



# Immigration Town Hall

Congressman Mark DeSaulnier

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# Immigration Law: A History

- ▶ **1790** – 1790 Naturalization Act – established the country’s first uniform rule for naturalization. Allowed all “free white persons” who resided in the U.S. for 2 years to be granted citizenship.
- ▶ **1882** – Chinese Exclusion Act – suspends immigration of Chinese laborers for 10 years. This is the first of many bills restricting or limiting Chinese immigration.
- ▶ **1921** – 1921 Emergency Quota Act – Congress’ first attempt to regulate immigration by setting admission “quotas” based on nationality. It limited the number of immigrants annually to 3 percent of the number of foreign-born persons of that nationality present in the U.S.
- ▶ **1948** – Displaced Persons Act of 1948 – allows over 200,000 individuals displaced from their homelands by Nazi persecution to immigrate to the U.S.

# Immigration Law: A History

- ▶ **1965** – 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act– abolishes the national-origins quota system and replaces it with a family-based and employer-based system.
- ▶ **1980** – Refugee Act of 1980 – establishes a new statutory system for processing and admitting refugees and asylum seekers and broadens the definition of refugee.
- ▶ **1982** – Immigration Reform and Control Act – imposes sanctions on employers who knowingly hire undocumented immigrants and creates 2 legalization programs, resulting in ~2.7 million people eventually becoming lawful permanent residents.
- ▶ **1990** – 1990 Immigration Act – raises legal admissions on employment-based immigrants and limits the government's power to deport immigrants for ideological reasons.
- ▶ **1996** – Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act and the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrants Responsibility Act – establish “expedited removal,” expands mandatory detention, reduces government benefits available to immigrants, and toughens procedural requirements for asylum seekers.

# Modern Immigration Law & Actions

- ▶ **2001** – USA Patriot Act – broadens terrorism grounds for excluding people from entering the U.S.
- ▶ **2002** – Homeland Security Act – creates the Department of Homeland Security.
- ▶ **2005** – REAL ID Act – establishes statutory guidelines for removal cases, expands terrorism-related grounds for deportation and inadmissibility, increases border infrastructure, and requires states to implement REAL ID driver's licenses.
- ▶ **2012** – President Obama creates Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA).
- ▶ **2013** – “Gang of 8” proposal that was never considered in the House.

# The Many Benefits of Immigration

- ▶ Immigrants added about **\$2 trillion to the U.S. GDP** in 2016
  - ▶ Researchers estimate in California they added between \$4.6 and \$8 billion\*
- ▶ In 2010, more than **40% of Fortune 500 companies** were founded by immigrants and their children
- ▶ 20 million adult U.S.-born children of immigrants have higher incomes than their parents
- ▶ Immigration induced a **4% real wage increase** for the average **native worker** between 1990 and 2004
- ▶ The inflow of STEM workers driven by H-1B visas during the period 1990-2010 **explains up to 30% of the productivity growth** in U.S. cities

All statistics from the Center for American Progress with the exception of the one marked with \*, which is from the UC Berkeley Center for Latin American Studies

# Administration's Actions

- ▶ Implementation of the Zero Tolerance Policy aka Family Separation
- ▶ Backtrack on DACA
- ▶ Cancellation of Temporary Protected Status (TPS)
- ▶ Muslim Ban
- ▶ Border wall
- ▶ Attempt to drastically reduce legal immigration numbers by moving to “merit-based” system
- ▶ Dismantling our asylum system
- ▶ Public charge rule
- ▶ Rollback of *Flores Agreement* in a move toward indefinite detention

# Trip to the Border

Trip #1 hosted by the Democratic Women's Working Group to McAllen and Brownsville, TX.

Federal courthouse, Border Patrol Processing Center, Port Isabel Detention Center, and Brownsville Point of Entry

Trip #2 hosted by Rep. Juan Vargas to San Ysidro San Ysidro Port of Entry, border infrastructure system, border barrier

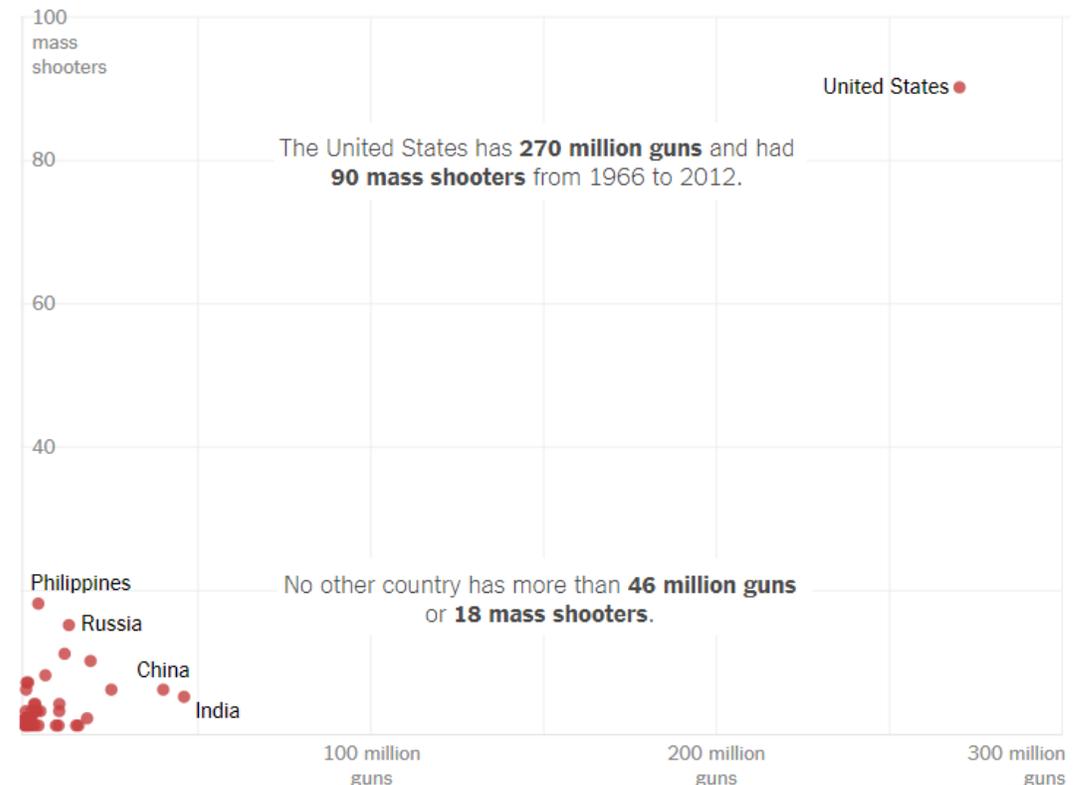


# Congressman DeSaulnier's Efforts

- ▶ **Family Separation**: Sponsor **more than 15 bills** to put an end to family separation and prioritize family reunification
- ▶ **Border Detentions**: Sponsor and voted in support of bills that would improve border detention conditions. Also opposed a bill to provide more funding to the Administration that would allow them to increase unsafe detentions
- ▶ **Miscellaneous**: Support legislation to protect Dreamers, put an end to the Muslim Ban, prevent federal funds from being used to construct a border wall, and more – including Uniting and Securing America Act (Hurd-Aguilar)

# Gun Violence Prevention

- ▶ Gun violence claims over **30,000 lives annually** in the United States
- ▶ The U.S. firearm homicide rate is **20 times higher** than the combined rates of 22 comparable countries
- ▶ Americans make up about **4.4% of the global population**, but own **42% of the world's guns**.
- ▶ Gun industry annual net profit: **\$1.5 billion**
  - ▶ Annual cost of gun violence: **\$290 billion**
- ▶ Since 2003, state and local governments have given more than **\$120 million in tax subsidies** to at least seven major firearms companies



# Gun Violence Prevention

- ▶ Since taking control of the House in January, Democrats have passed:
  - ▶ **Bipartisan Background Checks Act (H.R. 8)** - would ensure background checks for all gun sales
    - ▶ Polls show that 90% of Americans support universal background checks
  - ▶ **Enhanced Background Checks Act (H.R. 1112)** – would give the FBI 10 days to complete background checks
- ▶ Proudly hold an **F** rating from the NRA
- ▶ Since taking public office, I have authored bills to:
  - ▶ Require gun owners to immediately report when their firearms are lost or stolen
  - ▶ Enact commonsense safety standards for safe storage of federal law enforcement weapons
  - ▶ Make guns themselves safer by using biometric technology
  - ▶ Currently drafting bill to create a Gun Safety Board to assess proposals to reduce gun violence based on effectiveness

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