

Elephant Talk

Plano Republican Women

TFRW Region No: 3 Senate District No: 8

June 2018

President's Byline : Another Manufactured Crisis!!!



I have but one question for Laura Bush, Democrats all over this country and in particular, Hollywood and the media: where were all of you when President Barack Obama did exactly the same thing (there are pictures to prove this) during his presidency? I already know the answer: President Obama got a pass on everything he did, whether constitutional or not, whether right or wrong. President Trump never gets a pass. Also, the Democrats have not been able to get any traction on the so-called Russia collusion story, despite the best efforts of ranking members of the FBI, no one seems to care about Stormy Daniels and even with the full cooperation of the media (I don't call them the "main-stream" media anymore; there's nothing "main-stream" about this bunch) and Hollywood (many of whom seem to think that using vile language in every situation is just perfectly acceptable behavior), nothing is budging those of us who believe that President Trump is actually doing a great job against all odds. And those odds also include the "never Trumpers" that roam the halls of Congress such as Jeff Flake and others.

President Trump didn't create this mess: **CONGRESS** did and a ruling from (no surprise here), the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. I went to google to research this and I had to go to pages 5 and 6 before I found any source that I trusted and both those articles are included in this newsletter. I am deeply disappointed at those Republicans in both the House and the Senate that really don't want to deal with immigration and seem to be siding with the "open borders" crowd on the left. The will of the people seems just to be an after thought in Washington. I am quite amused that the left is actually using the Bible to bolster its positions on this matter, especially since the Democrat Party had to vote on whether to even include God in their platform several years ago (they actually voted it down, but those in charge "deemed" that it had passed; I know this for a fact because I watched that convention).

In other matters, I hope you all will take some time to reflect and refresh so we can get down to working to **CRUSH** the Democrats here in Collin County and all over Texas. The "Blue Wave" needs to be met with the "Red Tsunami" in November. That means Republicans must come together, remembering that more unites us than divides us and work to see that every Republican from the top to the bottom of the ballot is elected in November. I hope y'all have a wonderful 4th of July celebrating the birth of our great nation, then join me as we work to elect our Republican candidates on November 6, 2018!!



Catherine Gibb

President@PlanoRepublicanWomen.org

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Calendar of Events

Movie Screening
July 31st

Next Meeting
August 21st

Coupon Cutting notice
By email

Did you know that 17 States all have their own pledges of allegiance to their own state flags



Save the Date -Dinesh D'Souza's Latest Film



Did you love Hillary's America? If you did then you will want to join us for this exciting event !

Weeks after being pardoned by President Donald Trump, Dinesh D'Souza is unveiling the trailer for his latest movie. Quality Flix opens the conservative's latest documentary film, Death of a Nation, in 1,000 theaters on Aug. 3. The film likens Abraham Lincoln to Donald Trump — saying that the situations they found themselves in as U.S. presidents are very similar, according to the filmmaker.

"Lincoln was elected to unite a country and stop slavery. Democrats smeared him; went to war against him; assassinated him. Now, their target is Trump," D'Souza intones at the top of the trailer before announcing the movie is produced by Gerald Molen, the Oscar-winning producer of Schindler's List and Jurassic Park.—The Hollywood Reporter

Plano Republican Women invite you to join us
Tuesday, July 31, 2018
at Legacy Cinemark Theater
for a pre-screening of Dinesh D'Souza's latest film:
Death of a Nation

Tickets will be sold by PRW shortly via eventbrite for \$10 each and all who attend will receive a DVD of one of D'Souza's earlier films. Please save the date in mind and look for your invitation via email. Bring family and friends!

Special thanks to Lisa Babb for providing the Fascinating Facts about the Declaration of Independence for our trivia banners this month.

Next PRW Meeting:
Tuesday, August 21, 2018

Program: Plano City Issues

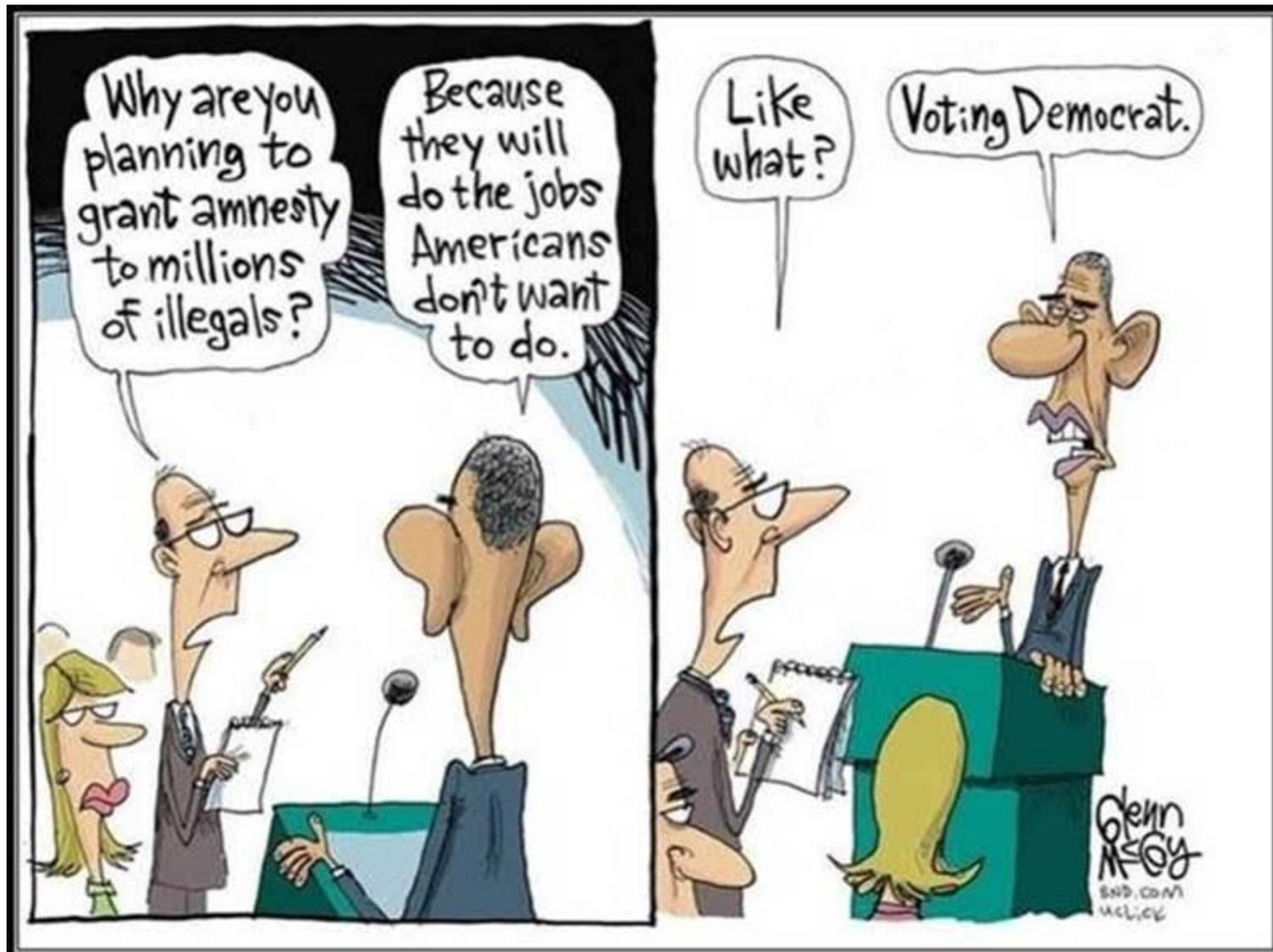
Location: Reflections on Spring Creek , 1901 East Spring Creek Parkway

Time: 11:15 am: Arrive and check-in, **11:30 am:** Meeting, Lunch & Program



There is something written on the back of the **Declaration of Independence**, but it isn't a secret map or code. Instead, there are a few handwritten words that say, "Original Declaration of Independence/ dated 4th July 1776". No one knows who wrote this, but it was probably added as a label when the document was rolled up for storage many years ago

Political Cartoons



Once the Declaration of Independence had been written and signed, printer John Dunlap was asked to make about 200 copies to be distributed throughout the colonies. Today, the "Dunlap Broadside" are extremely rare and valuable. In 1989, someone discovered a previously unknown Dunlap Broadside. It was sold for over \$8 million in 2000. There are only 26 known surviving Dunlap Broadside today.

I sat down to write an article on the Declaration of Independence for the June newsletter, given that July 4th would be coming up as the newsletter comes out. But then I thought, what could I possibly write that would be more eloquent than the document itself. In today's world, it bears reading in it's entirety.

Lisa Babb, Americanism Chair



The Declaration of Independence Action of Second Continental Congress, July 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America,

WHEN in the Course of human Events, it becomes necessary for one People to dissolve the Political Bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the Powers of the Earth, the separate and equal Station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent Respect to the Opinions of Mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the Separation.

WE hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness—That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed, that whenever any form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its Foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient Causes; and accordingly all Experience hath shewn, that Mankind are more disposed to suffer, while Evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long Train of Abuses and Usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object, evinces a Design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their Right, it is their Duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future Security. Such has been the patient Sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the Necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The History of the present King of Great-Britain is a History of repeated Injuries and Usurpations, all having in direct Object the Establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid World.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public Good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing Importance, unless suspended in their Operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other Laws for the Accommodation of large Districts of People, unless those People would relinquish the Right of Representation in the Legislature, a Right inestimable to them, and formidable to Tyrants only.

He has called together Legislative Bodies at Places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the Depository of their public Records, for the sole Purpose of fatiguing them into Compliance with his Measures.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly Firmness his Invasions on the Rights of the People.

He has refused for a long Time, after such Dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative Powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the Dangers of Invasion from without, and Convulsions within.

He has endeavoured to prevent the Population of these States; for that Purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their Migrations hither, and raising the Conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary Powers.

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the Tenure of their Offices, and the Amount and Payment of their Salaries.

He has erected a Multitude of new Offices, and sent hither Swarms of Officers to harrass our People, and eat out their Substance.

He has kept among us, in Times of Peace, Standing Armies, without the consent of our Legislatures.

He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil Power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a Jurisdiction foreign to our Constitution, and unacknowledged by our Laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:

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Although Thomas Jefferson is often called the “author” of the Declaration of Independence, he wasn’t the only person who contributed important ideas. Jefferson was a member of a five-person committee appointed by the Continental Congress to write the Declaration. The committee included Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, Robert Livingston, and Roger Sherman.

PRW at the State Convention



After Jefferson wrote his first draft of the Declaration, the other members of the Declaration committee and the Continental Congress made 86 changes to Jefferson's draft, including shortening the overall length by more than a fourth.

Robert Livingston, one of the members of the committee who wrote the Declaration of Independence, never signed it. He believed that it was too soon to declare independence and therefore refused to sign

It's Dangerous to Disagree in America

By Karin McQuillan, June 27th, 2018

This weekend, Sarah Sanders Huckabee and her family were thrown out of a Virginia restaurant after a vote by the staff. Do not trivialize this as a failure of civility, or a small incident in the soap opera of Trump Derangement Syndrome. [Victor Davis Hanson](#) says it will pass. It is not passing. It is growing. This is more than an assault on the Trump Administration; it is an assault on all of us.

Everywhere, in city, town, and country, Republicans keep their mouths shut among their neighbors, at dinner parties, at community gatherings, at their workplaces. To be openly Republican is to lose old friends, to alienate neighbors, to risk losing your job or career. Everyone on the Right has experienced this.

President Trump is adept at protecting himself. His policy successes speak louder than the hysteria. What about the rest of us? Ordinary people are vulnerable.

If a highly qualified job candidate votes Republican, his or her chance of employment shrinks to 7 percent in journalism, 3 percent in Ivy League colleges, 7 percent in Hollywood, and 10 percent in Silicon Valley.

Fields that create our educational, cultural, and technological world are deprived of the talent pool of roughly half the country. It also means the country is subjected to political thought control in precisely the fields that determine people's cultural norms and values and shape their politics.

Private citizens are a soft target. Papa John's Pizza founder and CEO John Schnatter was [forced out](#) of his own company for making an innocuous statement during a call with analysts about the NFL kneelers hurting their sales. Exemplary Google employee [James Damore](#) made one politically incorrect statement and was thrown out on his ear.

Apple's diversity chief, a black woman, thought she could praise the importance of diverse viewpoints instead of diversity based on race—and found herself the target of outrage and controversy that led to her [termination](#). "Diversity is the human experience," she said, "I get a little bit frustrated when diversity or the term diversity is tagged to the people of color, or the women, or the LGBT." That lovely and tolerant comment got her fired.

The threat of losing your job extends beyond your behavior at work. If you express right of center opinions outside of work, progressive activists can get you [fired](#), as happened to Dr. Frank Turek. He lost jobs with Cisco and Bank of America for writing [a book in defense of traditional marriage](#). A homosexual manager didn't like Turek's beliefs, and that was that.

Stop the jokes about social justice snowflakes living in their parents' basement. They are not the losers you imagine. They are actively recruited by powerful nonprofits and corporations into diversity jobs required by our federal government. In academia, they become the all-powerful diversity bureaucrats, before whom college presidents quake. These very adult and effective social justice warriors can [earn](#) over a quarter of a million dollars and hire huge staffs.

Corporate human resource departments hire them from the hordes of graduates churned out by feminist, black studies, and Chicano studies departments ([28](#) such departments on one UC campus alone), with [titles](#) like "Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Integrity, and Governance."

Diversity hires are often the Thought Police in corporations across America. They are paid to ensure conformity with government regs, originally to fight racial discrimination, now interpreted as requiring progressive discrimination.

President Obama really did transform America. Thirty-thousand community organizers were trained by President Obama while in office, through his personal non-profit Organizing for America. Barack and Michelle are fundraising as we speak to train 1 million mini-me agitators.

In [a well-publicized scam](#), not halted by Attorney General Jeff Sessions until this year, Obama's Justice Department illegally hit up our major banks for \$1 billion (yes, *billion*) in lieu of fines and redirected the money to left-wing nonprofits.

The core of progressive training is demonizing normal Americans as deplorables. Once you tar opponents as evil racist-sexist-homophobes, you are justified in any mode of attack, from blacklisting to physical violence.

Professionally trained agitators apply community organizing techniques amplified by social media. They target vulnerable businesses' advertisers. Large businesses cave before the accusations of racism, homophobia, sexism, or transphobia. They know they can't sustain the bad publicity and well-financed boycott, however unfair. Mom and Pop businesses may not cave—they'll just go bankrupt under the onslaught.

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When writing the first draft of the Declaration, Jefferson primarily drew upon two sources: his own draft of a preamble to the Virginia Constitution and George Mason's draft of Virginia's Declaration of Rights.

It's Dangerous to Disagree in America

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In high prestige fields, the beautiful people are frank and complacent about blacklisting Republicans. They justify it by saying Republicans are too stupid to be college professors, or that they would create an unpleasant work environment for blacks, women, and gays. Or simply that they can't abide people with different political views. In past generations, the Beautiful People couldn't abide blacks or Jews or Catholics. It is naked bigotry against people different from oneself.

The impact on America has been profound and tragic. Schooling, starting in kindergarten, has turned into political indoctrination that harms children psychologically with their gender and race-obsessed identity politics. Small children are forced to learn the details of homosexual sexual practices against their parents' wishes. Two generations of our kids have been taught racial guilt and grievance instead of America's inspiring history of individual rights, rule of law, and freedom. The media and Hollywood function as a propaganda ministry, swaying the minds of the young and the ignorant with their politically correct messages devaluing American, religious and family values.

Activists have successfully targeted the publishing industry. Manuscripts, even by well known, award-winning authors, are vetted by committees of trans, gay, people of color, and feminists. This sounds like a spoof, but it is gallows humor indeed, killing freedom to write and publish without enforced conformity to what progressives allow.

A friend recently confided in me that he is glad that his two grown sons are knee-jerk liberals, even though they vote for candidates he thinks are destroying our country. One is a doctor at Harvard Medical School and the other a well-paid federal bureaucrat.

"They're not interested in politics," he said. "They're busy working and just go along with what everyone around them thinks. It's better that way."

Why is it better? "It would end their careers to be conservative."

His sons—along with most other Americans—live in an unforgiving politically correct world.

This is the ugly reality of progressives' growing aggression. When Hollywood created the blacklist for Communists in the 1950s, it became a byword for evil. Now it is done by the Superior People in the name of virtue. No place, no setting is safe. Not your private life, not your workplace, not a family dinner at a local restaurant.

Shunning and harassing Trump's voters is socially acceptable to a growing cohort of Democrats. They enjoy it. They believe in it. They justify it.

What happens from here depends on normal Americans speaking up for decency and freedom. We can't give up the right to disagree. All of us have to take a page from President Trump's book and refuse to be intimidated.

Trump can't do all the winning for us. We have to fight some battles ourselves. The attacks on conservatives go beyond the political arena. Our parents and grandparents in the Greatest Generation fought fascism in Europe. We have to fight it here.

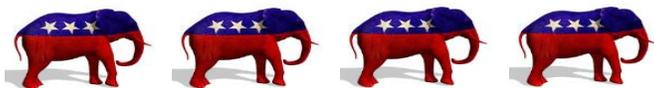
About the Author: [Karin McQuillan](#)

Karin McQuillan served in the Peace Corps in West Africa, was a social worker, and is now a writer and regular contributor to *American Thinker*.



Some of the most famous lines in the Declaration of Independence were inspired by Virginia's Declaration of Rights by George Mason. Mason said: "all men are born equally free and independent." Jefferson's Declaration of Independence said: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal." Mason listed man's "natural Rights" as "Enjoyment of Life and Liberty, with the Means of acquiring and possessing Property, and pursuing and obtaining Happiness and Safety." Jefferson listed man's "inalienable rights" as "Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness."

PRW In Action at the State Convention



Special thanks to Marc Friedland of Marc Friedland Photography for the wonderful photos of our members at the Republican State Convention in San Antonio!



Jefferson was quite unhappy about some of the edits made to his original draft of the Declaration of Independence. He had originally included language condemning the British promotion of the slave trade (even though Jefferson himself was a slave owner). This criticism of the slave trade was removed in spite of Jefferson's objections.

On December 13, 1952, the Declaration of Independence (along with the Constitution and Bill of Rights) was formally delivered to the National Archives in Washington, D.C., where it has remained since then.



AUTHENTIC CONSERVATIVE LEADERSHIP FOR TEXAS

Message From Lt. Governor Dan Patrick

Sunday, June 24, 2018

Democrats Support a 100% Tolerance Policy

If we don't have a "zero tolerance" policy then how much legal immigration do our opponents believe America should tolerate?

We know Democrats are in favor of open borders — so that's "100% tolerance" of illegal immigration, right? It seems there are moderates in our own party who want us to accept many of the people who are illegally entering the country without question. Are they asking for 50% tolerance? 40%? 65%? What percentage of the people who are entering our country illegally at the border do they believe we should ignore?

How Many Illegals are currently in the U.S.?

Since I have been Lt. Governor, I have directed \$1.6 billion to border security for more equipment, planes and additional boots on the ground. In my work and analysis of border issues, many have told me that the number of illegals who are currently in Texas and the U.S. is greatly underestimated.

Most news sources regularly report that there are about 11 million illegal aliens in the U. S. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce first released the 11 million estimate in 2004. From Texas to California, border forces apprehended an average of about 400,000 people over the last five years attempting to enter the country illegally. Most estimate that they only catch one in five — 20 percent of the people who cross the border illegally. Some believe it's one in ten, but taking the lower number — 1 out of 5 — means that about 1.5 million people are illegally crossing into Texas annually that are not apprehended.

Over 13 years, that is almost 20 million people. When that number is added to the 11 million who were identified in 2004 by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the total is somewhere between 25 and 30 million people who are living in the United States illegally.

I talked about this issue in detail on America's Newsroom on Friday morning. If you missed it, [you can view it here](#).

The Facts about Asylum

Asylum requests from Central America have increased 800% over the past year as residents of those countries recognize that an asylum request can be a way to subvert the immigration system. Asylum is granted for political, religious and prejudice prosecution. Even though their lives may be difficult, most do not fit in that category. Asylum courts are now so over-crowded that most applicants simply fail to show up for their court date and then disappear into the U.S. as undocumented aliens. When there are court proceedings, an estimated 80 percent or more requests for asylum are denied because they do not meet the standards under the law.

I discussed these issues in detail with Neil Cavuto on Saturday morning. [You can view the video here](#).

Texas has more companies listed on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) than any other state and Houston has more companies listed than any other city. The Texas Lyceum — a training group for young Texas leaders — invited me to join them at the NYSE on Friday to speak and ring the closing bell. Like most everyone I spoke to from New York, the people we met from the NYSE were very impressed (and envious) of the strength and success of Texas business and our economy — the tenth largest in the world. It was great fun to join them in ringing the closing bell.

Thank you for your support and for all that you do for the great state of Texas

The two youngest signers of the Declaration of Independence were both from South Carolina. Thomas Lynch, Jr. and Edward Rutledge of South Carolina were both born in 1749 and were only 26 when they signed the Declaration. Most of the other signers were in their 40s and 50s.

Who's Responsible for Separating Alien Kids from their Parents? Many People, But Not Trump.

Commentary by Hans A. von Spakovsky, June 22, 2018

Who truly is responsible for the 2,000 alien kids who, [according](#) to the Associated Press, recently have been separated from their detained illegal alien parents?

There is a lot of blame to share. That includes President Bill Clinton and the alien parents themselves, as well as the courts and immigration policies foolishly created by the Obama administration. The perverse incentives in those policies have endangered the lives and safety of children and helped fund the deadly Mexican drug cartels that run the trafficking networks on our southern border.

You would not know that based on the absurdly biased coverage and virulent protests that have occurred. The Trump administration is simply doing what it is constitutionally charged with doing—enforcing the law.

The president on Wednesday issued an [executive order](#) that directs the Department of Homeland Security to keep illegal alien families together “to the extent permitted by law.” That is the crux of the administration’s problem: the extent to which the government is permitted to keep families together while they await removal proceedings.

In 1997, the Clinton administration entered into a settlement agreement in *Flores v. Reno*, a lawsuit filed in federal court in California by pro-illegal immigration advocacy groups challenging the detention of juvenile aliens taken into custody by the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

The Clinton administration agreed to settle this litigation despite the fact the Supreme Court had [upheld](#) the Immigration and Naturalization Service regulation that provided for the release of minors only to their parents, close relatives, or legal guardians.

[According](#) to the Department of Homeland Security, the Flores agreement allows the agency to detain unaccompanied minors for only “20 days before releasing them to the Department of Health and Human Services which places the minors in foster or shelter situations until they locate a sponsor.”

But in a controversial decision, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit, the most liberal in the country, has [interpreted](#) the settlement agreement to apply to “both minors who are accompanied and unaccompanied by their parents.”

In other words, it is the 9th Circuit’s misinterpretation of the Clinton administration’s settlement agreement that doesn’t allow juvenile aliens to stay with their parents who have been detained for unlawful entry into the country.

Of course, if those parents would simply agree to return to their home countries, they would be immediately reunited with their children. So those who come here illegally are themselves to blame for their children being assigned to foster care or to another family member or sponsor who may be in the country.

The executive order signed by President Donald Trump directs the attorney general to file a request with the federal court in the Flores case to modify the settlement agreement to allow the government “to detain alien families together throughout the pendency of criminal proceedings for improper entry or any removal or other immigration proceedings.”

Of course, the administration’s critics know about this settlement and know it limits the ability of the administration to keep alien families together. The point of their propaganda war is to force the Trump administration to terminate its zero-tolerance policy of prosecuting all adult aliens for illegal entry, stop all detentions, and return to the “catch and release” policies of the prior administration.

The executive order did not indicate the president was in any way relaxing the zero-tolerance policy. Unfortunately, an unconfirmed [news report](#) the day after the executive order was signed cited a “senior U.S. Customs and Border Protection official” as claiming the Department of Homeland Security was “suspending prosecutions of adults who are members of family units until ICE can accelerate resource capability to allow us to maintain custody.”

If this is accurate, then many illegal aliens currently in detention will be released because of a lack of adequate family detention centers.

“Catch and release” was the policy of giving illegal aliens a court date and then releasing them, a practice which enables many of them to disappear into the vast interior of this country. Such a policy is not a viable option.

As Mark Metcalf, former immigration judge, [points](#) out, for example, after 9/11 the number of aliens who failed to show up for their immigration hearings reached 58 percent in 2005 and 2006. Over the past two decades, 37 percent of all illegal aliens released pending an immigration hearing fled and never showed up for trial.

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Who's Responsible for Separating Alien Kids from their Parents? Many People, But Not Trump.

Commentary by Hans A. von Spakovsky, June 22, 2018

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The Obama administration provided a huge incentive for illegal aliens to smuggle children across the border, since a child acted as a get-out-of-jail-free card for avoiding detention and prosecution for the adult accompanying the child. As the Department of Homeland Security correctly [says](#), this policy “incited smugglers to place children into the hands of adult strangers so they can pose as families and be released from immigration custody after crossing the border, creating another safety issue for these children.”

In 2013, a federal judge issued a searing indictment of the Obama administration’s policy of reuniting children with their illegal alien parents in the U.S. who had paid human traffickers to smuggle the children into the U.S. and taking no action against the parents.

As Judge Andrew Hanen [said](#) in a case against a human trafficker who was caught with a 10-year-old girl, the administration’s policy was to complete “the criminal mission of individuals who are violating the border security of the United States.” He called the policy “dangerous and unconscionable” because it encourages illegal aliens to place their “minor children in perilous situations subject to the whims of evil individuals.”

Hanen listed the crimes he had seen committed against illegal aliens by traffickers, including assault, rape, kidnapping, and murder, and catalogued the “violence, extortion, forced labor, sexual assault, or prostitution” to which the aliens were subjected. Funds paid to these human traffickers by illegal aliens directly fund dangerous drug cartels such as Mexico’s Los Zetas.

Another reason for the current separation problem is illegal aliens trying to take advantage of our generous asylum law. If an alien follows the law by presenting himself at a port of entry with his family and claiming asylum, then his claim will be reviewed and his family will stay together.

It is when aliens are caught illegally crossing the border and then claim asylum that they have put themselves into the situation of being prosecuted for illegal entry. They are then separated from their children because of the Clinton-era settlement.

Something else to keep in mind when it comes to the credibility—or lack of credibility—of many asylum claims these days is that many aliens pass through countries with their own asylum laws on their way here—including Mexico. If an alien doesn’t claim asylum before he gets to the U.S., that is a pretty good sign his reason for coming to the U.S. is more about economics than asylum.

This issue of alien children being separated from their parents who are being prosecuted for illegal entry also should be kept in perspective. Our justice system doesn’t refuse to arrest, prosecute, and jail citizens when they break the law because they happen to have children.

As Peter Kirsanow, a commissioner on the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, [points](#) out, a [report](#) from the Department of Health and Human Services shows that more than 20,000 children were placed in foster care in 2016 because of “Parent Incarceration.”

None of those protesting against the Trump administration seem concerned that 10 times more American children than the 2,000 alien children cited in the Associated Press report were separated from their parents in 2016 because of violations of the law by their parents.

As Kirsanow says, it is “regrettable” children are separated from their parents. But “people who cross the border illegally have committed a crime, and one of the consequences of being arrested and detained is, unfortunately, that their children cannot stay with them.”

It is not Trump who is responsible for this.

This piece originally appeared in the Daily Signal. Hans A. von Spakovsky is an authority on a wide range of issues including civil rights, civil justice, the First Amendment and immigration.

The only signer of the Declaration of Independence to survive beyond the 50th anniversary of the signing was Charles Carroll of Maryland. Carroll died in 1832 when he was 95 years old.

No one who signed the Declaration of Independence was born in the United States of America. The United States didn’t exist until after the Declaration was signed! However, all but eight of the signers were born in colonies that would become the United States.

Legislative Report



U.S. Supreme Court rules Texas lawmakers did not intentionally discriminate in drawing political maps

BY [ALEXA URA](#) JUNE 25, 2018 UPDATED: 12 PM

Extinguishing the possibility that Texas could be placed back under federal electoral supervision over the enactment of its current political maps, the U.S. Supreme Court on Monday pushed aside claims that lawmakers intentionally discriminated against voters of color when they signed off on boundaries for the state's congressional and state House districts in 2013.

In a 5-4 vote, the high court upheld 10 of 11 congressional and state House districts that the maps' challengers said intentionally undercut the voting power of Hispanic and black voters, oftentimes to keep white incumbents in office. The Supreme Court found that the evidence was "plainly insufficient" to prove that the 2013 Legislature acted in "bad faith" when it enacted the districts.

The Supreme Court's ruling, which keeps all but one of the state's districts in place through the end of the decade, is a major blow to the maps' challengers — civil rights groups, voters of color and Democratic lawmakers — who have been fighting the Republican-controlled Legislature's adjustment of district boundaries since 2011.

But on Monday, the conservative majority of the Supreme Court sided with the state's lawyers who had argued that they could not have discriminated against voters of color in 2013 because they simply "embraced" maps that the lower court had deemed were okay.

Writing for the majority, Justice Samuel Alito echoed conservatives' remarks during oral arguments that state lawmakers had earned the presumption of good faith when they leaned on the map the lower court approved, which "gave the Legislature a sound basis" for believing that the maps were legally sound. Alito pointed to the lower court's "careful analysis" of legal claims at play and "detailed examination" of individual districts, some of which were modified.

"Its work was anything but slapdash," Alito wrote. "All these facts gave the Legislature good reason to believe that the court-approved interim plans were legally sound." The Texas redistricting case was largely seen as a possible test case for the effectiveness of the Voting Rights Act after the Supreme Court in 2013 gutted the portion of the law that for decades required Texas and other states and localities to obtain the federal government's permission to change their election laws, a safeguard for voters of color called preclearance. The Supreme Court wiped clean the list in 2013 and lifted federal oversight for Texas and other jurisdictions, noting that conditions for voters of color had "dramatically improved."

After years of litigation, Monday's loss in the redistricting case — coupled with failed efforts to challenge the state's voter identification law on discriminatory grounds — nixes the possibility that the state will be placed back under preclearance.

White House sees 'vindication' in Supreme Court ruling upholding travel ban

BY [ROBERT BARNES AND ANNE E. MARIMOW](#) THE WASHINGTON POST Posted June 26

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court ruled Tuesday that President Trump has the authority to ban travelers from certain majority-Muslim countries if he thinks it is necessary to protect the United States, a victory in what has been a priority since Trump's first weeks in office and a major affirmation of presidential power.

The vote was 5 to 4, with conservatives in the majority and Chief Justice John Roberts Jr. finding that a string of unprecedented comments and warnings from Trump about Muslims did not erode the president's vast powers to control entry into this country.

The president reacted on Twitter: "SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS TRUMP TRAVEL BAN. Wow!"

Later, the White House issued a formal response that also took a swipe at Trump's declared enemies. It called the ruling a "vindication following months of hysterical commentary from the media and Democratic politicians who refuse to do what it takes to secure our border and our country."

Lower courts had struck down each of the three iterations of the president's travel ban, the first of which was issued in January 2017. But the administration said it fortified the order in response to each judicial setback, and it had reason to be optimistic about the Supreme Court, since the justices previously decided to let the ban go into effect while considering the challenges to it.

The ruling was one of a string of 5-to-4 decisions this term in which the justices on the right reasserted themselves, after the addition of Trump-nominated Justice Neil Gorsuch last year restored a conservative majority

Philosopher John Locke's ideas were an important influence on the Declaration of Independence. Thomas Jefferson restated Locke's contract theory of government when he wrote in the Declaration that governments derived "their just Powers from the consent of the people."

Legislative Report



SUPREME COURT

JUNE 27, 2018 / 12:05 AM / REUTERS

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The U.S. Supreme Court on Wednesday dealt a big blow to organized labor, ruling that non-members cannot be forced in certain states to pay fees to unions representing public employees such as teachers and police, shutting off a key union revenue source.

The 5-4 ruling overturned a 1977 Supreme Court precedent that had permitted these so-called agency fees, which have been collected from millions of workers who opt not to join unions in lieu of union dues to fund non-political activities such as collective bargaining. The court's conservative justices were in the majority, with the liberal justices dissenting.

Forcing non-members to pay these fees to unions whose views they may oppose violates their rights to free speech and free association under the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment, the court said in the ruling authored by Justice Samuel Alito.

"States and public-sector unions may no longer extract agency fees from non-consenting employees," Alito wrote. In a dissent, Justice Elena Kagan accused the court's conservatives of "weaponizing the First Amendment" to intervene in economic and regulatory policy.

Justice Kennedy to retire, Trump has chance to reshape Supreme Court



REUTERS JUNE 27, 2018 / 1:08 PM / LAWRENCE HURLEY

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy said on Wednesday he plans to retire after three decades as a pivotal vote on the highest U.S. judicial body, giving President Donald Trump an opportunity to make the court more firmly conservative.

Kennedy, who turns 82 in July and is the second-oldest justice on the nine-member court, has become one of the most consequential American jurists since joining the court in 1988 as an appointee of Republican President Ronald Reagan. A traditional conservative, he advanced gay rights, buttressed abortion rights and erased political spending limits.

His retirement, which takes effect on July 31, gives Trump a second Supreme Court appointment in his 17 months in office after the Republican president last year selected Neil Gorsuch, who has already become one of the most conservative justices.

Kennedy, mild-mannered and professorial, sometimes joined the liberal justices on key rulings, earning a reputation as the court's "swing" vote who heartened conservatives and liberals alike, depending on the issue.

His retirement sets the stage for a major showdown in the Republican-led U.S. Senate over the confirmation of Trump's eventual pick for the lifetime appointment to replace Kennedy, all coming before November elections in which Democrats are seeking to seize control of Congress from Trump's Republicans.

"I'm very honored that he chose to do it during my term in office because he felt confident in me to make the right choice and carry on his great legacy," Trump said of Kennedy at a rally in North Dakota on Wednesday night. "We have to pick a great one. We have to pick one that's going to be there for 40 years, 45 years," Trump added.



Trump to Announce Supreme Court Nominee on July 9

AARON CREDEUR | JUN 30, 2018 |

President Donald Trump on Friday said he'd announce his pick to replace retiring Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy on July 9 and that he's currently working to narrow down his shortlist of about five candidates.

While speaking on Air Force One, Trump said he will be interviewing candidates this weekend, adding that he's considering two women for the post, according to [NBC News](#).

"Outside of war and peace, of course, the most important decision you make is the selection of a Supreme Court judge, if you get it. As you know, there are many presidents who never get a choice," Trump said. "It is a group of highly talented, very brilliant, mostly conservative judges," he added.

Trump took to Twitter on Saturday to confirm his plans for deciding on his Supreme Court pick. The president's announcement that he will pick his nomination to the court July 9 signals his intent to seat Kennedy's replacement [before the midterm](#) elections in November despite calls from Democrats to postpone confirmation hearings until after the midterms.

Trump said he doesn't plan to ask candidates about their stance on abortion, as Republicans work to ease concerns about the ramifications of a more conservative-leaning court in an attempt to gain Democratic votes ahead of a confirmation hearing in the Senate.

Kennedy's [retirement](#) means that Trump will be given a second pick for the Supreme Court after choosing Justice Neil Gorsuch last year. Kennedy served as a key swing vote on the high court, departing from his more conservative colleagues on issues like gay marriage and abortion.

But Trump's pick could reshape the Supreme Court for decades to come, possibly jeopardizing past court decisions with a new solid conservative majority.

In the summer of 1776, when the Declaration was signed, the population of the nation is estimated to have been about 2.5 million. (Today the population of the U.S. is more than 300 million.)

Supreme Court Ruling on Union Dues Cripples Democrats

BY RUSH LIMBAUGH JUNE 27, 2018

RUSH: Let's go to the Supreme Court ruling on the unions. I don't think people are yet aware how momentous and huge this is.

If you people at the Democrat Party want to know what this means, I'll be glad to tell you. And, folks, don't worry about it, 'cause they never listen to me, even when I try to help 'em. But I'm gonna explain this. This Supreme Court ruling, wait 'til you hear the money that we're talking about. Here's the nub of this. The Supreme Court today ruled 5-4 that nonunion workers cannot be forced to pay fees to public sector unions.

Sam Alito, Samuel Alito wrote the court's opinion. He said, "Compelling individuals to mouth support for views they find objectionable violates that cardinal constitutional command, and in most contexts, any such effort would be universally condemned."

Meaning, these people cannot have their First Amendment rights violated by unions. The unions can't first coerce money from them and then redirect that money to causes people don't believe in. Do you know how long this has been going on? This has been going on not only with fees, but union dues and any other myriad number of ways unions collect money from members.

Now, let me explain something before I go further into this. I previously characterized this whole arrangement between the Democrat Party and unions as kind of like a money laundering agreement. And here's how it works. The Democrat Party can't go to the United States Treasury and write a check for a hundred million dollars every election. Yet they end up getting it. How? How do they do it?

Well, look at Obama's stimulus. That stimulus package ostensibly was to rebuild schools and roads and bridges. It was to rebuild our crumbling infrastructure. But that's not what the money went to. That money was about \$800 billion, or trillion. You know, I get the M's and the B's — it was almost a trillion dollars. No. Can't be. That's one-third of the budget. It had to be \$800 billion. The money went to unions. It went to unions at a time of a recession. People were losing their jobs left and right. That money kept union employees employed. But the reason that was important is because union employees working meant that fees and dues could be extracted from them, and a significant percentage of that goes back to the Democrat Party as political contributions.

And so federal programs that appropriate money to unions is really a secret way of having a portion of that money get back to the Democrat Party. It's a very clever money laundering operation. (interruption) What? It was billion! Whew. I had forgotten. You'll forgive me, folks. You know, the Brinks truck brings my check, and sometimes these B's and these M's, the millions and billions, they get confused in my head. Yeah, \$800 billion and a great percentage of that went to unions to keep them employed.

School unions in Wisconsin and California, we documented all of this. And then those people have their dues collected in other fees, and a portion of that goes back to the Democrat Party. So where Obama couldn't go to the Treasury and write the Democrat Party a check for a hundred billion, million, whatever dollars, he can get it this way. And the Democrats have been doing this for years.

And the origination of it is all of these fees and dues that the unions have been demanding from members, the court said today that nonunion workers cannot be forced to pay these fees to public sector — did you know that the unions were able to extract this money from nonunion employees, too? They were. That is what has ended.

Now, this story's at CNBC. The case, one of the most hotly anticipated of the term, concerned whether public employees can be forced to pay fees that fund the work of public sector unions. "Some experts had said a finding in favor of the plaintiff, Mark Janus, would be the most significant court decision affecting collective bargaining in decades.

"Janus, an employee at the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services, asked the court last summer to overrule a 40-year-old Supreme Court decision. It found that public sector unions could require employees affected by their negotiations to pay so-called agency fees, which have also been called 'fair share fees.'

"Those fees, approved by the court in the 1977 case *Abood v. Detroit Board of Education*, cover collective bargaining costs, such as contract negotiations, but are meant to exclude political advocacy." But they don't.

Okay, so that's the ruling. Nonunion workers cannot be — and, believe me, there are many more nonunion employees in America than there are unionized. Unionized employee percentage is at an all-time low. Which, if that's the case, how do the unions keep sending so damn much money to the Democrats? If union membership is at an all-time low — and it is — then how the hell do the SEIU and the teachers unions and all these others, where do they get the money to send to the Democrats?

Now, let's go to the numbers. You want to hear the numbers affected. Now, the numbers I'm gonna give you are contributions 2017, 2018. Not all of this is gonna be lost. Just a percentage of it. The percentage donated by nonunion, the forced — this is no different than a union boss reaching into a nonunion employee's back pocket or checkbook and writing himself a check claiming "You owe us this because you are benefiting from union contract negotiations and so forth and so on."

The American Federation of Teachers 2017-2018 donated six and a half million dollars to the Democrat Party and various liberal groups, none to Republicans. The American Federation of State, City, Municipal Employees, \$5,027,000, all to the Democrat Party and liberal groups. We are up to 11 and a half million just with two unions. The National Education Association, \$2,300,000, 95% of it the Democrat Party and liberal groups.

The American Federation of Government employees, \$1.8 million. Same scenario; most of it to Democrats and liberal interesting. A smidgen to Republicans. The International Association of Firefighters, one and a half million dollars. Now, it looks like about 30% of that went to Republicans; the rest to the Democrat Party. The National Association of Letter Carriers, \$833,000. The American Postal Workers Union, \$611,000. This is all in one year.

The National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association, \$481,000. The list keeps going. There aren't but three of these groups that gave any money to Republicans. That's why there is abject panic today in the Democrat Party.

The oldest signer of the Declaration was Benjamin Franklin, who was born in 1706 and was therefore already 70 at the time of the Declaration. Franklin went on to help negotiate the Treaty of Alliance with France in 1778 and the Treaty of Paris, which ended the Revolutionary War in 1783.

The Truth about Separating Kids

By Rich Lowry, May 28, 2018 as published in the [National Review](#)

Some economic migrants are using children as chits, but the problem is fixable — if Congress acts.

The latest furor over Trump immigration policy involves the separation of children from parents at the border.

As usual, the outrage obscures more than it illuminates, so it's worth walking through what's happening here.

For the longest time, illegal immigration was driven by single males from Mexico. Over the last decade, the flow has shifted to women, children, and family units from Central America. This poses challenges we haven't confronted before and has made what once were relatively minor wrinkles in the law loom very large.

The Trump administration isn't changing the rules that pertain to separating an adult from the child. Those remain the same. Separation happens only if officials find that the adult is falsely claiming to be the child's parent, or is a threat to the child, or is put into criminal proceedings.

It's the last that is operative here. The past practice had been to give a free pass to an adult who is part of a family unit. The new Trump policy is to prosecute all adults. The idea is to send a signal that we are serious about our laws and to create a deterrent against re-entry. (Illegal entry is a misdemeanor, illegal re-entry a felony.)

When a migrant is prosecuted for illegal entry, he or she is taken into custody by the U.S. Marshals. In no circumstance anywhere in the U.S. do the marshals care for the children of people they take into custody. The child is taken into the custody of HHS, who cares for them at temporary shelters.

The criminal proceedings are exceptionally short, assuming there is no aggravating factor such as a prior illegal entry or another crime. The migrants generally plead guilty, and they are then sentenced to time served, typically all in the same day, although practices vary along the border. After this, they are returned to the custody of ICE.

If the adult then wants to go home, in keeping with the expedited order of removal that is issued as a matter of course, it's relatively simple. The adult should be reunited quickly with his or her child, and the family returned home as a unit. In this scenario, there's only a very brief separation.

Where it becomes much more of an issue is if the adult files an asylum claim. In that scenario, the adults are almost certainly going to be detained longer than the government is allowed to hold their children.

That's because of something called the Flores Consent Decree from 1997. It says that unaccompanied children can be held only 20 days. A ruling by the Ninth Circuit extended this 20-day limit to children who come as part of family units. So even if we want to hold a family unit together, we are forbidden from doing so.

The clock ticking on the time the government can hold a child will almost always run out before an asylum claim is settled. The migrant is allowed ten days to seek an attorney, and there may be continuances or other complications.

This creates the choice of either releasing the adults and children together into the country pending the adjudication of the asylum claim, or holding the adults and releasing the children. If the adult is held, HHS places the child with a responsible party in the U.S., ideally a relative (migrants are likely to have family and friends here).

Even if Flores didn't exist, the government would be very constrained in how many family units it can accommodate. ICE has only about 3,000 family spaces in shelters. It is also limited in its overall space at the border, which is overwhelmed by the ongoing influx. This means that — whatever the Trump administration would prefer to do — many adults are still swiftly released.

Why try to hold adults at all? First of all, if an asylum-seeker is detained, it means that the claim goes through the process much more quickly, a couple of months or less rather than years. Second, if an adult is released while the claim is pending, the chances of ever finding that person again once he or she is in the country are dicey, to say the least. It is tantamount to allowing the migrant to live here, no matter what the merits of the case.

A few points about all this:

1) **Family units can go home quickly.** The option that both honors our laws and keeps family units together is a swift return home after prosecution. But immigrant advocates hate it because they want the migrants to stay in the United States. How you view this question will depend a lot on how you view the motivation of the migrants (and how seriously you take our laws and our border).

Continued on Page 17

The copy of the Declaration of Independence that is housed at the National Archives is not the draft that was approved by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776. Instead it is a formal copy that the Continental Congress hired someone to make for them after the text was approved. This formal copy was probably made by Timothy Matlack, an assistant to the Secretary of Congress. This copy was signed on August 2, 1776.

The Truth about Separating Kids

Continued from Page 16

2) **There's a better way to claim asylum.** Every indication is that the migrant flow to the United States is discretionary. It nearly dried up at the beginning of the Trump administration when migrants believed that they had no chance of getting into the United States. Now, it is going in earnest again because the message got out that, despite the rhetoric, the policy at the border hasn't changed. This strongly suggests that the flow overwhelmingly consists of economic migrants who would prefer to live in the United States, rather than victims of persecution in their home country who have no option but to get out.

Even if a migrant does have a credible fear of persecution, there is a legitimate way to pursue that claim, and it does not involve entering the United States illegally. First, such people should make their asylum claim in the first country where they feel safe, i.e., Mexico or some other country they are traversing to get here. Second, if for some reason they are threatened everywhere but the United States, they should show up at a port of entry and make their claim there rather than crossing the border illegally.

3) **There is a significant moral cost to not enforcing the border.** There is obviously a moral cost to separating a parent from a child and almost everyone would prefer not to do it. But, under current policy and with the current resources, the only practical alternative is letting family units who show up at the border live in the country for the duration. Not only does this make a mockery of our laws, it creates an incentive for people to keep bringing children with them.

Needless to say, children should not be making this journey that is fraught with peril. But there is now a premium on bringing children because of how we have handled these cases. They are considered chits.

In April, the [New York Times](#) reported:

Some migrants have admitted they brought their children not only to remove them from danger in such places as Central America and Africa, but because they believed it would cause the authorities to release them from custody sooner.

Others have admitted to posing falsely with children who are not their own, and Border Patrol officials say that such instances of fraud are increasing.

According to azcentral.com, it is "common to have [parents entrust their children to a smuggler](#) as a favor or for profit."

If someone is determined to come here illegally, the decent and safest thing would be to leave the child at home with a relative and send money back home. Because we favor family units over single adults, we are creating an incentive to do the opposite and use children to cut deals with smugglers.

4) **Congress can fix this.** Congress can change the rules so the Flores consent decree will no longer apply, and it can appropriate more money for family shelters at the border. This is an obvious thing to do that would eliminate the tension between enforcing our laws and keeping family units together. The Trump administration is throwing as many resources as it can at the border to expedite the process, and it desperately wants the Flores consent decree reversed. Despite some mixed messages, if the administration had its druthers, family units would be kept together and their cases settled quickly.

The missing piece here is Congress, but little outrage will be directed at it, and probably nothing will be done. And so our perverse system will remain in place and the crisis at the border will rumble on.



The first public reading of the Declaration took place on July 8, 1776, in Philadelphia. A fictional story written in the 1840s suggested that the bell now known as the Liberty Bell was rung that day to bring the people together. However, historians now doubt that this happened. The steeple that housed the bell was in very bad condition at the time and the bell was probably unusable.

Although August 2, 1776, was the date of the official signing ceremony, there were several people who signed on later dates. Some of these late signers included Elbridge Gerry, Oliver Wolcott, Lewis Morris, Thomas McKean and Matthew Thornton.

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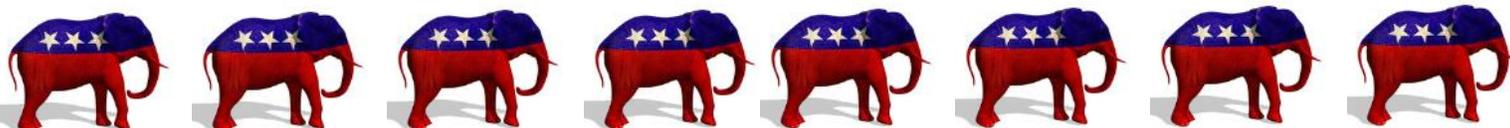
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