Immigration Town Hall
Congressman Mark DeSaulnier
AUGUST 22, 2019
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 – Displace 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.


- **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.

Modern Immigration Law & Actions

- **2001** – USA Patriot Act – broadens terrorism grounds for excluding people from entering the U.S.
- **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
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
Contact Our Office

**Walnut Creek**
3100 Oak Road
Suite 110
Walnut Creek, CA
(925) 933-2660

**Richmond**
440 Civic Center Plaza
Second Floor
Richmond, CA
(510) 620-1000

**Washington, DC**
503 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC
(202) 225-2095

Main Immigration Point of Contact: Jessica Angulo
Jessica.Angulo@mail.house.gov
(510) 620-1000

Facebook: /RepMarkDeSaulnier

Instagram: @RepDeSaulnier

Twitter: @RepDeSaulnier

Website: desaulnier.house.gov