

# THE WICKER REPORT

SENATOR WICKER'S WEEKLY REPORT from CONGRESS

## Wicker visits border, blasts Biden's 'Self-Inflicted Wound'

President 'Could Not Have Created a Worse Situation if He Had Tried'

Last week, I traveled to the U.S.-Mexico border with a delegation of Republican senators. Revisiting the border underscored what I already knew: President Biden has lost control of the situation. In the previous administration, President Trump reined in the national security and humanitarian crisis, demonstrating that strong border policy works.

By halting deportations, expanding "catch and release," and resisting the "Remain in Mexico" policy, President Biden told the world we have an open border. He could not have created a worse situation if he had tried.

### The Border Spirals Out of Control

President Biden's continued disregard for the crisis threatens national security. I spoke with local, state, and federal officials about the real-world consequences.

On the first night in Texas, I joined Border Patrol agents as they apprehended individuals and families sneaking across the border. Those arrests are drops in the bucket compared to the one million encounters officials have already experienced in 2023. This year's encounter rate outpaces that of 2022, which outpaced that of 2021. The chaotic situation may get even worse on May 11th when Title 42, a COVID-era policy limiting immigration in a public health emergency, ends.

Border officials face incursions from the ground and from the skies. Rio Grande Valley Sector Chief Gloria Chavez told our delegation that Mexican cartels use drones to surveil the Border Patrol, violating U.S. airspace 10,000 times in 2022. Meanwhile, the Border Patrol's fleet of surveillance blimps is dwindling and needs replenishment.

One of the most startling things I heard came from a border agent who said his office has never heard from Vice President Harris – or her staff – even though President Biden deputized her to solve our immigration challenges. This is the latest example of the Biden administration failing to take the crisis seriously – something I have urged them to do. If the administration refuses to do simple things, like staying in contact with border officials, there is little hope for progress.

### The Crisis Hurts the Vulnerable

Spending time at the border also highlighted the human cost of the crisis. On the south side of the border, cartels reign. They traffic guns, drugs, and even humans, creating a dangerous environment for migrants and locals. On the trip, I also learned most female migrants are, tragically, victims of violence as they move north to the border.

The effects of the crisis are not limited to border

IN AND AROUND

## LEXINGTON

BY LEONA (LENA) FIELDS



Mrs. Idaphene Sims is able to come back to the Senior Citizens' Feeding Site in Lexington. We are glad to have her back. Her family members (sisters,

towns. Because of the cartels, Mexico has surpassed China as the top originator of the fentanyl found all over the United States. Today, it is the leading cause of death among American adults ages 18-42. I grieve with the many Mississippi communities that have lost loved ones to this dangerous drug.

### Good Policies Can Heal This Self-Inflicted Wound

Border officials know the situation better than anyone, and they agree our approach is not working. They urge us to enforce our existing laws, reinstate proven policies, and equip our Border Patrol to do what they do best.

I have called on President Biden to fund the border wall – a project with bipartisan history. He should also obey the courts and enforce the "Remain in Mexico" policy, a program that worked well under the Trump administration.

Finally, it is time to support the Border Patrol. They need upgraded surveillance capabilities, less time at the desk, and more time on the beat.

This border crisis is the Biden administration's self-inflicted wound. It is an avoidable problem President Biden has the power to fix. To get started, he should return to the policies that worked just two years ago.

daughters, grandchildren, etc.) came to visit her while she was on oxygen. She's off the oxygen now. God can do wonderful things.

I am still sore from falling, but I am gradually getting better. The bruise on my arm has almost faded out.

March winds blow stuff, so be careful about burning stuff outside.

Ms. Doris Whitehead came back to the Senior Citizens' Feeding Site one Thursday and brought a nice blackout prize for bingo. She also let us pull names for two cakes. Doris always does nice things at her own expense.

I hope the young people do not get into any trouble during Spring Break.

Taryn Brown passed recently. Keep the family in prayer.

I had some errors on the TRIAD report for last week. Ms. Brown did not give out the phones and tablets. Mrs. Robbirea Forbes gave out the phones and tablets.

Mr. Leroy Johnson was not the only supervisor that gave out masks, wet wipes, sanitizers, etc. Mrs. Debra Mabry and Mr. Leonard Hampton also gave out masks, wet wipes, sanitizers, etc. Ms. Brown brought COVID-19 supplies too. Thanks to Janet Land, I hope I have corrected my errors.

## Reeves signs bill to incentivize nurses, curb shortage

JACKSON, Miss. (WLBT) - Governor Tate Reeves has signed a bill in hopes of attracting new nurses and curbing the nursing shortage in Mississippi.

Reeves said Senate Bill 2373 will create the "Skilled Nursing Home and Hospital Nurses Retention Loan Repayment Program."

The program would pay the student loans of nurses who choose to stay

and work in Mississippi after graduation.

"This legislation will strengthen the pipeline of medical professionals and improve the quality of care for all Mississippians," the governor said. "Innovation is the solution to our healthcare challenges and it is the solution to keeping talented Mississippians here."

Qualifying nurses could receive up to \$6,000 per year for up to three years.



## Living With Children

By John Rosemond

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My wife and I were enjoying an evening out in one of our favorite restaurants when a family of three—mother, father, girl of perhaps four—were shown to a table next to ours. Immediately, the parents began asking the little one where she wanted to sit. They both stood while she went about trying each chair until she finally settled on one. Well, not really, because as soon as everyone sat, she wanted to move, so she and her father exchanged seats. This entire process took several minutes.

Then the parents began reading to her from the menu and asking her what she wanted to eat. She was obviously having difficulty deciding, so her parents began making suggestions. "Perhaps you'd like this. You had this once and you liked it. How about trying it again?" No, she didn't think so, so her parents went through the process again...and again...and again.

Finally, she seemed to make a decision which the parents conveyed to the very patient waitperson. Then, the little girl wanted to change seats, so they all played musical chairs once again. When the food came, the girl began whining, so they played musical entrees.

Such is the stuff of nouveau, post-1960s parenting, central to which is the notion that children should be given choices. When asked why this should be the case, liberal parenting pundits will say things like "So children learn how to make choices" and "So children learn that their opinions count" and "So children feel they have value." Funny. my parents never gave me choices about such things as what I was going to eat, or where I was going to sit in a restaurant. Yet, I grew up capable of making choices. Besides, have you ever heard a child

say, "My parents give me lots of choices, and because of that, I feel I have value"? No, you haven't. That is not at all reflective of how children think.

My parents made lots of choices for me. As an adult, I've made good choices, and I've made bad choices. That's life. I see no evidence that today's young people, many if not most of whom grew up with parents who let them decide where to sit, what they wanted to eat, and so on, have an improved capacity for decision-making. In fact, the escalating age of emancipation suggests they have difficulty making any decisions at all beyond what website they're going to visit next.

A child does not learn self-control unless his parents first set and enforce clear boundaries. Likewise, a child learns to make reasonably good decisions by being the beneficiary of parents who model authoritative decision-making. This is nothing more complicated than good parent leadership, which many of today's parents are afraid to deliver for fear their children won't like their decisions and therefore won't like them. Heaven forbid!

When all is said and done, letting children make lots of choices is really letting children be in control of things they have no business being in control of, like where they sit in a restaurant, what they eat, where they sleep, when they begin using the toilet, and so on.

The little girl in question would be a happier camper if her parents simplified her life by taking the reins of leadership. Children accept leadership. They abuse control. They don't mean to, but that's beside the point.

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Please include all pertinent details, dates, location, name of the event or occasion, all associated people, organizations or groups, reason for event or occasion and NAMES OF ALL PEOPLE PICTURED IN ANY PHOTOGRAPH. We look forward to hearing from you!