituting A Visa Tracking System To Prevent Individuals From Illegally Overstaying Visas.”** According to the campaign website for Ron DeSantis, “The United States is a sovereign nation that has a duty to defend its borders and enforce its laws. Ron supports stopping illegal immigration by building a wall along the southern border and instituting a visa tracking system to prevent individuals from illegally overstaying visas. He has led efforts in the House to stop President Obama’s unconstitutional executive amnesty and to prevent the release of sexual offenders and domestic abusers who are in the country illegally.” [RonDeSantis.com via the Internet Archive, view from [9/23/16](#)]

## **Sponsored & Co-Sponsored Legislation**

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**Researcher’s Note:** *We reviewed DeSantis’s sponsorship and co-sponsorship of immigration-related bills on Congress.gov.*

### ***H.R. 4143, The Terrorist Refugee Infiltration Prevention Act Of 2015***

**December 2015: DeSantis Introduced H.R. 4143, The “Terrorist Refugee Infiltration Prevention Act Of 2015,” Which Prohibited “U.S. Refugee Admission Of An Alien Who Is A National Of ... Or Is Claiming Refugee Status Due To Events In Any Country Containing Terrorist-Controlled Territory.”** According to Congress.gov, “Rep. DeSantis, Ron [R-FL-6] (Introduced 12/01/2015) [...] Terrorist Refugee Infiltration Prevention Act of 2015 This bill prohibits the U.S. refugee admission of an alien who is a national of, has habitually resided in, or is claiming refugee status due to events in any country containing terrorist-controlled territory (Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Syria, Yemen, and any other Department of State-designated country). Such an alien may be admitted to the United States as a refugee if the alien: satisfies refugee admission requirements; is a member of a group designated by the State Department or by an Act of Congress as a victim of genocide (and the group does not pose a risk to U.S. security); has undergone the highest level of security screening of any category of traveler to the United States, including full multi-modal biometrics; and the State Department, the Department of Defense (DOD), the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) certify that such alien is not a threat to U.S. national security.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 4143, introduced [12/2/15](#)]

- **According To H.R. 4143, Terrorist Controlled Territories Included “Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Syria, Yemen, And Any Other Department Of State-Designated Country.”** According to Congress.gov, “Rep. DeSantis, Ron [R-FL-6] (Introduced 12/01/2015) [...] Terrorist Refugee Infiltration Prevention Act of 2015 This bill prohibits the U.S. refugee admission of an alien who is a national of, has habitually resided in, or is claiming refugee status due to events in any country containing terrorist-controlled territory (Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Syria, Yemen, and any other Department of State-designated country). Such an alien may be admitted to the United States as a refugee if the alien: satisfies refugee admission requirements; is a member of a group designated by the State Department or by an Act of Congress as a victim of genocide (and the group does not pose a risk to U.S. security); has undergone the highest level of security screening of any category of traveler to the United States, including full multi-modal biometrics; and the State Department, the Department of Defense (DOD), the

Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) certify that such alien is not a threat to U.S. national security.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 4143, introduced [12/2/15](#)]

- **An “Alien” Could Be Admitted As A “Refugee Or Alien” If They Satisfied Refugee Admission Requirements, Were A Member Of A Group Designated As A Victim Of Genocide, Or Had Undergone The Highest Level Of Security Screening Of Any Category Of Traveler To The United States.** According to Congress.gov, “Rep. DeSantis, Ron [R-FL-6] (Introduced 12/01/2015) [...] Terrorist Refugee Infiltration Prevention Act of 2015 This bill prohibits the U.S. refugee admission of an alien who is a national of, has habitually resided in, or is claiming refugee status due to events in any country containing terrorist-controlled territory (Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Syria, Yemen, and any other Department of State-designated country). Such an alien may be admitted to the United States as a refugee if the alien: satisfies refugee admission requirements; is a member of a group designated by the State Department or by an Act of Congress as a victim of genocide (and the group does not pose a risk to U.S. security); has undergone the highest level of security screening of any category of traveler to the United States, including full multi-modal biometrics; and the State Department, the Department of Defense (DOD), the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) certify that such alien is not a threat to U.S. national security. These requirements shall not apply to the U.S. refugee admission of an alien who: (1) provided substantial assistance to the United States, and (2) would face a substantial risk of death or serious bodily injury because of that assistance if not admitted to the United States.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 4143, introduced [12/2/15](#)]
- **H.R. 4143 Allowed The State Department To “Designate As A Country Containing Terrorist-Controlled Territory Any Country Containing Territory Controlled, In Substantial Part, By A Foreign Terrorist Organization To The Exclusion Of That Country’s Recognized Government.”** According to Congress.gov, “Rep. DeSantis, Ron [R-FL-6] (Introduced 12/01/2015) [...] Terrorist Refugee Infiltration Prevention Act of 2015 This bill prohibits the U.S. refugee admission of an alien who is a national of, has habitually resided in, or is claiming refugee status due to events in any country containing terrorist-controlled territory (Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Syria, Yemen, and any other Department of State-designated country). [...] The State Department may designate as a country containing terrorist-controlled territory any country containing territory controlled, in substantial part, by a foreign terrorist organization to the exclusion of that country’s recognized government. The State Department shall maintain and continually update a list of: (1) the countries containing terrorist-controlled territory, and (2) groups identified as victims of genocide. An alien may not be admitted into the United States under this Act solely based on his or her assertions, and DHS must substantiate any such assertions with the State Department, DOD, the FBI, and the DNI.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 4143, introduced [12/2/15](#)]

## ***H.R. 486, Grant’s Law***

**January 2017: DeSantis Cosponsored H.R. 486, “Grant’s Law,” Which “Amends The Immigration And Nationality Act To Require Mandatory Detention Of Any Alien Who Is Unlawfully Present In The United States And Arrested For Inadmissible Or Deportable Crimes.”** According to Congress.gov, “Cosponsor [...] Rep. DeSantis, Ron [R-FL-6] [...] Introduced in House (01/12/2017) Grant’s Law This bill amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to require mandatory detention of any alien who is unlawfully present in the United States and arrested for inadmissible or deportable crimes. The bill transfers release authority from the Department of Justice to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). DHS may release the alien to an appropriate authority for proceedings related to the arrest, but DHS must resume custody for any period that the alien is not in custody of the appropriate authority. If the alien is not convicted of crimes for which the alien was arrested, DHS must continue to detain the alien until removal proceedings are completed. DHS must complete the removal proceedings within 90 days.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 486, introduced [1/12/17](#)]

- **H.R. 486, “Transfers Release Authority From The Department Of Justice To The Department Of Homeland Security (DHS).”** According to Congress.gov, “Cosponsor [...] Rep. DeSantis, Ron [R-FL-6] [...] Introduced in House (01/12/2017) Grant’s Law This bill amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to require



mandatory detention of any alien who is unlawfully present in the United States and arrested for inadmissible or deportable crimes. The bill transfers release authority from the Department of Justice to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). DHS may release the alien to an appropriate authority for proceedings related to the arrest, but DHS must resume custody for any period that the alien is not in custody of the appropriate authority. If the alien is not convicted of crimes for which the alien was arrested, DHS must continue to detain the alien until removal proceedings are completed. DHS must complete the removal proceedings within 90 days.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 486, introduced [1/12/17](#)]

- **H.R. 486 Stipulated That “If The Alien Is Not Convicted Of Crimes For Which The Alien Was Arrested, DHS Must Continue To Detain The Alien Until Removal Proceedings Are Completed.”** According to Congress.gov, “Cosponsor [...] Rep. DeSantis, Ron [R-FL-6] [...] Introduced in House (01/12/2017) Grant’s Law This bill amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to require mandatory detention of any alien who is unlawfully present in the United States and arrested for inadmissible or deportable crimes. The bill transfers release authority from the Department of Justice to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). DHS may release the alien to an appropriate authority for proceedings related to the arrest, but DHS must resume custody for any period that the alien is not in custody of the appropriate authority. If the alien is not convicted of crimes for which the alien was arrested, DHS must continue to detain the alien until removal proceedings are completed. DHS must complete the removal proceedings within 90 days.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 486, introduced [1/12/17](#)]

### ***H.R. 1178, The SAFE For America Act***

**February 2017: DeSantis Cosponsored, H.R. 1178, The “SAFE For America Act,” Which “Amends The Immigration And Nationality Act To Eliminate The Diversity Immigrant Program.”** According to Congress.gov, “Cosponsor [...] Rep. DeSantis, Ron [R-FL-6] [...] Introduced in House (02/16/2017) Security and Fairness Enhancement for America Act of 2017 or the SAFE for America Act This bill amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to eliminate the diversity immigrant program.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 1178, introduced [2/16/17](#)]

### ***H.Res. 990, Supporting The Officers And Personnel Who Carry Out The Important Mission Of The United States Immigration And Customs Enforcement***

**July 2018: DeSantis Cosponsored H.Res. 990, Which “Expresses Support For U.S. Immigration And Customs Enforcement (ICE) Officers And Personnel And Denounces Calls For ICE’s Abolishment.”** According to Congress.gov, “Cosponsor [...] Rep. DeSantis, Ron [R-FL-6] [...] Passed House amended (07/18/2018) Expresses support for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers and personnel and denounces calls for ICE’s abolishment.” [Congress.gov, H.Res. 990, introduced [7/11/18](#)]

### ***H.R. 6318, The Zero Tolerance For Illegal Entry Act, Accountability Through Electronic Verification Act***

**July 2018: DeSantis Cosponsored H.R. 6318, The “Zero Tolerance For Illegal Entry Act,” Which “Amends The Immigration And Nationality Act To Increase From A Misdemeanor To A Felony A First-Time Illegal Entry Into The United States.”** According to Congress.gov, “Cosponsor [...] Rep. DeSantis, Ron [R-FL-6] [...] Introduced in House (07/10/2018) Zero Tolerance for Illegal Entry Act This bill amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to increase from a misdemeanor to a felony a first-time illegal entry into the United States. It also withholds federal assistance from sanctuary jurisdictions and transfers amounts appropriated for public works and housing programs for those jurisdictions to the Department of Homeland Security for border control and the enforcement of the immigration laws. Accountability Through Electronic Verification Act The bill makes the E-Verify program permanent. It requires mandatory participation in the program by federal agencies, critical employers, and contractors and imposes increased fines for failure to participate. It also expands E-Verify to confirm the employment eligibility of existing employees not previously verified and to require employers to terminate an employee following the receipt of a final E-Verify nonconfirmation. The bill amends the federal

criminal code to impose enhanced criminal penalties and fines for facilitating or assisting in harboring or hiring unauthorized workers in violation of the immigration laws.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 6318, introduced [7/10/18](#)]

- **H.R. 6318 “Withholds Federal Assistance From Sanctuary Jurisdictions And Transfers Amounts Appropriated For Public Works And Housing Programs For Those Jurisdictions To The Department Of Homeland Security For Border Control And The Enforcement Of The Immigration Laws.”** According to Congress.gov, “Cosponsor [...] Rep. DeSantis, Ron [R-FL-6] [...] Introduced in House (07/10/2018) Zero Tolerance for Illegal Entry Act This bill amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to increase from a misdemeanor to a felony a first-time illegal entry into the United States. It also withholds federal assistance from sanctuary jurisdictions and transfers amounts appropriated for public works and housing programs for those jurisdictions to the Department of Homeland Security for border control and the enforcement of the immigration laws. Accountability Through Electronic Verification Act The bill makes the E-Verify program permanent. It requires mandatory participation in the program by federal agencies, critical employers, and contractors and imposes increased fines for failure to participate. It also expands E-Verify to confirm the employment eligibility of existing employees not previously verified and to require employers to terminate an employee following the receipt of a final E-Verify nonconfirmation. The bill amends the federal criminal code to impose enhanced criminal penalties and fines for facilitating or assisting in harboring or hiring unauthorized workers in violation of the immigration laws.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 6318, introduced [7/10/18](#)]
- **H.R. 6318 Additionally Contained The “Accountability Through Electronic Verification Act,” Which Made The E-Verify Program Permanent.** According to Congress.gov, “Cosponsor [...] Rep. DeSantis, Ron [R-FL-6] [...] Introduced in House (07/10/2018) Zero Tolerance for Illegal Entry Act This bill amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to increase from a misdemeanor to a felony a first-time illegal entry into the United States. It also withholds federal assistance from sanctuary jurisdictions and transfers amounts appropriated for public works and housing programs for those jurisdictions to the Department of Homeland Security for border control and the enforcement of the immigration laws. Accountability Through Electronic Verification Act The bill makes the E-Verify program permanent. It requires mandatory participation in the program by federal agencies, critical employers, and contractors and imposes increased fines for failure to participate. It also expands E-Verify to confirm the employment eligibility of existing employees not previously verified and to require employers to terminate an employee following the receipt of a final E-Verify nonconfirmation. The bill amends the federal criminal code to impose enhanced criminal penalties and fines for facilitating or assisting in harboring or hiring unauthorized workers in violation of the immigration laws.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 6318, introduced [7/10/18](#)]
- **The “Accountability Through Electronic Verification Act” Required Mandatory Participation In The E-Verify Program “By Federal Agencies, Critical Employers, And Contractors And Imposes Increased Fines For Failure To Participate.”** According to Congress.gov, “Cosponsor [...] Rep. DeSantis, Ron [R-FL-6] [...] Introduced in House (07/10/2018) Zero Tolerance for Illegal Entry Act This bill amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to increase from a misdemeanor to a felony a first-time illegal entry into the United States. It also withholds federal assistance from sanctuary jurisdictions and transfers amounts appropriated for public works and housing programs for those jurisdictions to the Department of Homeland Security for border control and the enforcement of the immigration laws. Accountability Through Electronic Verification Act The bill makes the E-Verify program permanent. It requires mandatory participation in the program by federal agencies, critical employers, and contractors and imposes increased fines for failure to participate. It also expands E-Verify to confirm the employment eligibility of existing employees not previously verified and to require employers to terminate an employee following the receipt of a final E-Verify nonconfirmation. The bill amends the federal criminal code to impose enhanced criminal penalties and fines for facilitating or assisting in harboring or hiring unauthorized workers in violation of the immigration laws.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 6318, introduced [7/10/18](#)]
- **The “Accountability Through Electronic Verification Act” Expanded “E-Verify To Confirm The Employment Eligibility Of Existing Employees Not Previously Verified And To Require Employers To Terminate An Employee Following The Receipt Of A Final E-Verify Nonconfirmation.”** According to Congress.gov, “Cosponsor [...] Rep. DeSantis, Ron [R-FL-6] [...] Introduced in House (07/10/2018) Zero

Tolerance for Illegal Entry Act This bill amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to increase from a misdemeanor to a felony a first-time illegal entry into the United States. It also withholds federal assistance from sanctuary jurisdictions and transfers amounts appropriated for public works and housing programs for those jurisdictions to the Department of Homeland Security for border control and the enforcement of the immigration laws. Accountability Through Electronic Verification Act The bill makes the E-Verify program permanent. It requires mandatory participation in the program by federal agencies, critical employers, and contractors and imposes increased fines for failure to participate. It also expands E-Verify to confirm the employment eligibility of existing employees not previously verified and to require employers to terminate an employee following the receipt of a final E-Verify nonconfirmation. The bill amends the federal criminal code to impose enhanced criminal penalties and fines for facilitating or assisting in harboring or hiring unauthorized workers in violation of the immigration laws.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 6318, introduced [7/10/18](#)]

- **H.R. 6318 “Amends The Federal Criminal Code To Impose Enhanced Criminal Penalties And Fines For Facilitating Or Assisting In Harboring Or Hiring Unauthorized Workers In Violation Of The Immigration Laws.”** According to Congress.gov, “Cosponsor [...] Rep. DeSantis, Ron [R-FL-6] [...] Introduced in House (07/10/2018) Zero Tolerance for Illegal Entry Act This bill amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to increase from a misdemeanor to a felony a first-time illegal entry into the United States. It also withholds federal assistance from sanctuary jurisdictions and transfers amounts appropriated for public works and housing programs for those jurisdictions to the Department of Homeland Security for border control and the enforcement of the immigration laws. Accountability Through Electronic Verification Act The bill makes the E-Verify program permanent. It requires mandatory participation in the program by federal agencies, critical employers, and contractors and imposes increased fines for failure to participate. It also expands E-Verify to confirm the employment eligibility of existing employees not previously verified and to require employers to terminate an employee following the receipt of a final E-Verify nonconfirmation. The bill amends the federal criminal code to impose enhanced criminal penalties and fines for facilitating or assisting in harboring or hiring unauthorized workers in violation of the immigration laws.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 6318, introduced [7/10/18](#)]

### ***H.R. 4791, The Use Spending For Congressional Immigration Supervision Act Or The USCIS Act***

**March 2016: DeSantis Cosponsored H.R. 4791, The “Use Spending For Congressional Immigration Supervision Act.”** According to Congress.gov, “Cosponsor [...] Rep. DeSantis, Ron [R-FL-6] [...] Introduced in House (03/17/2016) Use Spending for Congressional Immigration Supervision Act or the USCIS Act This bill amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to declare that all deposits into the Immigration Examinations Fee Account shall remain available to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) (currently, the Department of Justice [DOJ]) for reimbursement of administrative expenses, to the extent and in such amounts as are provided in advance in appropriation Acts. The Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 is amended to declare that certain foreign student and exchange program fees that are deposited into the account shall remain available to DHS (currently, DOJ) for reimbursement of administrative expenses (including expenses related to gathering foreign student information), to the extent and in such amounts as are provided in advance in appropriation Acts.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 4791, introduced [3/17/16](#)]

- **H.R. 4791 “Amends The Immigration And Nationality Act To Declare That All Deposits Into The Immigration Examinations Fee Account Shall Remain Available” To The DHS “For Reimbursement Of Administrative Expenses.”** According to Congress.gov, “Cosponsor [...] Rep. DeSantis, Ron [R-FL-6] [...] Introduced in House (03/17/2016) Use Spending for Congressional Immigration Supervision Act or the USCIS Act This bill amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to declare that all deposits into the Immigration Examinations Fee Account shall remain available to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) (currently, the Department of Justice [DOJ]) for reimbursement of administrative expenses, to the extent and in such amounts as are provided in advance in appropriation Acts. The Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 is amended to declare that certain foreign student and exchange program fees that are deposited into the account shall remain available to DHS (currently, DOJ) for reimbursement of administrative expenses (including expenses related to gathering foreign student information), to the extent and

in such amounts as are provided in advance in appropriation Acts.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 4791, introduced [3/17/16](#)]

- **H.R. 4791 Amends The Illegal Immigration Reform And Immigrant Responsibility Act Of 1996 “To Declare That Certain Foreign Student And Exchange Program Fees That Are Deposited Into The Account Shall Remain Available To DHS ... For Reimbursement Of Administrative Expenses.”** According to Congress.gov, “Cosponsor [...] Rep. DeSantis, Ron [R-FL-6] [...] Introduced in House (03/17/2016) Use Spending for Congressional Immigration Supervision Act or the USCIS Act This bill amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to declare that all deposits into the Immigration Examinations Fee Account shall remain available to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) (currently, the Department of Justice [DOJ]) for reimbursement of administrative expenses, to the extent and in such amounts as are provided in advance in appropriation Acts. The Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 is amended to declare that certain foreign student and exchange program fees that are deposited into the account shall remain available to DHS (currently, DOJ) for reimbursement of administrative expenses (including expenses related to gathering foreign student information), to the extent and in such amounts as are provided in advance in appropriation Acts.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 4791, introduced [3/17/16](#)]

### ***H.R. 5619, Sarah’s Law***

**July 2016: DeSantis Cosponsored H.R. 5619, “Sarah’s Law,” Which Amended The Immigration And Nationality Act To Require The Detention Of An Alien Who “Was Not Inspected And Admitted Into The United States” Or “Who Held A Revoked Nonimmigrant Visa” And “Who Has Been Charged In The United States With A Crime That Resulted In The Death Or Serious Bodily Injury Of Another Person.”** Which According to Congress.gov, “Cosponsor [...] Rep. DeSantis, Ron [R-FL-6] [...] Introduced in House (07/05/2016) Sarah’s Law This bill amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to require the detention of an alien: (1) who was not inspected and admitted into the United States, who held a revoked nonimmigrant visa (or other nonimmigrant admission document), or who is deportable for failing to maintain nonimmigrant status; and (2) who has been charged in the United States with a crime that resulted in the death or serious bodily injury of another person. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement shall make reasonable efforts to: obtain information about the identity of any victims of the crimes for which such alien was charged or convicted; and provide the victim, or a parent, guardian, spouse, or closest living relative of a deceased victim, with information about such alien, including name, date of birth, nationality, immigration status, criminal history, and a description of any related removal efforts.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 5619, introduced [7/5/16](#)]

- **H.R. 5619 Asked U.S. Immigration And Customs Enforcement To Provide The Victim Or The Victim’s Family Member With Information About The Detained Alien.** Which According to Congress.gov, “Cosponsor [...] Rep. DeSantis, Ron [R-FL-6] [...] Introduced in House (07/05/2016) Sarah’s Law This bill amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to require the detention of an alien: (1) who was not inspected and admitted into the United States, who held a revoked nonimmigrant visa (or other nonimmigrant admission document), or who is deportable for failing to maintain nonimmigrant status; and (2) who has been charged in the United States with a crime that resulted in the death or serious bodily injury of another person. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement shall make reasonable efforts to: obtain information about the identity of any victims of the crimes for which such alien was charged or convicted; and provide the victim, or a parent, guardian, spouse, or closest living relative of a deceased victim, with information about such alien, including name, date of birth, nationality, immigration status, criminal history, and a description of any related removal efforts.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 5619, introduced [7/5/16](#)]

### ***H.R. 3151, The Arrest Statistics Reporting Act Of 2015***

**July 2015: DeSantis Cosponsored H.R. 3151, The “Arrest Statistics Reporting Act Of 2015,” To Require U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement To Publish A Report On The Nationality, Immigration Status And Offenses Of Each Person Arrested During The Preceding Year.** According Congress.gov, “Cosponsor [...] Rep. DeSantis, Ron [R-FL-6] [...] Introduced in House (07/22/2015) Arrest Statistics Reporting Act of 2015 This bill

requires U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to publish annually and make publicly available a report that includes for each person arrested during the preceding year, and for whom a request was submitted to the Law Enforcement Support Center or any potential matches forwarded under the information sharing program between the Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security, the following information: the person's nationality and immigration status, and the offense for which the person was arrested. The Federal Bureau of Investigation shall: revise the Uniform Crime Reports to require that each arrest report shall include such published arrest information, and publish a summary of the data which shall include a table containing the National Crime Information Center offense codes and the corresponding occurrences for each nationality and immigration status category." [Congress.gov, H.R. 3151, introduced [7/22/15](#)]

- **H.R. 3151, Required The FBI To “Revise The Uniform Crime Reports To Require That Each Arrest Report Shall Include Such Published Arrest Information.”** According Congress.gov, “Cosponsor [...] Rep. DeSantis, Ron [R-FL-6] [...] Introduced in House (07/22/2015) Arrest Statistics Reporting Act of 2015 This bill requires U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to publish annually and make publicly available a report that includes for each person arrested during the preceding year, and for whom a request was submitted to the Law Enforcement Support Center or any potential matches forwarded under the information sharing program between the Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security, the following information: the person's nationality and immigration status, and the offense for which the person was arrested. The Federal Bureau of Investigation shall: revise the Uniform Crime Reports to require that each arrest report shall include such published arrest information, and publish a summary of the data which shall include a table containing the National Crime Information Center offense codes and the corresponding occurrences for each nationality and immigration status category.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 3151, introduced [7/22/15](#)]

### ***H.R. 3296, The Restore The Oath Of Allegiance Act***

**July 2015: DeSantis Cosponsored H.R. 3296, The “Restore The Oath Of Allegiance Act,” Which “Requires That The Naturalization Oath Of Allegiance Be The Same Formulation, Subject To The Same Potential Omissions Or Alterations, As The Formulation Of The Oath Administered On July 20, 2015.”** According to Congress.gov, “Cosponsor [...] Rep. DeSantis, Ron [R-FL-6] [...] Introduced in House (07/29/2015) Restore the Oath of Allegiance Act This bill requires that the naturalization oath of allegiance be the same formulation, subject to the same potential omissions or alterations, as the formulation of the oath administered on July 20, 2015.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 3296, introduced [7/29/15](#)]

- **July 2022: The Whitehouse Enacted An Exemption For Immigrants Wishing To Naturalize Who Objected To The Military Service Clause In The Oath Of Allegiance On Religious Or Moral Grounds.** The Christian Science Monitor reported, “The White House enacted new eligibility guidelines Tuesday for immigrants who wish to naturalize, but who object to military service. The clarifications apply to the Oath of Allegiance, which immigrants must take to become naturalized citizens and which includes clauses about being willing to complete military service if called to do so. Those who object on religious or moral grounds may be exempt from reciting these clauses if they meet the eligibility standards specified in the updated guidelines. The updates come during an effort to naturalize more immigrants on the part of President Barack Obama's administration. About these ads The Oath of Allegiance asks citizens-to-be to promise to ‘bear arms on behalf of the United States when required by the law’ and to ‘perform noncombatant service in the Armed Forces of the United States when required by the law.’ Just as provisions exist for US-born citizens who qualify as ‘conscientious objectors’ to exempt themselves from military service, similar allowances are made for naturalized citizens. The guidelines make three stipulations: candidates for citizenship can request exemption ‘based on religious training and belief, or conscientious objection arising from a deeply held moral or ethical code,’ but are ‘not required to belong to a specific church or religion, follow a particular theology or belief, or to have had religious training in order to qualify.’ If someone does belong to a religion, evidence of affiliation may be submitted.” [Christian Science Monitor, [7/22/15](#)]
- **The Naturalization Oath Of Allegiance Required Immigrants To Express That They Would “Absolutely And Entirely Renounce And Abjure All Allegiance And Fidelity To Any Foreign Prince, Potentate, State,**

**Or Sovereignty, Of Whom Or Which I Have Heretofore Been A Subject Or Citizen.”** According to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services website, “Naturalization Oath of Allegiance to the United States of America Oath ‘I hereby declare, on oath, that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, of whom or which I have heretofore been a subject or citizen; that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I will bear arms on behalf of the United States when required by the law; that I will perform noncombatant service in the Armed Forces of the United States when required by the law; that I will perform work of national importance under civilian direction when required by the law; and that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; so help me God.’” [U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Naturalization Oath of Allegiance to the United States of America, accessed [4/10/23](#)]

- **The Naturalization Oath Of Allegiance Required Immigrants To Express That They Would “Support And Defend The Constitution And Laws Of The United States Against All Enemies, Foreign And Domestic” And “Bear True Faith And Allegiance To The Same.”** According to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services website, “Naturalization Oath of Allegiance to the United States of America Oath ‘I hereby declare, on oath, that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, of whom or which I have heretofore been a subject or citizen; that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I will bear arms on behalf of the United States when required by the law; that I will perform noncombatant service in the Armed Forces of the United States when required by the law; that I will perform work of national importance under civilian direction when required by the law; and that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; so help me God.’” [U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Naturalization Oath of Allegiance to the United States of America, accessed [4/10/23](#)]
- **The Naturalization Oath Of Allegiance Required Immigrants To Express That They Would “Bear Arms On Behalf Of The United States When Required By The Law,” “Perform Noncombatant Service In The Armed Forces Of The United States When Required By The Law” And “Perform Work Of National Importance Under Civilian Direction When Required By The Law.”** According to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services website, “Naturalization Oath of Allegiance to the United States of America Oath ‘I hereby declare, on oath, that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, of whom or which I have heretofore been a subject or citizen; that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I will bear arms on behalf of the United States when required by the law; that I will perform noncombatant service in the Armed Forces of the United States when required by the law; that I will perform work of national importance under civilian direction when required by the law; and that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; so help me God.’” [U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Naturalization Oath of Allegiance to the United States of America, accessed [4/10/23](#)]

### ***H.R. 3011, Kate’s Law***

**July 2015: DeSantis Cosponsored H.R. 3011, “Kate’s Law,” Which “Amends The Immigration And Nationality Act To Increase Penalties Applicable To Aliens Who Unlawfully Reenter The United States After Being Removed.”** According to Congress.gov, “Cosponsor [...] Rep. DeSantis, Ron [R-FL-6] [...] Introduced in House (07/09/2015) Establishing Mandatory Minimums for Illegal Reentry Act of 2015 or Kate’s Law This bill amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to increase penalties applicable to aliens who unlawfully reenter the United States after being removed.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 3011, introduced [7/9/15](#)]

### ***H.R. 3314, The Resettlement Accountability National Security Act Of 2015***

**July 2015: DeSantis Cosponsored H.R. 3314, The “Resettlement Accountability National Security Act Of 2015,” Which “Prohibits The Admission Of Refugees Into The United States Until Congress Passes A Joint Resolution Giving The Department Of Homeland Security Authority To Resume Admitting Refugees.”**

According to Congress.gov, “Cosponsor [...] Rep. DeSantis, Ron [R-FL-6] [...] Introduced in House (07/29/2015) Resettlement Accountability National Security Act of 2015 This bill prohibits the admission of refugees into the United States until Congress passes a joint resolution giving the Department of Homeland Security authority to resume admitting refugees. Requires the Government Accountability Office to report to Congress on refugees who received benefits under any of the following programs: Medicare, Medicaid, disability insurance under title II of the Social Security Act, the supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP, formerly the food stamp program), and section 8 rental assistance.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 3314, introduced [7/29/15](#)]

- **H.R. 3314 “Requires The Government Accountability Office To Report To Congress On Refugees Who Received Benefits” Including Medicare, Medicaid, Disability Insurance, SNAP And Section 8 Rental Assistance.** According to Congress.gov, “Cosponsor [...] Rep. DeSantis, Ron [R-FL-6] [...] Introduced in House (07/29/2015) Resettlement Accountability National Security Act of 2015 This bill prohibits the admission of refugees into the United States until Congress passes a joint resolution giving the Department of Homeland Security authority to resume admitting refugees. Requires the Government Accountability Office to report to Congress on refugees who received benefits under any of the following programs: Medicare, Medicaid, disability insurance under title II of the Social Security Act, the supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP, formerly the food stamp program), and section 8 rental assistance.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 3314, introduced [7/29/15](#)]

***H.R. 4247, The Cuban Immigrant Work Opportunity Act Of 2015***

**December 2015: DeSantis Cosponsored H.R. 4247, The “Cuban Immigrant Work Opportunity Act Of 2015,” Which “Makes Cuban Nationals Who Enter The United States On Or After The Date Of Enactment Of This Act Ineligible For Refugee/Parolee Assistance Under The Refugee Education Assistance Act Of 1980.”**

According to Congress.gov, “Cosponsor [...] Rep. DeSantis, Ron [R-FL-6] [...] Introduced in House (12/15/2015) Cuban Immigrant Work Opportunity Act of 2015 This bill makes Cuban nationals who enter the United States on or after the date of enactment of this Act ineligible for refugee/parolee assistance under the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980. Conforming amendments are made to the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 and the Immigration and Nationality Act. The Inspector General of the Social Security Administration shall report to Congress describing methods for enforcing the loss of Supplemental Security Income eligibility by persons who are absent from the United States for at least one month.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 4247, introduced [12/15/15](#)]

- **H.R. 4247 Required The Inspector General Of The Social Security Administration To “Report To Congress Describing Methods For Enforcing The Loss Of Supplemental Security Income Eligibility By Persons Who Are Absent From The United States For At Least One Month.”** According to Congress.gov, “Cosponsor [...] Rep. DeSantis, Ron [R-FL-6] [...] Introduced in House (12/15/2015) Cuban Immigrant Work Opportunity Act of 2015 This bill makes Cuban nationals who enter the United States on or after the date of enactment of this Act ineligible for refugee/parolee assistance under the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980. Conforming amendments are made to the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 and the Immigration and Nationality Act. The Inspector General of the Social Security Administration shall report to Congress describing methods for enforcing the loss of Supplemental Security Income eligibility by persons who are absent from the United States for at least one month.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 4247, introduced [12/15/15](#)]
- **Representative Curbelo, Who Authored H.R. 4247, Said That The Bill Would Amend Existing Federal Law That Treated All Cuban Arrivals As Refugees Or Political Asylees And Instead Treat Cubans Like All Other Immigrants, Who Were Required To File A Refugee Or Asylum Claim.** The Miami Herald reported, “Citing flagrant abuse of government funds, a Miami congressman published legislation Tuesday to stop automatically granting Cubans in the U.S. welfare benefits that take most immigrants of other nationalities years to obtain. Republican Rep. Carlos Curbelo, himself a Cuban American, filed a bill to amend existing

federal law that treats all Cuban arrivals as refugees or political asylees—meaning they are entitled to food stamps, Medicaid, disability insurance and other assistance. Under his proposal, which Curbelo cast as a matter of fairness, Cubans would be treated like immigrants from most other countries, who are required to file a refugee or asylum claim—and wait years for it to be approved—before qualifying for special benefits. Only Haitian immigrants, already treated like Cubans under the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980, would continue to be exempted upon legal arrival in the U.S. [...] Curbelo acknowledged his legislation, HR 4247, dubbed the ‘Cuban Immigrant Work Opportunity Act of 2015,’ is a ‘first step’ toward rewriting U.S.-Cuba immigration policy, which would eventually involve tackling the CAA. The freshman congressman has separately been working for months on legislation to crack down on so-called economic refugees from Cuba who claim U.S. residency, established for victims of political persecution, only to travel to the island before becoming U.S. citizens.” [Miami Herald, 12/15/15]

## ***H.R. 4962, The National Border And Homeland Security Act***

### **June 2014: DeSantis Cosponsored H.R. 4962, The “National Border And Homeland Security Act,” To Give State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) Funding Priority To Border States And States “Having One Of The Four Largest Populations Of Unlawfully Present Aliens For The Preceding Fiscal Year.”**

According to Congress.gov, “Cosponsor [...] Rep. DeSantis, Ron [R-FL-6] [...] Introduced in House (06/25/2014) National Border and Homeland Security Act - Amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to give state criminal alien assistance program (SCAAP) funding priority to: (1) northern or southern border states, or (2) state political subdivisions having one of the four largest populations of unlawfully present aliens for the preceding fiscal year. Amends the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security (DHS) (Secretary) to complete the required 700 mile southwest border fencing and priority-area fencing by December 31, 2015. [...] Prohibits the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture (USDA) from impeding border security-related activities by the Secretary on U.S. public lands. Amends the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to direct the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office (of DHS), in protecting the United States from a nuclear, fissile material, or radiological attack, to consider potential smuggling routes in land border areas between ports of entry, railcars entering the United States from Canada or Mexico, and private aircraft or small vessels. Directs the Secretary to procure within one year the number of next generation portable radiation detectors (PRDs) and radioactive isotope identification devices (RIIDs) required by the Border Patrol along the southern and northern U.S. borders. Directs the Secretary to develop within one year, and implement within two years of development, a strategic plan to detect and interdict biological and chemical weapons entering the United States.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 4962, introduced [6/25/14](#)]

- **H.R. 4962 “Amends The Illegal Immigration Reform And Immigrant Responsibility Act Of 1996 To Direct The Secretary Of Homeland Security ... To Complete The Required 700 Mile Southwest Border Fencing And Priority-Area Fencing By December 31, 2015.”** According to Congress.gov, “Cosponsor [...] Rep. DeSantis, Ron [R-FL-6] [...] Introduced in House (06/25/2014) National Border and Homeland Security Act - Amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to give state criminal alien assistance program (SCAAP) funding priority to: (1) northern or southern border states, or (2) state political subdivisions having one of the four largest populations of unlawfully present aliens for the preceding fiscal year. Amends the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security (DHS) (Secretary) to complete the required 700 mile southwest border fencing and priority-area fencing by December 31, 2015. Amends the Secure Fence Act of 2006 to direct the Secretary, in consultation with state and local officials along the U.S.-Mexico border, to achieve operational control over U.S. international land and maritime borders by December 31, 2015. Directs the Secretary to: increase the number of full-time, active-duty Border Patrol agents through FY2018; increase the number of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers at U.S. ports of entry through FY2018; and establish within 18 months the biometric entry and exit data system required by the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004. [...] Directs the Secretary to develop within one year, and implement within two years of development, a strategic plan to detect and interdict biological and chemical weapons entering the United States.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 4962, introduced [6/25/14](#)]



- H.R. 4962 “Amends The Secure Fence Act Of 2006 To Direct The Secretary, In Consultation With State And Local Officials Along The U.S.-Mexico Border, To Achieve Operational Control Over U.S. International Land And Maritime Borders By December 31, 2015.”** According to Congress.gov, “Cosponsor [...] Rep. DeSantis, Ron [R-FL-6] [...] Introduced in House (06/25/2014) National Border and Homeland Security Act - Amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to give state criminal alien assistance program (SCAAP) funding priority to: (1) northern or southern border states, or (2) state political subdivisions having one of the four largest populations of unlawfully present aliens for the preceding fiscal year. Amends the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security (DHS) (Secretary) to complete the required 700 mile southwest border fencing and priority-area fencing by December 31, 2015. Amends the Secure Fence Act of 2006 to direct the Secretary, in consultation with state and local officials along the U.S.-Mexico border, to achieve operational control over U.S. international land and maritime borders by December 31, 2015. [...] Amends the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to direct the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office (of DHS), in protecting the United States from a nuclear, fissile material, or radiological attack, to consider potential smuggling routes in land border areas between ports of entry, railcars entering the United States from Canada or Mexico, and private aircraft or small vessels. Directs the Secretary to procure within one year the number of next generation portable radiation detectors (PRDs) and radioactive isotope identification devices (RIIDs) required by the Border Patrol along the southern and northern U.S. borders. Directs the Secretary to develop within one year, and implement within two years of development, a strategic plan to detect and interdict biological and chemical weapons entering the United States.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 4962, introduced [6/25/14](#)]
- H.R. 4962 “Prohibits The Secretary Of The Interior And The Secretary Of Agriculture (USDA) From Impeding Border Security-Related Activities By The Secretary On U.S. Public Lands.”** According to Congress.gov, “Cosponsor [...] Rep. DeSantis, Ron [R-FL-6] [...] Introduced in House (06/25/2014) National Border and Homeland Security Act - Amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to give state criminal alien assistance program (SCAAP) funding priority to: (1) northern or southern border states, or (2) state political subdivisions having one of the four largest populations of unlawfully present aliens for the preceding fiscal year. [...] Prohibits the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture (USDA) from impeding border security-related activities by the Secretary on U.S. public lands. Amends the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to direct the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office (of DHS), in protecting the United States from a nuclear, fissile material, or radiological attack, to consider potential smuggling routes in land border areas between ports of entry, railcars entering the United States from Canada or Mexico, and private aircraft or small vessels. Directs the Secretary to procure within one year the number of next generation portable radiation detectors (PRDs) and radioactive isotope identification devices (RIIDs) required by the Border Patrol along the southern and northern U.S. borders. Directs the Secretary to develop within one year, and implement within two years of development, a strategic plan to detect and interdict biological and chemical weapons entering the United States.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 4962, introduced [6/25/14](#)]

## ***H.R. 4357***

**April 2014: DeSantis Cosponsored H.R. 4357, Which Would “Direct The President To Deny U.S. Admission To Any Representative Of The United Nations ... Who: (1) Has Engaged In Espionage Activities Or A Terrorist Activity Against The United States Or Its Allies, And (2) May Pose A Threat To U.S. National Security Interests.”** According to Congress.gov, “Cosponsor [...] Rep. DeSantis, Ron [R-FL-6] [...] Introduced in House (04/01/2014) Amends the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1990 and 1991 to direct the President to deny U.S. admission to any representative of the United Nations (U.N.) who: (1) has engaged in espionage activities or a terrorist activity against the United States or its allies, and (2) may pose a threat to U.S. national security interests.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 4357, introduced [4/1/14](#)]

## ***H.R. 5053, The Expedited Family Reunification Act Of 2014***

**July 2014: DeSantis Cosponsored H.R. 5053, The “Expedited Family Reunification Act Of 2014.”** According to Congress.gov, “Cosponsor [...] Rep. DeSantis, Ron [R-FL-6] [...] Introduced in House (07/10/2014) Expedited

Family Reunification Act of 2014 - Amends the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 to provide that any unaccompanied alien child (UAC) who has not been a victim of a severe form of trafficking in persons or does not have a credible fear of persecution on returning to his or her country of nationality or of last habitual residence shall be: (1) placed in removal proceedings, (2) eligible for voluntary departure at no cost to the child, and (3) provided with access to counsel. (Currently such expedited removal requirements apply to unaccompanied children from countries that are contiguous to the United States.) Directs the Secretary of State to negotiate agreements, in addition to countries contiguous to the United States, between the United States and Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, and any other appropriate country regarding the repatriation of children. Applies the requirements of this Act to any UAC apprehended on or after June 15, 2012.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 5053, introduced [7/10/14](#)]

- **H.R. 5053 Provided That “Any Unaccompanied Alien Child Who Has Not Been A Victim Of A Severe Form Of Trafficking ... Shall Be: (1) Placed In Removal Proceedings, (2) Eligible For Voluntary Departure At No Cost To The Child, And (3) Provided With Access To Counsel.”** According to Congress.gov, “Cosponsor [...] Rep. DeSantis, Ron [R-FL-6] [...] Introduced in House (07/10/2014) Expedited Family Reunification Act of 2014 - Amends the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 to provide that any unaccompanied alien child (UAC) who has not been a victim of a severe form of trafficking in persons or does not have a credible fear of persecution on returning to his or her country of nationality or of last habitual residence shall be: (1) placed in removal proceedings, (2) eligible for voluntary departure at no cost to the child, and (3) provided with access to counsel. (Currently such expedited removal requirements apply to unaccompanied children from countries that are contiguous to the United States.) Directs the Secretary of State to negotiate agreements, in addition to countries contiguous to the United States, between the United States and Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, and any other appropriate country regarding the repatriation of children. Applies the requirements of this Act to any UAC apprehended on or after June 15, 2012.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 5053, introduced [7/10/14](#)]

### ***H.R. 3732, The Immigration Compliance Enforcement (ICE) Act***

**December 2013: DeSantis Cosponsored H.R. 3732, The “Immigration Compliance Enforcement (ICE) Act,” Which Would Prohibit Using Federal Funds For The Positions Of Public Advocate Or Deputy Assistant Director Of Custody Programs And Community Outreach Within ICE.”** According to Congress.gov, “Cosponsor [...] Rep. DeSantis, Ron [R-FL-6] [...] Introduced in House (12/12/2013) Immigration Compliance Enforcement (ICE) Act - Prohibits the use of federal funds for: (1) the position of Public Advocate within U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE); (2) the position of Deputy Assistant Director of Custody Programs and Community Outreach within ICE; or (3) any other position within ICE whose functions are substantially the same as those which as of March 26, 2013, were assigned to the position of Public Advocate within ICE, or as of the date of the enactment of this Act were assigned to the position of Deputy Assistant Director of Custody Programs and Community Outreach within ICE.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 3732, introduced [12/12/13](#)]

### ***H.R. 2278, The SAFE Act***

**June 2013: DeSantis Cosponsored H.R. 2278, The “SAFE Act,” Which Allowed “State Or Local Law Enforcement Personnel To Investigate, Apprehend, Arrest, Or Transfer To Federal Custody Aliens For Immigration Enforcement Purposes To The Same Extent As Federal Law Enforcement Personnel.”** According to Congress.gov, “Cosponsor [...] Rep. DeSantis, Ron [R-FL-6] [...] Strengthen and Fortify Enforcement Act or the SAFE Act - Title I: Immigration Law Enforcement by States and Localities - (Sec. 102) Authorizes: (1) states or their political subdivisions to enact and enforce immigration criminal penalties as long as they do not exceed relevant federal criminal penalties; and (2) state or local law enforcement personnel to investigate, apprehend, arrest, or transfer to federal custody aliens for immigration enforcement purposes to the same extent as federal law enforcement personnel. (Sec. 103) Directs the Secretary of Homeland Security (DHS) (Secretary) to provide the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) of the Department of Justice (DOJ) with all information that the Secretary has regarding any alien: against whom a final order of removal has been issued, who has entered into a voluntary departure agreement, who has overstayed his or her authorized period of stay, or whose

visa has been revoked. Requires NCIC to enter such information into its Immigration Violators File. (Sec. 104) Requires states to have access to federal programs or technology directed at identifying inadmissible or deportable aliens. (Sec. 105) Requires states and their political subdivisions to provide DHS with specified identifying information about each apprehended alien who is believed to be inadmissible or deportable. (Sec. 106) Directs the Secretary to make grants to eligible states and their political subdivisions for procurement of equipment, technology, and facilities related to investigating, apprehending, arresting, or transporting inadmissible or deportable aliens. Authorizes appropriations. (Sec. 107) Directs the Secretary to construct or acquire additional domestic detention facilities for aliens detained pending removal.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 2278, introduced [6/6/13](#)]

- **H.R. 2278 “Requires States And Their Political Subdivisions To Provide DHS With Specified Identifying Information About Each Apprehended Alien Who Is Believed To Be Inadmissible Or Deportable.”** According to Congress.gov, “Cosponsor [...] Rep. DeSantis, Ron [R-FL-6] [...] Strengthen and Fortify Enforcement Act or the SAFE Act - Title I: Immigration Law Enforcement by States and Localities - (Sec. 102) Authorizes: (1) states or their political subdivisions to enact and enforce immigration criminal penalties as long as they do not exceed relevant federal criminal penalties; and (2) state or local law enforcement personnel to investigate, apprehend, arrest, or transfer to federal custody aliens for immigration enforcement purposes to the same extent as federal law enforcement personnel. (Sec. 103) Directs the Secretary of Homeland Security (DHS) (Secretary) to provide the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) of the Department of Justice (DOJ) with all information that the Secretary has regarding any alien: against whom a final order of removal has been issued, who has entered into a voluntary departure agreement, who has overstayed his or her authorized period of stay, or whose visa has been revoked. Requires NCIC to enter such information into its Immigration Violators File. (Sec. 104) Requires states to have access to federal programs or technology directed at identifying inadmissible or deportable aliens. (Sec. 105) Requires states and their political subdivisions to provide DHS with specified identifying information about each apprehended alien who is believed to be inadmissible or deportable. (Sec. 106) Directs the Secretary to make grants to eligible states and their political subdivisions for procurement of equipment, technology, and facilities related to investigating, apprehending, arresting, or transporting inadmissible or deportable aliens. Authorizes appropriations. (Sec. 107) Directs the Secretary to construct or acquire additional domestic detention facilities for aliens detained pending removal.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 2278, introduced [6/6/13](#)]
- **H.R. 2278 “Requires States And Localities To: (1) Notify The Federal Government Of Inadmissible Or Removable Aliens Who Are Encountered By Law Enforcement Personnel.”** According to Congress.gov, “Cosponsor [...] Rep. DeSantis, Ron [R-FL-6] [...] (Sec. 114) Requires states and localities to: (1) notify the federal government of inadmissible or removable aliens who are encountered by law enforcement personnel, (2) comply with federal law enforcement information requests and with DHS detainers. Denies specified federal law enforcement assistance to a state or a political subdivision that prohibits law enforcement officers from cooperating with federal immigration law enforcement. (Sec. 115) Directs the Secretary to execute all lawful writs, process, and orders issued under the authority of the United States. Title II: National Security - (Sec. 201) Revises and expands certain terrorism-related provisions and bans with respect to naturalization, asylum, good moral character, voluntary departure, and cancellation of removal. (Sec. 202) Prohibits an alien who was inadmissible or deportable on security and related grounds from being regarded as a person of good moral character under INA. Applies the good moral character bar regardless of when a crime was classified as an aggravated felony. (Sec. 203) Prohibits: naturalization of an alien who was inadmissible or deportable on security grounds and related grounds; and DHS or a court from considering a naturalization application while any proceeding to determine inadmissibility, deportability, or eligibility for lawful permanent residence is pending. Requires a conditional lawful permanent resident to have the condition removed before applying for naturalization.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 2278, introduced [6/6/13](#)]
- **H.R. 2278 “Denies Specified Federal Law Enforcement Assistance To A State Or A Political Subdivision That Prohibits Law Enforcement Officers From Cooperating With Federal Immigration Law Enforcement.”** According to Congress.gov, “Cosponsor [...] Rep. DeSantis, Ron [R-FL-6] [...] (Sec. 114) Requires states and localities to: (1) notify the federal government of inadmissible or removable aliens who are encountered by law enforcement personnel, (2) comply with federal law enforcement information requests and with DHS detainers. Denies specified federal law enforcement assistance to a state or a political subdivision

that prohibits law enforcement officers from cooperating with federal immigration law enforcement. (Sec. 115) Directs the Secretary to execute all lawful writs, process, and orders issued under the authority of the United States. Title II: National Security - (Sec. 201) Revises and expands certain terrorism-related provisions and bans with respect to naturalization, asylum, good moral character, voluntary departure, and cancellation of removal. (Sec. 202) Prohibits an alien who was inadmissible or deportable on security and related grounds from being regarded as a person of good moral character under INA. Applies the good moral character bar regardless of when a crime was classified as an aggravated felony. (Sec. 203) Prohibits: naturalization of an alien who was inadmissible or deportable on security grounds and related grounds; and DHS or a court from considering a naturalization application while any proceeding to determine inadmissibility, deportability, or eligibility for lawful permanent residence is pending. Requires a conditional lawful permanent resident to have the condition removed before applying for naturalization.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 2278, introduced [6/6/13](#)]

- **H.R. 2278 “Prohibits An Alien Who Was Inadmissible Or Deportable On Security And Related Grounds From Being Regarded As A Person Of Good Moral Character Under INA.”** According to Congress.gov, “Cosponsor [...] Rep. DeSantis, Ron [R-FL-6] [...] (Sec. 114) Requires states and localities to: (1) notify the federal government of inadmissible or removable aliens who are encountered by law enforcement personnel, (2) comply with federal law enforcement information requests and with DHS detainers. Denies specified federal law enforcement assistance to a state or a political subdivision that prohibits law enforcement officers from cooperating with federal immigration law enforcement. (Sec. 115) Directs the Secretary to execute all lawful writs, process, and orders issued under the authority of the United States. Title II: National Security - (Sec. 201) Revises and expands certain terrorism-related provisions and bans with respect to naturalization, asylum, good moral character, voluntary departure, and cancellation of removal. (Sec. 202) Prohibits an alien who was inadmissible or deportable on security and related grounds from being regarded as a person of good moral character under INA. Applies the good moral character bar regardless of when a crime was classified as an aggravated felony. (Sec. 203) Prohibits: naturalization of an alien who was inadmissible or deportable on security grounds and related grounds; and DHS or a court from considering a naturalization application while any proceeding to determine inadmissibility, deportability, or eligibility for lawful permanent residence is pending. Requires a conditional lawful permanent resident to have the condition removed before applying for naturalization.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 2278, introduced [6/6/13](#)]
- **H.R. 2278 “Makes Aggravated Felons Ineligible For Refugee Or Asylee Adjustment Of Status” And “Makes A Second DUI Conviction An Aggravated Felony Under INA.”** According to Congress.gov, “Cosponsor [...] Rep. DeSantis, Ron [R-FL-6] [...] Title III: Removal of Criminal Aliens - (Sec. 301) Revises and expands the definition of ‘aggravated felony’ under INA. Makes such changes retroactive. (Sec. 302) Adds new grounds of inadmissibility for: (1) identity fraud or Social Security number misuse; (2) unlawful procurement of citizenship or naturalization; (3) specified firearm offenses; (4) conviction of an aggravated felony; and (5) crimes of domestic violence, stalking, or child abuse. Makes such additions retroactive. Adds new grounds of deportability for: (1) identity fraud or Social Security number misuse, and (2) unlawful procurement of citizenship or naturalization. Makes such additions retroactive. (Sec. 303) Makes inadmissible an alien who plans to or has engaged in espionage, prohibited export, or other unlawful activities, including activities aimed at the violent overthrow of the U.S. government. (Sec. 304) Prohibits the sale of or possession of firearms by any alien who is not lawfully admitted for permanent residence. (Secs. 305-307) Amends the federal criminal code to: place a 10-year statute of limitations on most criminal violations of INA; make all passport and visa fraud a racketeering activity; and expand the definition of aggravated felony to include all penalties for passport, visa, and immigration fraud (under chapter 75 of title 18). (Sec. 308) Makes aggravated felons ineligible for refugee or asylee adjustment of status. (Sec. 309) Makes a second DUI conviction an aggravated felony under INA. Requires the detention of an unlawfully present alien who has been convicted of driving while intoxicated without regard to whether the conviction is classified as a misdemeanor or felony under state law.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 2278, introduced [6/6/13](#)]
- **H.R. 2278 “Requires The Detention Of An Unlawfully Present Alien Who Has Been Convicted Of Driving While Intoxicated Without Regard To Whether The Conviction Is Classified As A Misdemeanor Or Felony Under State Law.”** According to Congress.gov, “Cosponsor [...] Rep. DeSantis, Ron [R-FL-6] [...] Title III: Removal of Criminal Aliens - (Sec. 301) Revises and expands the definition of ‘aggravated

felony’ under INA. Makes such changes retroactive. (Sec. 302) Adds new grounds of inadmissibility for: (1) identity fraud or Social Security number misuse; (2) unlawful procurement of citizenship or naturalization; (3) specified firearm offenses; (4) conviction of an aggravated felony; and (5) crimes of domestic violence, stalking, or child abuse. Makes such additions retroactive. Adds new grounds of deportability for: (1) identity fraud or Social Security number misuse, and (2) unlawful procurement of citizenship or naturalization. Makes such additions retroactive. (Sec. 303) Makes inadmissible an alien who plans to or has engaged in espionage, prohibited export, or other unlawful activities, including activities aimed at the violent overthrow of the U.S. government. (Sec. 304) Prohibits the sale of or possession of firearms by any alien who is not lawfully admitted for permanent residence. (Secs. 305-307) Amends the federal criminal code to: place a 10-year statute of limitations on most criminal violations of INA; make all passport and visa fraud a racketeering activity; and expand the definition of aggravated felony to include all penalties for passport, visa, and immigration fraud (under chapter 75 of title 18). (Sec. 308) Makes aggravated felons ineligible for refugee or asylee adjustment of status. (Sec. 309) Makes a second DUI conviction an aggravated felony under INA. Requires the detention of an unlawfully present alien who has been convicted of driving while intoxicated without regard to whether the conviction is classified as a misdemeanor or felony under state law.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 2278, introduced [6/6/13](#)]

- **H.R. 2278 “Authorizes The Secretary To Designate Groups As Criminal Street Gangs” And “Makes An Alien Who Is, Or Was, A Member Of A Criminal Gang Inadmissible And Deportable.”** According to Congress.gov, “Cosponsor [...] Rep. DeSantis, Ron [R-FL-6] [...] (Sec. 311) Authorizes the Secretary to designate groups as criminal street gangs. Makes an alien who is, or was, a member of a criminal gang inadmissible and deportable. Requires detention for anyone found inadmissible or deportable for criminal street gang membership. Bars individuals found inadmissible or deportable for criminal gang membership from asylum, withholding of removal, and temporary protected status. (Secs. 312-313) Amends federal criminal law with respect to identity theft and money laundering under INA.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 2278, introduced [6/6/13](#)]
- **H.R. 2278 “Requires Detention For Anyone Found Inadmissible Or Deportable For Criminal Street Gang Membership.”** According to Congress.gov, “Cosponsor [...] Rep. DeSantis, Ron [R-FL-6] [...] (Sec. 311) Authorizes the Secretary to designate groups as criminal street gangs. Makes an alien who is, or was, a member of a criminal gang inadmissible and deportable. Requires detention for anyone found inadmissible or deportable for criminal street gang membership. Bars individuals found inadmissible or deportable for criminal gang membership from asylum, withholding of removal, and temporary protected status. (Secs. 312-313) Amends federal criminal law with respect to identity theft and money laundering under INA.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 2278, introduced [6/6/13](#)]
- **H.R. 2278 “Prescribes Criminal Penalties For Any Person Who: Facilitates, Encourages, Or Directs A Person To Come To Or Enter The United States, Or To Cross The U.S. Border, Knowing Or In Reckless Disregard Of The Fact That Such Person Is An Alien Who Lacks Lawful Authority To Do So.”** According to Congress.gov, “Cosponsor [...] Rep. DeSantis, Ron [R-FL-6] [...] (Sec. 314) Revises prohibitions and requirements regarding alien smuggling and harboring. Prescribes criminal penalties for any person who: facilitates, encourages, or directs a person to come to or enter the United States, or to cross the U.S. border, knowing or in reckless disregard of the fact that such person is an alien who lacks lawful authority to do so; facilitates, encourages, or directs a person to come to or enter the United States, or to cross the U.S. border, at a place other than a designated port of entry or a place designated by DHS, knowing or in reckless disregard of the fact that such person is an alien and regardless of whether such alien has official permission or lawful authority to be in the United States; transports, moves, harbors, or shields from detection a person outside of the United States knowing or in reckless disregard of the fact that such person is an alien seeking to enter the United States without lawful authority; encourages or induces a person to reside in the United States, knowing or in reckless disregard of the fact that such person is an alien who lacks lawful authority to reside in the United States; [...] Provides extraterritorial federal jurisdiction over such offenses. Revises related criminal penalties. Subjects to forfeiture real or personal property used to commit or facilitate a violation under this section.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 2278, introduced [6/6/13](#)]

- **H.R. 2278 “Subjects To Forfeiture Real Or Personal Property Used To Commit Or Facilitate A Violation” Of Assisting An Individually To Illegally Cross The Border.** According to Congress.gov, “Cosponsor [...] Rep. DeSantis, Ron [R-FL-6] [...] (Sec. 314) Revises prohibitions and requirements regarding alien smuggling and harboring. Prescribes criminal penalties for any person who: facilitates, encourages, or directs a person to come to or enter the United States, or to cross the U.S. border, knowing or in reckless disregard of the fact that such person is an alien who lacks lawful authority to do so; facilitates, encourages, or directs a person to come to or enter the United States, or to cross the U.S. border, at a place other than a designated port of entry or a place designated by DHS, knowing or in reckless disregard of the fact that such person is an alien and regardless of whether such alien has official permission or lawful authority to be in the United States; transports, moves, harbors, or shields from detection a person outside of the United States knowing or in reckless disregard of the fact that such person is an alien seeking to enter the United States without lawful authority; encourages or induces a person to reside in the United States, knowing or in reckless disregard of the fact that such person is an alien who lacks lawful authority to reside in the United States; transports or moves a person in the United States, knowing or in reckless disregard of the fact that such person is an alien who lacks lawful authority to enter or be in the United States [...] Provides extraterritorial federal jurisdiction over such offenses. Revises related criminal penalties. Subjects to forfeiture real or personal property used to commit or facilitate a violation under this section.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 2278, introduced [6/6/13](#)]
- **H.R. 2278 Would Authorize Immigration And Customs Enforcement Officers (ICE) To “Make Arrests For Offenses Against The United States, For Certain Felonies, And For Bringing In, Transporting, Or Harboring Certain Aliens.”** According to Congress.gov, “Cosponsor [...] Rep. DeSantis, Ron [R-FL-6] [...] Title V: Aid to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Officers - (Sec. 501) Authorizes all DHS immigration enforcement agents and deportation officers who have successfully completed basic immigration law enforcement training to: (1) make arrests for offenses against the United States, for certain felonies, and for bringing in, transporting, or harboring certain aliens; (2) execute warrants of arrest for administrative immigration violations; and (3) carry firearms. (Sec. 502) Authorizes the Secretary to hire additional Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention enforcement officers. (Sec. 503) Directs the Secretary to ensure that ICE immigration enforcement agents and deportation officers are issued body armor and weapons. (Sec. 504) Establishes an ICE Advisory Council. (Sec. 505) Establishes a pilot program in at least 5 of the 10 busiest ICE offices to process electronically and serve charging documents, and process and place detainees while in the field. (Secs. 506-507) Directs the Secretary to increase the number of ICE deportation officers, support staff, and prosecutors.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 2278, introduced [6/6/13](#)]
- **H.R. 2278 Would Authorize ICE Officers To Carry Firearms.** According to Congress.gov, “Cosponsor [...] Rep. DeSantis, Ron [R-FL-6] [...] Title V: Aid to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Officers - (Sec. 501) Authorizes all DHS immigration enforcement agents and deportation officers who have successfully completed basic immigration law enforcement training to: (1) make arrests for offenses against the United States, for certain felonies, and for bringing in, transporting, or harboring certain aliens; (2) execute warrants of arrest for administrative immigration violations; and (3) carry firearms. (Sec. 502) Authorizes the Secretary to hire additional Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention enforcement officers. (Sec. 503) Directs the Secretary to ensure that ICE immigration enforcement agents and deportation officers are issued body armor and weapons. (Sec. 504) Establishes an ICE Advisory Council. (Sec. 505) Establishes a pilot program in at least 5 of the 10 busiest ICE offices to process electronically and serve charging documents, and process and place detainees while in the field. (Secs. 506-507) Directs the Secretary to increase the number of ICE deportation officers, support staff, and prosecutors.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 2278, introduced [6/6/13](#)]
- **H.R. 2278 “Directs The Secretary To Ensure That ICE Immigration Enforcement Agents And Deportation Officers Are Issued Body Armor And Weapons.”** According to Congress.gov, “Cosponsor [...] Rep. DeSantis, Ron [R-FL-6] [...] Title V: Aid to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Officers - (Sec. 501) Authorizes all DHS immigration enforcement agents and deportation officers who have successfully completed basic immigration law enforcement training to: (1) make arrests for offenses against the United States, for certain felonies, and for bringing in, transporting, or harboring certain aliens; (2) execute warrants of arrest for administrative immigration violations; and (3) carry firearms. (Sec. 502) Authorizes the Secretary to

hire additional Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention enforcement officers. (Sec. 503) Directs the Secretary to ensure that ICE immigration enforcement agents and deportation officers are issued body armor and weapons. (Sec. 504) Establishes an ICE Advisory Council. (Sec. 505) Establishes a pilot program in at least 5 of the 10 busiest ICE offices to process electronically and serve charging documents, and process and place detainers while in the field. (Secs. 506-507) Directs the Secretary to increase the number of ICE deportation officers, support staff, and prosecutors.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 2278, introduced [6/6/13](#)]

## Votes

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***Researcher’s Note:** Using the Illumis vote database, we reviewed DeSantis’s congressional votes against a majority of Democrats or Republicans on bills that included immigration-related keywords in their descriptions. Due to time constraints, we focused only on votes on passage; we did not review votes on amendments or other procedural motions.*

### **H.R. 4038, The American Security Against Foreign Enemies Act Of 2015**

**November 2015: DeSantis Voted In Favor Of H.R. 4038, The “American Security Against Foreign Enemies Act Of 2015.”** According to Congress.gov, DeSantis voted in favor of H.R. 4038, the “American Security Against Foreign Enemies Act of 2015,” which “requires that, in addition to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) screening, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) shall take all actions necessary to ensure that each covered alien receives a background investigation before U.S. refugee admission.” A “covered alien” was defined as “any alien applying for U.S. refugee admission who: is a national or resident of Iraq or Syria, has no nationality and whose last habitual residence was in Iraq or Syria, or has been present in Iraq or Syria at any time on or after March 1, 2011.” The bill passed the House on a vote of 289-137. It did not become law. [H.R. 4038, Vote #643, [11/19/15](#); Congress.gov, accessed [4/20/23](#)]

- **H.R. 4038 Ordered That “The Federal Bureau Of Investigation (FBI) Shall Take All Actions Necessary To Ensure That Each Covered Alien Receives A Background Investigation Before U.S. Refugee Admission.”** According to Congress.gov, DeSantis voted in favor of H.R. 4038, the “American Security Against Foreign Enemies Act of 2015 or the American SAFE Act of 2015 (Sec. 2) This bill requires that, in addition to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) screening, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) shall take all actions necessary to ensure that each covered alien receives a background investigation before U.S. refugee admission. A ‘covered alien’ is any alien applying for U.S. refugee admission who: is a national or resident of Iraq or Syria, has no nationality and whose last habitual residence was in Iraq or Syria, or has been present in Iraq or Syria at any time on or after March 1, 2011. A covered alien: may not be admitted as a refugee until the FBI certifies to DHS and the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) that he or she has received a background investigation sufficient to determine whether the alien is a U.S. security threat; and may only be admitted to the United States after DHS, with the unanimous concurrence of the FBI and the DNI, certifies to Congress that he or she is not such a threat.” [H.R. 4038, Vote #643, [11/19/15](#); Congress.gov, accessed [4/20/23](#)]
- **H.R. 4038 Defined A “Covered Alien” As An Individual Who Was “A National Or Resident Of Iraq Or Syria, Has No Nationality And Whose Last Habitual Residence Was In Iraq Or Syria, Or Has Been Present In Iraq Or Syria At Any Time On Or After March 1, 2011.”** According to Congress.gov, DeSantis voted in favor of H.R. 4038, the “American Security Against Foreign Enemies Act of 2015 or the American SAFE Act of 2015 (Sec. 2) This bill requires that, in addition to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) screening, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) shall take all actions necessary to ensure that each covered alien receives a background investigation before U.S. refugee admission. A ‘covered alien’ is any alien applying for U.S. refugee admission who: is a national or resident of Iraq or Syria, has no nationality and whose last habitual residence was in Iraq or Syria, or has been present in Iraq or Syria at any time on or after March 1, 2011. A covered alien: may not be admitted as a refugee until the FBI certifies to DHS and the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) that he or she has received a background investigation sufficient to determine whether the alien is a U.S. security threat; and may only be admitted to the United States after DHS,

with the unanimous concurrence of the FBI and the DNI, certifies to Congress that he or she is not such a threat.” [H.R. 4038, Vote #643, [11/19/15](#); Congress.gov, accessed [4/20/23](#)]

- **H.R. 4038 Stipulated That A Covered Alien “May Not Be Admitted As A Refugee Until The FBI Certifies To DHS And The Director Of National Intelligence (DNI) That He Or She Has Received A Background Investigation Sufficient To Determine Whether The Alien Is A U.S. Security Threat.”** According to Congress.gov, DeSantis voted in favor of H.R. 4038, the “American Security Against Foreign Enemies Act of 2015 or the American SAFE Act of 2015 (Sec. 2) This bill requires that, in addition to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) screening, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) shall take all actions necessary to ensure that each covered alien receives a background investigation before U.S. refugee admission. A ‘covered alien’ is any alien applying for U.S. refugee admission who: is a national or resident of Iraq or Syria, has no nationality and whose last habitual residence was in Iraq or Syria, or has been present in Iraq or Syria at any time on or after March 1, 2011. A covered alien: may not be admitted as a refugee until the FBI certifies to DHS and the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) that he or she has received a background investigation sufficient to determine whether the alien is a U.S. security threat; and may only be admitted to the United States after DHS, with the unanimous concurrence of the FBI and the DNI, certifies to Congress that he or she is not such a threat.” [H.R. 4038, Vote #643, [11/19/15](#); Congress.gov, accessed [4/20/23](#)]
- **H.R. 4038 Required The DHS TO “Report Monthly To Congress On The Total Number Of Admission Applications For Which A Certification Was Made And The Number Of Covered Aliens For Whom Such A Certification Was Not Made For The Preceding Month.”** According to Congress.gov, DeSantis voted in favor of H.R. 4038, the “American Security Against Foreign Enemies Act of 2015 or the American SAFE Act of 2015 (Sec. 2) This bill requires that, in addition to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) screening, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) shall take all actions necessary to ensure that each covered alien receives a background investigation before U.S. refugee admission. [...] The Inspector General of DHS shall conduct annual risk-based reviews of all certifications. DHS shall report monthly to Congress on the total number of admission applications for which a certification was made and the number of covered aliens for whom such a certification was not made for the preceding month. The report shall include for each covered alien for whom a certification was not made the concurrence or nonconcurrence of each person whose concurrence was required by the certification.” [H.R. 4038, Vote #643, [11/19/15](#); Congress.gov, accessed [4/20/23](#)]

### ***H.R. 3009, The Enforce The Law For Sanctuary Cities Act***

**July 2015: DeSantis Voted In Favor Of The “Enforce The Law For Sanctuary Cities Act,” Which “Amends The Immigration And Nationality Act To Make A State Or Local Subdivision Ineligible For State Criminal Alien Assistance Program Funding” Under Certain Circumstances.** According to Congress.gov, DeSantis voted in favor of H.R. 3009, the “Enforce the Law for Sanctuary Cities Act,” which “Amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to make a state or local subdivision ineligible for state criminal alien assistance program funding if it: (1) has in effect any law, policy, or procedure prohibiting or restricting communication with the Immigration and Naturalization Service or other government entity regarding an individual’s citizenship or immigration status; or (2) prohibits state or local law enforcement officials from gathering information regarding an individual’s citizenship or immigration status. (Sec. 3) Withholds specified Department of Justice funds (for the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program, the Community-Oriented Policing Services program, and the Byrne JAG program) under parts Q and E of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 from such states or local subdivisions.” The bill passed the House on a vote of 241-179. It did not become law. [H.R. 3009, Vote #466, [7/23/14](#); Congress.gov, accessed [4/21/23](#)]

- **H.R. 3009 Made A State Ineligible For Criminal Alien Assistance Program Funding If It Had “Any Law, Policy, Or Procedure Prohibiting Or Restricting Communication With The Immigration And Naturalization Service ... Regarding An Individual’s Citizenship Or Immigration Status.”** According to Congress.gov, DeSantis voted in favor of H.R. 3009, the “Enforce the Law for Sanctuary Cities Act,” which “Amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to make a state or local subdivision ineligible for state criminal alien assistance program funding if it: (1) has in effect any law, policy, or procedure prohibiting or restricting



communication with the Immigration and Naturalization Service or other government entity regarding an individual's citizenship or immigration status; or (2) prohibits state or local law enforcement officials from gathering information regarding an individual's citizenship or immigration status. (Sec. 3) Withholds specified Department of Justice funds (for the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program, the Community-Oriented Policing Services program, and the Byrne JAG program) under parts Q and E of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 from such states or local subdivisions." The bill passed the House on a vote of 241-179. It did not become law. [H.R. 3009, Vote #466, [7/23/14](#); Congress.gov, accessed [4/21/23](#)]

- **H.R. 3009 Made A State Ineligible For Criminal Alien Assistance Program Funding If It “Prohibits State Or Local Law Enforcement Officials From Gathering Information Regarding An Individual’s Citizenship Or Immigration Status.”** According to Congress.gov, DeSantis voted in favor of H.R. 3009, the “Enforce the Law for Sanctuary Cities Act,” which “Amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to make a state or local subdivision ineligible for state criminal alien assistance program funding if it: (1) has in effect any law, policy, or procedure prohibiting or restricting communication with the Immigration and Naturalization Service or other government entity regarding an individual’s citizenship or immigration status; or (2) prohibits state or local law enforcement officials from gathering information regarding an individual’s citizenship or immigration status. (Sec. 3) Withholds specified Department of Justice funds (for the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program, the Community-Oriented Policing Services program, and the Byrne JAG program) under parts Q and E of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 from such states or local subdivisions.” The bill passed the House on a vote of 241-179. It did not become law. [H.R. 3009, Vote #466, [7/23/14](#); Congress.gov, accessed [4/21/23](#)]

### ***H.R. 5272, To Prohibit Certain Actions With Respect To Deferred Action For Aliens Not Lawfully Present In The United States, And For Other Purposes***

**August 2014: DeSantis Voted In Favor Of H.R. 5272, “To Prohibit Certain Actions With Respect To Deferred Action For Aliens Not Lawfully Present In The United States, And For Other Purposes.”** According to Congress.gov, DeSantis voted in favor of H.R. 5272, “To prohibit certain actions with respect to deferred action for aliens not lawfully present in the United States, and for other purposes.” The bill “Prohibits a federal agency or instrumentality from using federal funding or resources after July 30, 2014, to: consider or adjudicate any new or previously denied application of any alien requesting consideration of deferred action for childhood arrivals, as authorized by Executive memorandum dated June 15, 2012, or by any other succeeding Executive memorandum or policy authorizing a similar program; newly authorize deferred action for any class of aliens not lawfully present in the United States; or authorize any alien to work in the United States who was not lawfully admitted into the United States and who is not in lawful U.S. status on the date of enactment of this Act.” The bill passed the House on a vote of 216-192. It did not become law. [H.R. 5272, Vote #479, [8/1/14](#); Congress.gov, accessed [4/21/23](#)]

- **The Bill Would Prohibit A Federal Agency “From Using Federal Funding Or Resources ... To: Consider Or Adjudicate Any New Or Previously Denied Application Of Any Alien Requesting Consideration Of Deferred Action For Childhood Arrivals.”** According to Congress.gov, DeSantis voted in favor of H.R. 5272, which “Prohibits a federal agency or instrumentality from using federal funding or resources after July 30, 2014, to: consider or adjudicate any new or previously denied application of any alien requesting consideration of deferred action for childhood arrivals, as authorized by Executive memorandum dated June 15, 2012, or by any other succeeding Executive memorandum or policy authorizing a similar program; newly authorize deferred action for any class of aliens not lawfully present in the United States; or authorize any alien to work in the United States who was not lawfully admitted into the United States and who is not in lawful U.S. status on the date of enactment of this Act.” [H.R. 5272, Vote #479, [8/1/14](#); Congress.gov, accessed [4/21/23](#)]
- **H.R. 5272 Would Prohibit A Federal Agency “From Using Federal Funding Or Resources ... To: ... Newly Authorize Deferred Action For Any Class Of Aliens Not Lawfully Present In The United States; Or Authorize Any Alien To Work In The United States Who Was Not Lawfully Admitted Into The United States...”** According to Congress.gov, DeSantis voted in favor of H.R. 5272, which “Prohibits a federal agency or instrumentality from using federal funding or resources after July 30, 2014, to: consider or

adjudicate any new or previously denied application of any alien requesting consideration of deferred action for childhood arrivals, as authorized by Executive memorandum dated June 15, 2012, or by any other succeeding Executive memorandum or policy authorizing a similar program; newly authorize deferred action for any class of aliens not lawfully present in the United States; or authorize any alien to work in the United States who was not lawfully admitted into the United States and who is not in lawful U.S. status on the date of enactment of this Act.” [H.R. 5272, Vote #479, [8/1/14](#); Congress.gov, accessed [4/21/23](#)]

### ***H.R. 5759, Preventing Executive Overreach on Immigration Act of 2014***

**December 2014: DeSantis Voted In Favor Of H.R. 5759, The “Preventing Executive Overreach On Immigration Act Of 2014,” Which Prohibited The Executive Branch From “Exempting Or Deferring From Removal ... Aliens Considered Under The Immigration Laws To Be Unlawfully Present In The United States.”** According to Congress.gov, DeSantis voted in favor of H.R. 5759, the “Preventing Executive Overreach on Immigration Act of 2014,” which, “Prohibits the executive branch of the government from: exempting or deferring from removal, by executive order, regulation, or any other means, categories of aliens considered under the immigration laws to be unlawfully present in the United States; treating such aliens as if they were lawfully present or had a lawful immigration status; or treating them other than as unauthorized aliens. States that such prohibition shall not apply: to the extent prohibited by the Constitution; upon the request of federal, state, or local law enforcement agencies for purposes of maintaining aliens in the United States to be tried for crimes or to be trial witnesses; or for humanitarian purposes where the aliens are at imminent risk of serious bodily harm or death. Declares that any executive branch action intending to circumvent the objectives of this Act shall be null and void and without legal effect. States that this Act shall take effect as if enacted on November 20, 2014, and shall apply to requests (whether the request is original or for reopening of a previously denied request) submitted on or after that date for: (1) work authorization; or (2) exemption from, or deferral of, removal.” The bill passed the House on a vote of 219-197. It did not become law. [H.R. 5759, Vote #550, [12/4/14](#); Congress.gov, accessed [4/21/23](#)]

- **H.R. 5759 Prohibited The Executive Branch From “Treating Such Aliens As If They Were Lawfully Present Or Had A Lawful Immigration Status; Or Treating Them Other Than As Unauthorized Aliens.”** According to Congress.gov, DeSantis voted in favor of H.R. 5759, the “Preventing Executive Overreach on Immigration Act of 2014,” which, “Prohibits the executive branch of the government from: exempting or deferring from removal, by executive order, regulation, or any other means, categories of aliens considered under the immigration laws to be unlawfully present in the United States; treating such aliens as if they were lawfully present or had a lawful immigration status; or treating them other than as unauthorized aliens. States that such prohibition shall not apply: to the extent prohibited by the Constitution; upon the request of federal, state, or local law enforcement agencies for purposes of maintaining aliens in the United States to be tried for crimes or to be trial witnesses; or for humanitarian purposes where the aliens are at imminent risk of serious bodily harm or death. Declares that any executive branch action intending to circumvent the objectives of this Act shall be null and void and without legal effect. States that this Act shall take effect as if enacted on November 20, 2014, and shall apply to requests (whether the request is original or for reopening of a previously denied request) submitted on or after that date for: (1) work authorization; or (2) exemption from, or deferral of, removal.” [H.R. 5759, Vote #550, [12/4/14](#); Congress.gov, accessed [4/21/23](#)]

### ***H.R. 4760, The Securing America’s Future Act Of 2018***

**June 2018: DeSantis Voted In Favor Of H.R. 4760, The “Securing America’s Future Act Of 2018,” Which Eliminated The Diversity Visa Program And Revised Annual Immigration Levels.** According to Congress.gov, DeSantis voted in favor of H.R. 4760, the “Securing America’s Future Act of 2018.” The bill “amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to revise immigrant visa allocation provisions, including family-related visas. A nonimmigrant classification for parents of adult U.S. citizens is created. The diversity visa program is eliminated. Annual immigration levels are revised. The limit on the worldwide level of employment-based immigrants is increased. [...] The bill: (1) transfers authority for strengthening the southern border from the Department of Justice to DHS; (2) revises border security provisions; (3) provides for additional border security personnel; (4) authorizes new ports of entry along the northern border and southern borders; (5) authorizes National Guard border security activities; (6) provides contingent nonimmigrant status for certain aliens who entered the United States as minors;

(7) authorizes appropriations for specified border barriers and infrastructure; and (8) establishes Operation Stonegarden to make border security grants to law enforcement agencies. DHS shall: (1) submit a southern border threat analysis, (2) establish the Integrated Border Enforcement Team program, (3) implement the Border Security Deployment Program, (4) review social media activities of visa applicants, and (5) establish a biometric exit data system.” The bill failed in the House on a vote of 193-231. [H.R. 4760, Vote #282, [6/21/18](#); Congress.gov, accessed [4/21/23](#)]

- **H.R. 4760 Authorized “DNA Testing To Establish Family Relationships.”** According to Congress.gov, DeSantis voted in favor of H.R. 4760, the “Securing America’s Future Act of 2018.” The bill “amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to revise immigrant visa allocation provisions, including family-related visas. A nonimmigrant classification for parents of adult U.S. citizens is created. The diversity visa program is eliminated. Annual immigration levels are revised. The limit on the worldwide level of employment-based immigrants is increased. The H-2C visa temporary agricultural worker program is revised. A trust fund is established to provide incentives for such workers to return to their country of origin. DNA testing to establish family relationships is authorized. [...] The bill: (1) transfers authority for strengthening the southern border from the Department of Justice to DHS; (2) revises border security provisions; (3) provides for additional border security personnel; (4) authorizes new ports of entry along the northern border and southern borders; (5) authorizes National Guard border security activities; (6) provides contingent nonimmigrant status for certain aliens who entered the United States as minors; (7) authorizes appropriations for specified border barriers and infrastructure; and (8) establishes Operation Stonegarden to make border security grants to law enforcement agencies. DHS shall: (1) submit a southern border threat analysis, (2) establish the Integrated Border Enforcement Team program, (3) implement the Border Security Deployment Program, (4) review social media activities of visa applicants, and (5) establish a biometric exit data system.” [H.R. 4760, Vote #282, [6/21/18](#); Congress.gov, accessed [4/21/23](#)]
- **H.R. 4760 Stipulated That “No Federal, State, Or Local Government Entity Or Individual May Prohibit Or Restrict A Federal, State, Or Local Government Entity Or Official From Complying With The Immigration Laws Or Assisting Related Federal Law Enforcement Activities.”** According to Congress.gov, DeSantis voted in favor of H.R. 4760, the “Securing America’s Future Act of 2018.” The bill “amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to revise immigrant visa allocation provisions, including family-related visas [...] No federal, state, or local government entity or individual may prohibit or restrict a federal, state, or local government entity or official from complying with the immigration laws or assisting related federal law enforcement activities. The bill revises provisions regarding: (1) detention of aliens in removal proceedings; (2) illegal entry and reentry; (3) inadmissibility and deportability of criminal aliens, gang members, drunk drivers, and sex offenders; (4) repatriation; (5) asylum and asylum fraud; (6) unaccompanied alien children; (7) foreign students; and (8) visa fraud. The bill: (1) transfers authority for strengthening the southern border from the Department of Justice to DHS; (2) revises border security provisions; (3) provides for additional border security personnel; (4) authorizes new ports of entry along the northern border and southern borders; (5) authorizes National Guard border security activities; (6) provides contingent nonimmigrant status for certain aliens who entered the United States as minors; (7) authorizes appropriations for specified border barriers and infrastructure; and (8) establishes Operation Stonegarden to make border security grants to law enforcement agencies. DHS shall: (1) submit a southern border threat analysis, (2) establish the Integrated Border Enforcement Team program, (3) implement the Border Security Deployment Program, (4) review social media activities of visa applicants, and (5) establish a biometric exit data system.” [H.R. 4760, Vote #282, [6/21/18](#); Congress.gov, accessed [4/21/23](#)]
- **H.R. 4760 Transferred “Authority For Strengthening The Southern Border From The Department Of Justice To DHS” And Authorized “Appropriations For Specified Border Barriers And Infrastructure.”** According to Congress.gov, DeSantis voted in favor of H.R. 4760, the “Securing America’s Future Act of 2018.” The bill “amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to revise immigrant visa allocation provisions, including family-related visas. A nonimmigrant classification for parents of adult U.S. citizens is created. The diversity visa program is eliminated. Annual immigration levels are revised. [...] The bill revises provisions regarding: (1) detention of aliens in removal proceedings; (2) illegal entry and reentry; (3) inadmissibility and deportability of criminal aliens, gang members, drunk drivers, and sex offenders; (4) repatriation; (5) asylum

and asylum fraud; (6) unaccompanied alien children; (7) foreign students; and (8) visa fraud. The bill: (1) transfers authority for strengthening the southern border from the Department of Justice to DHS; (2) revises border security provisions; (3) provides for additional border security personnel; (4) authorizes new ports of entry along the northern border and southern borders; (5) authorizes National Guard border security activities; (6) provides contingent nonimmigrant status for certain aliens who entered the United States as minors; (7) authorizes appropriations for specified border barriers and infrastructure; and (8) establishes Operation Stonegarden to make border security grants to law enforcement agencies. DHS shall: (1) submit a southern border threat analysis, (2) establish the Integrated Border Enforcement Team program, (3) implement the Border Security Deployment Program, (4) review social media activities of visa applicants, and (5) establish a biometric exit data system.” [H.R. 4760, Vote #282, [6/21/18](#); Congress.gov, accessed [4/21/23](#)]

- **H.R. 4760 Established “Operation Stonegarden To Make Border Security Grants To Law Enforcement Agencies.”** According to Congress.gov, DeSantis voted in favor of H.R. 4760, the “Securing America’s Future Act of 2018.” The bill “amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to revise immigrant visa allocation provisions, including family-related visas. [...] The bill: (1) transfers authority for strengthening the southern border from the Department of Justice to DHS; (2) revises border security provisions; (3) provides for additional border security personnel; (4) authorizes new ports of entry along the northern border and southern borders; (5) authorizes National Guard border security activities; (6) provides contingent nonimmigrant status for certain aliens who entered the United States as minors; (7) authorizes appropriations for specified border barriers and infrastructure; and (8) establishes Operation Stonegarden to make border security grants to law enforcement agencies. DHS shall: (1) submit a southern border threat analysis, (2) establish the Integrated Border Enforcement Team program, (3) implement the Border Security Deployment Program, (4) review social media activities of visa applicants, and (5) establish a biometric exit data system.” [H.R. 4760, Vote #282, [6/21/18](#); Congress.gov, accessed [4/21/23](#)]
- **H.R. 4760 Gave The Department Of Homeland Security The Authority To “Review Social Media Activities Of Visa Applicants.”** According to Congress.gov, DeSantis voted in favor of H.R. 4760, the “Securing America’s Future Act of 2018.” The bill “amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to revise immigrant visa allocation provisions, including family-related visas. A nonimmigrant classification for parents of adult U.S. citizens is created. [...] The bill: (1) transfers authority for strengthening the southern border from the Department of Justice to DHS; (2) revises border security provisions; (3) provides for additional border security personnel; (4) authorizes new ports of entry along the northern border and southern borders; (5) authorizes National Guard border security activities; (6) provides contingent nonimmigrant status for certain aliens who entered the United States as minors; (7) authorizes appropriations for specified border barriers and infrastructure; and (8) establishes Operation Stonegarden to make border security grants to law enforcement agencies. DHS shall: (1) submit a southern border threat analysis, (2) establish the Integrated Border Enforcement Team program, (3) implement the Border Security Deployment Program, (4) review social media activities of visa applicants, and (5) establish a biometric exit data system.” [H.R. 4760, Vote #282, [6/21/18](#); Congress.gov, accessed [4/21/23](#)]

## ***H.R. 2581, The Verify First Act***

**June 2017: DeSantis Voted In Favor Of H.R. 2581, The “Verify First Act,” Which Amended The IRS Code To Prohibit Premium Assistance Tax Credit Advance Payments To An Individual “Without A Verified Status As A Citizen Or National Of The United States Or An Alien Lawfully Present In The United States.”** According to Congress.gov, DeSantis voted in favor of H.R. 2581, the “Verify First Act,” which, “amends the Internal Revenue Code to prohibit advance payments of the premium assistance tax credit from being made to an individual unless the Department of the Treasury has received confirmation from the Department of Health and Human Services that the Social Security Administration or the Department of Homeland Security has verified the individual’s status as a citizen or national of the United States or an alien lawfully present in the United States. The verification process must include the appropriate use of information related to citizenship or immigration status, such as Social Security numbers (but not individual taxpayer identification numbers). The bill also amends the Public Health Service Act and the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to permit adjustments to certain health insurance coverage dates for an individual whose eligibility for advance payments is delayed due to the

verification requirements. The bill is contingent on the enactment of the American Health Care Act of 2017 (AHCA). If the AHCA is enacted, the bill applies to: (1) the existing tax credit after December 31, 2017; and (2) the tax credit, as modified by the AHCA, after December 31, 2019.” The bill passed the House on a vote of 238-184. It did not become law. [H.R. 2581, Vote #306, [6/13/17](#); Congress.gov, accessed [4/21/23](#)]

- **H.R. 2581 Required That The Verification Process For Individuals “Must Include The Appropriate Use Of Information Related To Citizenship Or Immigration Status, Such As Social Security Numbers.”** According to Congress.gov, DeSantis voted in favor of H.R. 2581, the “Verify First Act,” which, “amends the Internal Revenue Code to prohibit advance payments of the premium assistance tax credit from being made to an individual unless the Department of the Treasury has received confirmation from the Department of Health and Human Services that the Social Security Administration or the Department of Homeland Security has verified the individual’s status as a citizen or national of the United States or an alien lawfully present in the United States. The verification process must include the appropriate use of information related to citizenship or immigration status, such as Social Security numbers (but not individual taxpayer identification numbers). The bill also amends the Public Health Service Act and the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to permit adjustments to certain health insurance coverage dates for an individual whose eligibility for advance payments is delayed due to the verification requirements. The bill is contingent on the enactment of the American Health Care Act of 2017 (AHCA). If the AHCA is enacted, the bill applies to: (1) the existing tax credit after December 31, 2017; and (2) the tax credit, as modified by the AHCA, after December 31, 2019.” The bill passed the House on a vote of 238-184. It did not become law. [H.R. 2581, Vote #306, [6/13/17](#); Congress.gov, accessed [4/21/23](#)]

## ***H.R. 3004, Kate’s Law***

**June 2017: DeSantis Voted In Favor Of H.R. 3004, “Kate’s Law,” Which Provided That “An Alien Who Has Been Excluded, Deported, Removed, Or Denied Admission ... And Who Subsequently Crosses Or Attempts To Cross The Border Into The United States, Shall Be Fined” Or “Imprisoned Not More Than Two Years.”** According to Congress.gov, DeSantis voted in favor of H.R. 3004, “Kate’s Law,” which “amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to revise provisions relating to the reentry of removed aliens. The bill provides that an alien who has been excluded, deported, removed, or denied admission, or who has departed the United States while under an outstanding order of exclusion, deportation, or removal, and who subsequently crosses or attempts to cross the border into the United States, shall be fined, imprisoned not more than two years, or both. (‘Crosses the border’ refers to the physical act of crossing the border, regardless of whether the alien is free from official restraint.) The bill revises reentry of criminal offender provisions to provide that an alien who was convicted before such removal or departure of: three or more misdemeanors or for a felony shall be fined, imprisoned up to 10 years, or both; a felony for which the alien was sentenced to not less than 30 months in prison shall be fined, imprisoned up to 15 years, or both; a felony for which the alien was sentenced to not less than 60 months shall be fined, imprisoned up to 20 years, or both; or murder, rape, kidnapping, or a felony offense relating to peonage and slavery or terrorism, or of three or more felonies of any kind, shall be fined, imprisoned up to 25 years, or both. An alien who has been excluded, deported, removed, or denied admission three or more times and thereafter enters, attempts to enter, or crosses or attempts to cross the border to, or is at any time found in, the United States shall be fined, imprisoned not more than 10 years, or both.” The bill passed the House on a vote of 257-167. It did not become law. [H.R. 3004, Vote #344, [6/29/17](#); Congress.gov, accessed [4/21/23](#)]

- **H.R. 3004 Revised “Reentry Of Criminal Offender Provisions” To Impose Fines And Prison Sentences Between 10 And 25 Years On Those Previously Convicted Of Committing Multiple Misdemeanors Or A Felony.** According to Congress.gov, DeSantis voted in favor of H.R. 3004, “Kate’s Law,” which “amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to revise provisions relating to the reentry of removed aliens. The bill provides that an alien who has been excluded, deported, removed, or denied admission, or who has departed the United States while under an outstanding order of exclusion, deportation, or removal, and who subsequently crosses or attempts to cross the border into the United States, shall be fined, imprisoned not more than two years, or both. (‘Crosses the border’ refers to the physical act of crossing the border, regardless of whether the alien is free from official restraint.) The bill revises reentry of criminal offender provisions to provide that an alien who was convicted before such removal or departure of: three or more misdemeanors or for a felony shall

be fined, imprisoned up to 10 years, or both; a felony for which the alien was sentenced to not less than 30 months in prison shall be fined, imprisoned up to 15 years, or both; a felony for which the alien was sentenced to not less than 60 months shall be fined, imprisoned up to 20 years, or both; or murder, rape, kidnapping, or a felony offense relating to peonage and slavery or terrorism, or of three or more felonies of any kind, shall be fined, imprisoned up to 25 years, or both. An alien who has been excluded, deported, removed, or denied admission three or more times and thereafter enters, attempts to enter, or crosses or attempts to cross the border to, or is at any time found in, the United States shall be fined, imprisoned not more than 10 years, or both.” [H.R. 3004, Vote #344, [6/29/17](#); Congress.gov, accessed [4/21/23](#)]

- **H.R. 3004 Stipulated That “An Alien Who Has Been Excluded, Deported, Removed, Or Denied Admission Three Or More Times” And Enters Or Attempts To Enter The United States “Shall Be Fined, Imprisoned Not More Than 10 Years, Or Both.”** According to Congress.gov, DeSantis voted in favor of H.R. 3004, “Kate’s Law,” which “amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to revise provisions relating to the reentry of removed aliens. The bill provides that an alien who has been excluded, deported, removed, or denied admission, or who has departed the United States while under an outstanding order of exclusion, deportation, or removal, and who subsequently crosses or attempts to cross the border into the United States, shall be fined, imprisoned not more than two years, or both. (‘Crosses the border’ refers to the physical act of crossing the border, regardless of whether the alien is free from official restraint.) The bill revises reentry of criminal offender provisions to provide that an alien who was convicted before such removal or departure of: three or more misdemeanors or for a felony shall be fined, imprisoned up to 10 years, or both; a felony for which the alien was sentenced to not less than 30 months in prison shall be fined, imprisoned up to 15 years, or both; a felony for which the alien was sentenced to not less than 60 months shall be fined, imprisoned up to 20 years, or both; or murder, rape, kidnapping, or a felony offense relating to peonage and slavery or terrorism, or of three or more felonies of any kind, shall be fined, imprisoned up to 25 years, or both. An alien who has been excluded, deported, removed, or denied admission three or more times and thereafter enters, attempts to enter, or crosses or attempts to cross the border to, or is at any time found in, the United States shall be fined, imprisoned not more than 10 years, or both.” [H.R. 3004, Vote #344, [6/29/17](#); Congress.gov, accessed [4/21/23](#)]

### ***H.R. 3003, The No Sanctuary For Criminals Act***

**June 2017: DeSantis Voted In Favor Of H.R. 3003, The “No Sanctuary For Criminals Act,” Which Would “Prohibit Any Federal, State, Or Local Government Or Any Individual” From Prohibiting Compliance With Immigration Laws Or Their Federal Enforcement.** According to Congress.gov, DeSantis voted in favor of H.R. 3003, the “No Sanctuary for Criminals Act,” which “amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to prohibit any federal, state, or local government or any individual from prohibiting any government entity, official, or employee from complying with the immigration laws or cooperating with federal law enforcement of such laws. The bill expands the scope of law enforcement activities relating to immigration-related information that a federal, state, or local government may not restrict or prohibit to include: (1) making inquiries to an individual in order to obtain immigration-related information regarding any individual, (2) notifying the federal government regarding the presence of individuals who are encountered by law enforcement officials or other state or local personnel, or (3) complying with federal law enforcement requests for such information. A state or political subdivision not in compliance with such immigration enforcement provisions shall be ineligible to receive grants or assistance for: (1) incarceration of undocumented aliens; (2) the Cops on the Beat program; (3) the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice program; or (4) any Department of Justice (DOJ) or Department of Homeland Security (DHS) grant substantially related to law enforcement, terrorism, national security, immigration, or naturalization.” The bill passed the House on a vote of 228-195. It did not become law. [H.R. 3003, Vote #342, [6/29/17](#); Congress.gov, accessed [4/21/23](#)]

- **H.R. 3003 Prohibited Restrictions On “Making Inquiries To An Individual In Order To Obtain Immigration-Related Information,” “Notifying The Federal Government Regarding The Presence Of Individuals Who Are Encountered By Law Enforcement Officials” Or “Complying With Federal Law Enforcement Requests For Such Information.”** According to Congress.gov, DeSantis voted in favor of H.R. 3003, the “No Sanctuary for Criminals Act,” which “amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to prohibit any federal, state, or local government or any individual from prohibiting any government entity, official, or employee from complying with the immigration laws or cooperating with federal law enforcement of such

laws. The bill expands the scope of law enforcement activities relating to immigration-related information that a federal, state, or local government may not restrict or prohibit to include: (1) making inquiries to an individual in order to obtain immigration-related information regarding any individual, (2) notifying the federal government regarding the presence of individuals who are encountered by law enforcement officials or other state or local personnel, or (3) complying with federal law enforcement requests for such information. A state or political subdivision not in compliance with such immigration enforcement provisions shall be ineligible to receive grants or assistance for: (1) incarceration of undocumented aliens; (2) the Cops on the Beat program; (3) the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice program; or (4) any Department of Justice (DOJ) or Department of Homeland Security (DHS) grant substantially related to law enforcement, terrorism, national security, immigration, or naturalization.” [H.R. 3003, Vote #342, [6/29/17](#); Congress.gov, accessed [4/21/23](#)]

- **H.R. 3003 Stipulated That Non-Compliant Jurisdictions Would Be Ineligible For “Any Department Of Justice (DOJ) Or Department Of Homeland Security (DHS) Grant Substantially Related To Law Enforcement, Terrorism, National Security, Immigration, Or Naturalization.”** According to Congress.gov, DeSantis voted in favor of H.R. 3003, the “No Sanctuary for Criminals Act,” which “amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to prohibit any federal, state, or local government or any individual from prohibiting any government entity, official, or employee from complying with the immigration laws or cooperating with federal law enforcement of such laws. The bill expands the scope of law enforcement activities relating to immigration-related information that a federal, state, or local government may not restrict or prohibit to include: (1) making inquiries to an individual in order to obtain immigration-related information regarding any individual, (2) notifying the federal government regarding the presence of individuals who are encountered by law enforcement officials or other state or local personnel, or (3) complying with federal law enforcement requests for such information. A state or political subdivision not in compliance with such immigration enforcement provisions shall be ineligible to receive grants or assistance for: (1) incarceration of undocumented aliens; (2) the Cops on the Beat program; (3) the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice program; or (4) any Department of Justice (DOJ) or Department of Homeland Security (DHS) grant substantially related to law enforcement, terrorism, national security, immigration, or naturalization. DHS: (1) may decline to transfer an alien in its custody to a non-complying state or political subdivision regardless of whether the state or political subdivision has issued a writ or warrant, (2) shall not transfer an alien with a final order of removal to a non-complying state or political subdivision, and (3) shall determine and report annually regarding non-complying states or political subdivisions.” [H.R. 3003, Vote #342, [6/29/17](#); Congress.gov, accessed [4/21/23](#)]
- **H.R. 3003 Required Mandatory Detention During Removal Proceedings For Aliens “Driving While Intoxicated, Under The Influence, Or Impaired By Alcohol Or Drugs, Without Regard To Whether The Conviction Is Classified As A Misdemeanor Or Felony Under State Law.”** According to Congress.gov, DeSantis voted in favor of H.R. 3003, the “No Sanctuary for Criminals Act,” which “expands the categories of offenses requiring mandatory detention during the pendency of removal proceedings to include an alien who: (1) is unlawfully present in the United States and has been convicted for driving while intoxicated, under the influence, or impaired by alcohol or drugs, without regard to whether the conviction is classified as a misdemeanor or felony under state law; and (2) is inadmissible for illegal entry or deportable by reason of visa revocation or violation of nonimmigrant status and who has been arrested or charged with a particularly serious crime or a crime resulting in the death or serious bodily injury of another person. An alien subject to mandatory detention may not be released on bond. The bill limits DOJ’s review of DHS custody determinations for aliens who are in exclusion hearings, or who are excludable or deportable on security grounds or other specified grounds, to issues of whether such aliens may be detained or released with or without bond.” [H.R. 3003, Vote #342, [6/29/17](#); Congress.gov, accessed [4/21/23](#)]
- **H.R. 3003 Required Mandatory Detention During Removal Proceedings For Aliens “Inadmissible For Illegal Entry Or Deportable By Reason Of Visa Revocation Or Violation Of Nonimmigrant Status And Who Has Been Arrested Or Charged With A Particularly Serious Crime.”** According to Congress.gov, DeSantis voted in favor of H.R. 3003, the “No Sanctuary for Criminals Act,” which “expands the categories of offenses requiring mandatory detention during the pendency of removal proceedings to include an alien who: (1) is unlawfully present in the United States and has been convicted for driving while intoxicated, under the influence, or impaired by alcohol or drugs, without regard to whether the conviction is classified as a

misdemeanor or felony under state law; and (2) is inadmissible for illegal entry or deportable by reason of visa revocation or violation of nonimmigrant status and who has been arrested or charged with a particularly serious crime or a crime resulting in the death or serious bodily injury of another person. An alien subject to mandatory detention may not be released on bond. The bill limits DOJ's review of DHS custody determinations for aliens who are in exclusion hearings, or who are excludable or deportable on security grounds or other specified grounds, to issues of whether such aliens may be detained or released with or without bond." [H.R. 3003, Vote #342, [6/29/17](#); Congress.gov, accessed [4/21/23](#)]

### ***H.R. 3697, The Criminal Alien Gang Member Removal Act***

#### **September 2017: DeSantis Voted In Favor OF H.R. 3697, The “Criminal Alien Gang Member Removal Act,” Which Made An Alien Inadmissible If A Consular Officer, DHS, Or The DOJ Had Reason To Believe The Alien “Has Been A Member Of A Criminal Gang Or Has Participated In Criminal Gang Activities.”**

According to Congress.gov, DeSantis voted in favor of H.R. 3697, the “Criminal Alien Gang Member Removal Act,” which “amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to make an alien: (1) inadmissible if a consular officer, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), or the Department of Justice (DOJ) knows or has reason to believe that such person is or has been a member of a criminal gang or has participated in criminal gang activities; and (2) deportable if such person is or has been a member of a criminal gang, or has participated in criminal gang activities knowing that such activities will promote illegal activity. A ‘criminal gang’ is defined as an ongoing group, club, organization, or association of five or more persons: (1) one of the primary purposes of which is the commission of specified criminal offenses and the members of which engage, or have engaged within the past five years, in a continuing series of such offenses; or (2) that has been designated as a criminal gang by DHS. Such offenses include: (1) felony drug offenses, (2) bringing in and harboring certain aliens, (3) assisting certain aliens to enter the United States, (4) importing aliens for immoral purposes, (5) crimes of violence, (6) obstruction of justice or witness tampering, (7) identification document fraud, (8) slavery and trafficking in persons, (9) money laundering, and (10) interstate or foreign travel in connection with a racketeering enterprise.” The bill passed the House on a vote of 233-175. It did not become law. [H.R. 3697, Vote #517, [9/14/17](#); Congress.gov, accessed [4/21/23](#)]

- **H.R. 3697 Would Make An “Alien” Deportable “If Such Person Is Or Has Been A Member Of A Criminal Gang, Or Has Participated In Criminal Gang Activities Knowing That Such Activities Will Promote Illegal Activity.”** According to Congress.gov, DeSantis voted in favor of H.R. 3697, the “Criminal Alien Gang Member Removal Act,” which “amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to make an alien: (1) inadmissible if a consular officer, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), or the Department of Justice (DOJ) knows or has reason to believe that such person is or has been a member of a criminal gang or has participated in criminal gang activities; and (2) deportable if such person is or has been a member of a criminal gang, or has participated in criminal gang activities knowing that such activities will promote illegal activity.” The bill passed the House on a vote of 233-175. It did not become law. [H.R. 3697, Vote #517, [9/14/17](#); Congress.gov, accessed [4/21/23](#)]

### ***H.R. 6136, The Border Security And Immigration Reform Act Of 2018***

**June 2018: DeSantis Voted Against H.R. 6136, The “Border Security And Immigration Reform Act Of 2018.”** According to Congress.gov, DeSantis voted against H.R. 6136, the “Border Security and Immigration Reform Act of 2018,” which “directs the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to achieve situational awareness and operational control of the border, including by increasing enforcement personnel.” The bill failed on a vote of 121-301. [H.R. 6136, [Vote #297](#), 6/27/18; Congress.gov, accessed [4/19/23](#)]

- **H.R. 6136 “Provides Funding For Infrastructure, Law Enforcement, And Border Security, Including Funds For A Border Wall Along The Southern Border.”** According to Congress.gov, “Border Security and Immigration Reform Act of 2018 This bill directs the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to achieve situational awareness and operational control of the border, including by increasing enforcement personnel. The bill provides funding for infrastructure, law enforcement, and border security, including funds for a border wall along the southern border. The bill provides for: (1) an Integrated Border Enforcement Team Program



within DHS; (2) Tunnel Task Forces; (3) a pilot program on the use of electromagnetic spectrum to support border control operations; (4) a Biometric Identification Transnational Migration Alert Program; (5) construction of new border ports of entry; (6) a biometric exit data system at certain airports, seaports, and land ports of entry; (7) electronic passport screening and biometric matching; and (8) protections for children apprehended at the border from parental separation and for children in DHS custody.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 6136, introduced [6/19/18](#)]

- **H.R. 6136 Provided For “An Integrated Border Enforcement Team Program Within DHS” And “Tunnel Task Forces.”** According to Congress.gov, “Border Security and Immigration Reform Act of 2018 This bill directs the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to achieve situational awareness and operational control of the border, including by increasing enforcement personnel. The bill provides funding for infrastructure, law enforcement, and border security, including funds for a border wall along the southern border. The bill provides for: (1) an Integrated Border Enforcement Team Program within DHS; (2) Tunnel Task Forces; (3) a pilot program on the use of electromagnetic spectrum to support border control operations; (4) a Biometric Identification Transnational Migration Alert Program; (5) construction of new border ports of entry; (6) a biometric exit data system at certain airports, seaports, and land ports of entry; (7) electronic passport screening and biometric matching; and (8) protections for children apprehended at the border from parental separation and for children in DHS custody.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 6136, introduced [6/19/18](#)]
- **H.R. 6136 Provided For A “Biometric Identification Transnational Migration Alert Program,” A “Biometric Exit Data System At Certain Airports, Seaports, And Land Ports Of Entry,” And “Electronic Passport Screening And Biometric Matching.”** According to Congress.gov, “Border Security and Immigration Reform Act of 2018 This bill directs the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to achieve situational awareness and operational control of the border, including by increasing enforcement personnel. The bill provides funding for infrastructure, law enforcement, and border security, including funds for a border wall along the southern border. The bill provides for: (1) an Integrated Border Enforcement Team Program within DHS; (2) Tunnel Task Forces; (3) a pilot program on the use of electromagnetic spectrum to support border control operations; (4) a Biometric Identification Transnational Migration Alert Program; (5) construction of new border ports of entry; (6) a biometric exit data system at certain airports, seaports, and land ports of entry; (7) electronic passport screening and biometric matching; and (8) protections for children apprehended at the border from parental separation and for children in DHS custody.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 6136, introduced [6/19/18](#)]
- **H.R. 6136 Allowed DHS To “Designate Certain Groups As A Criminal Gang” And Noted That “Such Individuals May Not Seek Asylum, Withholding Of Removal, Or Temporary Protected Status.”** According to Congress.gov, “Border Security and Immigration Reform Act of 2018 This bill directs the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to achieve situational awareness and operational control of the border, including by increasing enforcement personnel. The bill provides funding for infrastructure, law enforcement, and border security, including funds for a border wall along the southern border. [...] DHS may designate certain groups as a criminal gang. Such individuals may not seek asylum, withholding of removal, or temporary protected status. Indemnification is provided for law enforcement entities sued for complying with DHS detainers. DHS detainer authority is revised. The bill creates a private right of action against a state or local jurisdiction that declines to honor a DHS detainer for a convicted illegal alien who then commits murder, rape, or sexual abuse of a minor. The bill eliminates: (1) the diversity visa program, (2) certain family-based visa categories, and (3) the per-country limit for employment-based immigrants. The per-country limit for family based-immigrants is increased. Asylum and visa screening provisions are revised.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 6136, introduced [6/19/18](#)]
- **H.R. 6136 Created “A Private Right Of Action Against A State Or Local Jurisdiction That Declines To Honor A DHS Detainer For A Convicted Illegal Alien Who Then Commits Murder, Rape, Or Sexual Abuse Of A Minor.”** According to Congress.gov, “Border Security and Immigration Reform Act of 2018 This bill directs the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to achieve situational awareness and operational control of the border, including by increasing enforcement personnel. The bill provides funding for infrastructure, law enforcement, and border security, including funds for a border wall along the southern

border. [...] DHS may designate certain groups as a criminal gang. Such individuals may not seek asylum, withholding of removal, or temporary protected status. Indemnification is provided for law enforcement entities sued for complying with DHS detainers. DHS detainer authority is revised. The bill creates a private right of action against a state or local jurisdiction that declines to honor a DHS detainer for a convicted illegal alien who then commits murder, rape, or sexual abuse of a minor. The bill eliminates: (1) the diversity visa program, (2) certain family-based visa categories, and (3) the per-country limit for employment-based immigrants. The per-country limit for family based-immigrants is increased. Asylum and visa screening provisions are revised.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 6136, introduced [6/19/18](#)]

- **H.R. 6136 Eliminated “The Diversity Visa Program,” “Certain Family-Based Visa Categories” And “The Per-Country Limit For Employment-Based Immigrants.”** According to Congress.gov, “Border Security and Immigration Reform Act of 2018 This bill directs the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to achieve situational awareness and operational control of the border, including by increasing enforcement personnel. The bill provides funding for infrastructure, law enforcement, and border security, including funds for a border wall along the southern border. [...] DHS may designate certain groups as a criminal gang. Such individuals may not seek asylum, withholding of removal, or temporary protected status. Indemnification is provided for law enforcement entities sued for complying with DHS detainers. DHS detainer authority is revised. The bill creates a private right of action against a state or local jurisdiction that declines to honor a DHS detainer for a convicted illegal alien who then commits murder, rape, or sexual abuse of a minor. The bill eliminates: (1) the diversity visa program, (2) certain family-based visa categories, and (3) the per-country limit for employment-based immigrants. The per-country limit for family based-immigrants is increased. Asylum and visa screening provisions are revised.” [Congress.gov, H.R. 6136, introduced [6/19/18](#)]