

Independent Women's Voice®
COVID and Safe Borders



What's at Stake

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected every aspect of life. As Americans eagerly long for a return to normal life, the Biden administration is risking greater spread of not only COVID-19 but its variants. Their inconsistent policies regarding COVID-19 for those who enter the US by land puts all of us, including the migrants, at greater risk.

While there are strict COVID-19 policies for those entering the United States via air travel, those who enter the U.S. via land, including those crossing the border illegally, do not face these same requirements.

This puts migrant families and U.S. citizens at risk and threatens to reverse our progress in the fight against COVID-19.

It also undermines the sacrifices we have and continue to make—the lost jobs, businesses, classroom time, sports, team spirit, hugs, get togethers, human companionship.

The Way Forward

We all want to fight the COVID-19 pandemic as effectively as possible. The Biden administration should implement safe, sensible, and consistent border controls, specifically aimed at controlling the spread of COVID-19 and its potential variants, so that we can defeat the pandemic and safely reopen our economy and society.

With the emergence of new variants that are potentially resistant to existing vaccines and could set us back in our fight against COVID-19, it is even MORE critical that we have border control.

This isn't a political issue; it's a matter of public health.

Addressing Misperceptions

MISPERCEPTIONS	FACTS
<p>Those who attempt to cross the border illegally are not allowed to enter the U.S. unless they provide proof of vaccination or a COVID-19 negative test.</p>	<p>Those crossing land borders, including those who come illegally, are not required to present a negative COVID-19 test or proof of vaccination prior to entry. Even if they are given a COVID-19 test and test positive, local officials do not have the authority to retain them. For months now, COVID-positive migrants have been permitted to travel to cities and states throughout the country.</p>
<p>Travelers to the U.S. face stricter rules than many other developed countries.</p>	<p>To the contrary, other countries, such as Canada, Australia and the United Kingdom, have stricter requirements, such as a mandatory quarantine and various additional COVID tests. Israel has restricted entry to citizens and first degree family members—requiring all arriving passengers to undergo testing and quarantine for 7 to 14 days or provide proof of vaccination or recovery—and Japan has announced that it will not admit any overseas spectators for the Olympic games.</p>