For Immediate Release
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Contact: Daniel First
(202) 225-2536

Weekly Wrap-Up with Congressman Byron Donalds May 20, 2024

Last week, my office was hard at work on Capitol Hill holding the radicals in the Biden administration accountable and delivering upon meaningful solutions on behalf of our Southwest Florida community, the State of Florida, and the American people.

I began the week by introducing "H.Res. 1218 – The Southwest Florida Law Enforcement Support Resolution" to recognize the unseen sacrifices and countless contributions of the Southwest Florida law enforcement community. There are nearly 4,000 law enforcement officers throughout Lee and Collier counties, who maintain an unwavering commitment to keep our Southwest Florida community safe. This National Police Week, I am proud to honor these brave men and women who work tirelessly to enforce the rule of law with consistent integrity and valor on behalf of our community.

On Wednesday evening, the House passed my bill, H.R. 7530 – The "D.C. Criminal Reform to Immediately Make Everyone Safer (D.C. CRIMES) Act" with a bipartisan vote of 225-181. Our nation's capital is experiencing a historic crime wave as a result of progressive, soft-on-crime policy. This man-made public safety crisis is unacceptable. Congress has a constitutional responsibility to oversee D.C. and it is imperative that we act quickly to assert our control when local government fails to do its job. The American people deserve a safe capital city and I will not stand idly-by as it descends into chaos. I am proud to receive the bipartisan support of my colleagues and look forward to the Senate's consideration of this important proposal.

Also on Wednesday, the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee advanced my bill, H.R. 5528 – "The Safe and Smart Federal Purchasing Act" out of committee and to the floor of the U.S. Senate with a unanimous, bipartisan vote of 10-0. As a member of the House Oversight Committee, ensuring proper governance and efficiency in federal operations are paramount concerns of mine. Federal procurement processes—although often overlooked—are critical to the operation of our government and necessitate comprehensive assessment. Simply put, affordability considerations and associated national security risks of procurement procedures must be thoroughly evaluated. I am proud to once again receive the unanimous support of my colleagues on this proposal and look forward to its successful passage on the floor of the U.S. Senate.

Later in the week, I introduced legislation to revamp ICE's Alternatives to Detention (ATD) program. Biden purposely and systematically broke our immigration system by executive action. As a result, there are now more than ten million unvetted illegal aliens that have entered our nation. These people should be held in detention facilities upon entering the United States, however, because Biden has dismantled ICE's ATD program, they are all-too-often released into our country's interior and subsequently lost. This is why it's critical that we utilize biometrics and GPS technology to ensure that law enforcement can pinpoint the exact location of illegal aliens prior to deportation. I am proud to join Senator Hagerty in offering this commonsense proposal on behalf of the American people.

I then introduced my 80th piece of legislation of the 118th Congress. This bill condemns anti-Semitism at institutions of higher-education across America and demands that funding is stripped from schools that fail to comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The vile scourge of anti-Semitism that has swept across our nation's campuses is unacceptable and must be strongly condemned. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 clearly prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, and national origin, and any American institutions of higher learning that refuse to comply with this federal statute should be stripped of their funding. Protecting the rights of all Americans is not up for debate. It is our duty.

Florida has one of America's highest senior populations, but receives well-below the national average in LIHEAP funding, and the House Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies has the power to change this unacceptable reality. Last week, I led a bipartisan initiative alongside Congressman Jared Moskowitz (D-FL) demanding that Florida receives its fair-share of Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funding.

Furthermore, I led an initiative to demand answers from Hillary Clinton's 2016 presidential campaign CFO Gary Gensler about his potential lies under oath in the House Financial Services Committee. Gensler has repeatedly testified that he was unaware of any Clinton campaign payments for the infamous Steele Dossier, however, as campaign CFO, he was tasked with establishing and maintaining the financial controls of the political operation. I request answers by June 1, 2024.

As your Congressman, you have my commitment to work on your behalf and restore order and proper governance to The People's House.

Legislative Updates

Donalds Recognizes The Unseen Sacrifices And Countless Contributions Of Southwest Florida Law Enforcement Officers

WASHINGTON – Congressman Byron Donalds (R-FL) introduced legislation to recognize the unseen sacrifices and countless contributions of the Southwest Florida law enforcement community.

"H.Res. 1218 – The Southwest Florida Law Enforcement Support Resolution" is the 78th piece of legislation introduced by Congressman Donalds during the 118th Congress. Congressman Donalds released the following statement:

"There are nearly 4,000 law enforcement officers throughout Lee and Collier counties, who maintain an unwavering commitment to keep our Southwest Florida community safe. This National Police Week, I am proud to honor these brave men and women who work tirelessly to enforce the rule of law with consistent integrity and valor on behalf of our community."

BACKGROUND:

There are approximately—

- 308 law enforcement officers serving in the Cape Coral Police Department
- 300 law enforcement officers serving in the Fort Myers Police Department
- 29 law enforcement officers serving in the City of Sanibel Police Department
- 48 law enforcement officers serving in the Naples Police Department
- 43 law enforcement officers serving in the Marco Island Police Department
- 1,800 law enforcement officers serving in the Lee County Sheriff's Office
- 1,300 law enforcement officers serving in the Collier County Sheriff's Office
- 155 law enforcement officers serving in Florida Highway Patrol Troop F Headquartered in Fort Myers

BILL ACTIONS:

- Expresses sincere appreciation and gratitude for the brave men and women that serve as law enforcement officers in Southwest Florida
- Appreciates the unwavering contributions, efforts, and dedication that law enforcement officers in Southwest Florida provide to keep the Southwest Florida community, and its visitors, safe from harm
- Acknowledges that law enforcement officers may face danger while selflessly carrying out their public duty
- Recognizes that law enforcement officers are heroes within the Southwest Florida community

MORE:

- See graphics rollout *HERE*.
- See full text of "The Southwest Florida Law Enforcement Support Resolution" *HERE*.

Donalds Celebrates The 76th Anniversary Of Israeli Independence

WASHINGTON – Congressman Byron Donalds (R-FL) released the following statement in acknowledgment of Yom Ha'atzmaut–the 76th anniversary of Israeli independence:

"Today we celebrate the 76th anniversary of our friend and ally Israel's independence. Forged in fire and currently under existential threat from barbaric Hamas terrorists, the ancient and ancestral homeland of the Jewish people has persevered against all odds, and is a beacon of hope, freedom, and democracy along the Mediterranean Coast."

Donalds Bill Passes House To Combat The Progressive, Soft-On-Crime Sentencing Policies Plaguing Our Nation's Capital

WASHINGTON – This evening, the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 7530 – The "D.C. Criminal Reform to Immediately Make Everyone Safer (D.C. CRIMES) Act" with a bipartisan vote of 225-181.

This legislation prohibits the Council of the District of Columbia from pursuing progressive, soft-on-crime policy and seeks to utilize Congressional authority in order to reduce the skyrocketing crime in our nation's capital.

H.R. 7530 is sponsored by Congressman Byron Donalds (R-FL) and is the congressman's fifteenth piece of legislation that has passed the U.S. House of Representatives during the 118th Congress.

"Our nation's capital is experiencing a historic crime wave as a result of progressive, soft-on-crime policy," ***said Congressman Donalds.*** "This man-made public safety crisis is unacceptable. Congress has a constitutional responsibility to oversee the District of Columbia and it is imperative that we act quickly to assert our control when local government fails to do its job. The American people deserve a safe capital city and I will not stand idly-by as it descends into chaos. I am proud to receive the bipartisan support of my colleagues and look forward to the Senate's consideration of this important proposal."

"Democrats' soft-on-crime policies have significantly changed policing across the country – and some of the worst consequences can been seen in our nation's capital," ***said Speaker Johnson.*** "Congress has a responsibility to act in the interest of the District of Columbia and Congressman Byron Donalds's DC CRIMES Act will address the persistent levels of violent crime in Washington, D.C."

More:

- Video of House Floor Debate Over H.R. 7530 – The "D.C. Criminal Reform to Immediately Make Everyone Safer (D.C. CRIMES) Act" *HERE*.
- Video of House Floor Passage of H.R. 7530 – The "D.C. Criminal Reform to Immediately Make Everyone Safer (D.C. CRIMES) Act" *HERE*.
- Social Media Summary Graphics Roll-Out *HERE*.
- Read the Full Text of the Bill *HERE*.

Donalds Fights To Strengthen Tracking Of Illegal Aliens

WASHINGTON – Today, Congressman Byron Donalds (R-FL) introduced legislation to revamp U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Alternatives to Detention (ATD) program. Senator Bill Hagerty (R-TN) has introduced the companion bill in the U.S. Senate.

"The Reshape ATD Act" is the 79th piece of legislation proposed by Congressman Donalds during the 118th Congress and requires the utilization of both biometric technology and GPS technology to ensure that law enforcement can pinpoint the exact location of illegal aliens.

House cosponsors of the legislation include Representatives Barry Moore (R-AL), Andy Biggs (R-AZ), Paul Gosar (R-AZ), Jay Obernolte (R-CA), Lauren Boebert (R-CO), Andrew Clyde (R-GA), Mary Miller (R-IL), Clay Higgins (R-LA), Nancy Mace (R-SC), William Timmons (R-SC), Wesley Hunt (R-TX), August Pfluger (R-TX), and Troy Nehls (R-TX). Senate cosponsors of the legislation Rick Scott (R-FL), JD Vance (R-OH), Roger Marshall (R-KS), Steve Daines (R-MT), Marsha Blackburn (R-TN), and Ted Cruz (R-TX).

"Joe Biden purposely and systematically broke our immigration system by executive action," ***said Rep. Donalds (R-FL).*** "As a result, there are now more than ten million unvetted illegal aliens that have entered our nation. These people should be held in detention facilities upon entering the United States, however, because Joe Biden has dismantled ICE's ATD program, they are all-too-often released into our country's interior and subsequently lost. This is why it's critical that we utilize biometrics and GPS technology to ensure that law enforcement can pinpoint the exact location of illegal aliens prior to deportation. I am proud to join Senator Hagerty in offering this commonsense proposal on behalf of the American people."

"The Biden Administration has allowed a tidal wave of illegal aliens to come across our southern border, which has created an unprecedented national security and humanitarian crisis," ***said Sen. Hagerty (R-TN).*** "Yet rather than use all available tools to address the issue, Biden's DHS is refusing to enforce the laws already on the books and making clear efforts to dismantle detention and allow illegal immigrants to roam free throughout the U.S. by abusing ATD. I'm pleased to introduce legislation to require the Administration to combat record-high illegal immigration and help secure our southern border."

"Under the guise of limited space in detention facilities, ICE has been implementing alternatives to detention such as 'Catch and Release' that have financially burdened our local communities and law enforcement," ***said Rep. Obernolte (R-CA).*** "The Administration cannot continue to sit idly by while the Adelanto ICE Processing Center is housing only 5 illegal detainees but has the capacity to house over 1,900. That is why I'm proud to cosponsor Rep. Donalds's legislation and help our country securely detain and process the immigrants streaming across our southern border."

"Securing our southern border is only half of the solution to the Biden Administration's intentional illegal invasion," ***said Rep. Clyde (R-GA).*** "We desperately need a historic mass deportation effort to remove the millions of illegal aliens currently residing in our country, which is why I'm proud to support Rep. Donalds' legislation to vastly improve the ATD program. This bill provides commonsense solutions to effectively process and track illegal aliens, which will greatly bolster detention and deportation efforts."

"This bill enforces our laws without compromise, shutting down the loopholes that have permitted non-citizens and illegal aliens to evade the strict standards we demand of every American," ***said. Rep. Mace (R-SC).*** "Our commitment is clear: uphold the rule of law, without exception."

"The Biden Administration is allowing millions of illegal aliens to come into our country and disappear," ***said Rep. Moore (R-AL).*** "This legislation protects American families by forcing Biden's Department of Homeland Security to fill their detention beds instead of releasing illegals on to our streets and actually track the illegals they do release."

"Criminals are flocking to the United States fully aware that they will be released into our interior without consequences," ***said Rep. Nehls (R-TX).*** "The absolute bare minimum we should be doing is tracking where they're going. Look at what happened to Laken Riley and all the other innocent children who have been victims of violent illegal alien crime this year. I can only imagine that some of their lives would have been spared if these sickening individuals were tracked. I'm proud to join my friend and colleague, Congressman Byron Donalds, on this legislation. If Joe Biden truly cares about the safety of the American people, he will begin tracking these criminal illegal aliens."

BACKGROUND:

- President Trump's border policy was only to release aliens at the Southwest Border under "very exigent circumstances."
  - President Trump's Executive Order 13767 titled *"Border Security and Immigration Enforcement Improvements"* instructed DHS to "ensure the detention of all aliens apprehended for violations of immigration law pending the outcome of their removal proceedings."
- As of January 27th, 2024, 189,780 individuals were enrolled in the ATD Program.
  - In contrast, 36,931 individuals are currently occupying ICE detention beds.
    - Detention beds funded in FY23—34,000 beds; Detention beds funded in FY24—41,500 beds
- As of May 2022, approximately 187,000 ISAP enrollees were monitored using a smartphone app called SmartLINK, while the use of GPS ankle monitors declined to less than 23,000.

BILL ACTIONS:

- This bill terminates and defunds the Case Management Pilot Program (CMPP) & the Young Adult Case Management Program (YACMP)—all funding will then be transferred to fund additional detention beds. The DHS Secretary shall place all individuals currently enrolled in such programs in detention facilities.
- This bill requires the DHS Secretary to fill all available detention beds before allowing individuals to participate in ATD.
- This bill reaffirms that ICE has complete authority over aliens on the non-detained docket (including those enrolled in ATD)—without interference from DHS's Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties.
- This bill requires that all Intensive Supervision Appearance Program (ISAP) participants be tracked via GPS technology throughout the individual's entire immigration proceeding.
- This bill makes the Family Expedited Removal Management (FERM) program mandatory for all family units that cross into the United States illegally.
- This bill requires ICE to immediately issue public notice & notify local law enforcement when an alien absconds from ATD.
- This bill prohibits DHS from placing an alien on ATD if they plan to move to a sanctuary jurisdiction.
- This bill requires all ISAP participants to "check in" with the DHS Secretary or face immediate deportation *ad infinitum*.
- This bill requires that individuals who seek to be enrolled in ATD submit biometric information in order to participate.

MORE:

- See New York Post Exclusive *HERE*.
- See graphics rollout *HERE*.
- Read the Donalds–House legislation in its entirety *HERE*.

ICYMI: "Band-Aids, Botox, And Broken Bones: CFPB Wants You To Pay For Other People's Medical Bills"

WASHINGTON – Today, Congressman Byron Donalds (R-FL) published the following op-ed entitled, *"Band-Aids, Botox, and broken bones: CFPB wants you to pay for other people's medical bills"* in the Washington Examiner. The op-ed details a new rule that the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) is expected to propose, which would force you to pay for other people's medical bills.

Read the full op-ed here or below:

Band-Aids, Botox, and broken bones: CFPB wants you to pay for other people's medical bills
Representative Byron Donalds (R-FL)
Washington Examiner – May 17, 2024

As Americans across the country grapple with economic challenges, such as finding affordable housing, dealing with rising costs from inflation, and managing increased debt from credit cards and medical debt, federal bureaucrats in Washington, D.C. continue to propose misguided solutions to these very real problems. One agency in particular, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, seems determined to make things worse for the American consumer.

Instead of directing its unlimited funding and ever-growing staff — both of which result from its single, unelected director structure — toward critical solutions to the financial woes plaguing Americans, CFPB is trying to regulate these challenges away. This approach is ineffective and will ultimately make things worse by adding even more red tape to the market and penalizing hardworking consumers striving for fiscal responsibility.

For example, the CFPB is expected to propose a new rule related to credit reporting — or the lack thereof. This rewrite of the Fair Credit Reporting Act — a law that was passed by and can only be revised by Congress — proposes to eliminate all credit reporting of medical debt. The CFPB is also considering disallowing lenders from taking into account owed medical debt when underwriting loans.

On paper this may sound positive, since there is of course deep empathy for Americans with medical expenses. However, in reality there remain a host of details the CFPB has not ironed out. Moreover, unintended consequences of the rule proposals have not received proper consideration.

As someone with a background in the financial services industry, I can tell you that operating with incomplete information carries significant negative repercussions. If a bank, credit union, or other lender does not know that a specific consumer owes medical debt, or if that debt is not reflected in their credit score, they might unwittingly approve a car loan that the consumer genuinely cannot afford. Hiding this medical debt from a credit score does not make it go away. Concealing medical debt from a credit score does not erase its existence; it remains legally owed and could lead to legal action.

Consumers, however, may be led believe that when credit reporting does not impact underwriting considerations, repayment of medical debt is a voluntary choice. It is not — and failing to consider medical debt when taking out other loans could plunge consumers into an even more precarious situation. They may end up grappling with outstanding medical debt while simultaneously becoming burdened by an unaffordable loan, increasing the likelihood of default.

Compounding this, the CFPB has failed to clearly define "medical debt." A broad interpretation of this term could include cosmetic procedures charged to credit cards — think Botox — or even minor expenses such as $6 cough drops from CVS. Without precise guidelines from the CFPB, refraining from reporting anything remotely associated with the word "medical" becomes a daunting task.

This lack of clarity poses a significant threat to the value of credit reports and severely hampers lenders' ability to make informed decisions when extending credit. Consequently, the overall cost of credit will rise for everyone, and lenders will be disincentivized to service low-income borrowers, ultimately impacting those with the fewest options.

Furthermore, under this rule medical providers will find themselves at the back of the line for payment. This will lead to more upfront costs for copays at medical facilities such as hospitals, urgent cares, and emergency rooms. It might even prompt some consumers to reconsider the value of medical insurance altogether.

These are just a small handful of the many consequences that could result from just one of the CFPB's proposed "solutions."

What Americans really need is greater emphasis on financial literacy, business incentives to invest in underserved communities, and innovation that facilitates broader credit access. And while improved policies related to medical care and other financial challenges, particularly for low-income Americans, are undoubtedly necessary, it remains the responsibility of Congress, in consultation with their constituents, to enact any significant changes — not partisan bureaucrats who answer to no one.

Byron Donalds is a U.S. representative for Florida's 19th Congressional District and serves on the House Financial Services Committee.

Donalds Offers Schools A Choice: Protect Jewish Students Or Have Your Funding Slashed

WASHINGTON – Today, Congressman Byron Donalds (R-FL) introduced legislation condemning anti-Semitism at institutions of higher-education across America and demanding that funding is stripped from schools that fail to comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

The "Condemning The Anti-Semitic Movement Pushed Upon Our Students (CAMPUS) Act" is the 80th piece of legislation introduced by Congressman Donalds during the 118th Congress and is co-sponsored by Representatives Cory Mills (R-FL) and Randy Weber (R-TX).

Specifically, the legislation strongly condemns the rise of anti-Semitism on American campuses, urges schools to comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and demands that funding is cut from schools that refuse to comply with the landmark statute. Congressman Donalds released the following statement:

"The vile scourge of anti-Semitism that has swept across our nation's campuses is unacceptable and must be strongly condemned. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 clearly prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, and national origin, and any American institutions of higher learning that refuse to comply with this federal statute should be stripped of their funding. Protecting the rights of all Americans is not up for debate. It is our duty."

MORE:

- See graphics rollout *HERE*.
- See full text of "Condemning The Anti-Semitic Movement Pushed Upon Our Students (CAMPUS) Act" *HERE*.

Donalds Leads Bipartisan Initiative Standing-Up For At-Risk Floridians

WASHINGTON – Today, Congressman Byron Donalds (R-FL) led a bipartisan initiative alongside Congressman Jared Moskowitz (D-FL) demanding that Florida receives its fair-share of Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funding.

Florida has one of America's highest senior populations, but receives well-below the national average in LIHEAP funding, and the House Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies has the power to change this unacceptable reality.

Donalds and Moskowitz received bipartisan support from colleagues including Representatives Michael Waltz (R-FL), Aaron Bean (R-FL), Frederica Wilson (D-FL), Carlos Gimenez (R-FL), Brian Mast (R-FL), Maria Salazar (R-FL), Laurel Lee (R-FL), Greg Steube (R-FL), Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), Kat Cammack (R-FL), Cory Mills (R-FL), Darren Soto (D-FL), Kathy Castor (D-FL), Vern Buchanan (R-FL), and Neal Dunn (R-FL).

- See social media graphics roll-out *HERE*.
- Read the full text of the letter *HERE* or below:

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations

Dear Chairman Aderholt and Ranking Member DeLauro,

As work beings on the fiscal year (FY) 2025 appropriations process, we respectfully request you consider the heating and cooling needs of vulnerable American families in the allocation of funds through the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

Overall, LIHEAP is America's primary residential energy assistance program and prioritizes at-risk households with disabled individuals, young children, and the elderly. Unfortunately, residents in the great state of Florida and many other states have been underserved in the past due to appropriations language that deviates from LIHEAP's enabling statute.

Specifically, the state of Florida—which has one of the nation's highest senior populations—receives funding well below the program's national average, and is only able to serve seven percent of eligible households. Compared to the national average of seventeen percent, Florida receives an alarmingly small fraction of LIHEAP funding—especially when you consider Florida's rapidly growing population and the large number of Floridians that live on fixed incomes.

With that in mind, we request that no less than seventy-five percent of any increase in LIHEAP funds in FY25 be allocated to the program's "new" formula. This will ensure energy customers in Florida receive their fair share of LIHEAP funds in accordance to the program's underlying law.

We appreciate the Subcommittee's desire to balance the needs of vulnerable households nationwide and we seek your support for a more equitable distribution of LIHEAP funding. By increasing funds to the "new" formula, LIHEAP will be able to serve a greater percentage of Florida's most vulnerable population.

Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to working with you to equitably address this critical need.

Sincerely,

Byron Donalds (R-FL) Member of Congress
Jared Moskowitz (D-FL) Member of Congress
Michael Waltz (R-FL) Member of Congress
Aaron Bean (R-FL) Member of Congress
Frederica Wilson (D-FL) Member of Congress
Carlos Gimenez (R-FL) Member of Congress
Brian Mast (R-FL) Member of Congress
Maria Salazar (R-FL) Member of Congress
Laurel Lee (R-FL) Member of Congress
Greg Steube (R-FL) Member of Congress
Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) Member of Congress
Kat Cammack (R-FL) Member of Congress
Cory Mills (R-FL) Member of Congress
Darren Soto (D-FL) Member of Congress
Kathy Castor (D-FL) Member of Congress
Vern Buchanan (R-FL) Member of Congress
Neal Dunn (R-FL) Member of Congress

Donalds Leads National Initiative To Investigate Implementation And Effectiveness Of ICE's ATD Program

WASHINGTON – Congressman Byron Donalds (R-FL) led a federal oversight initiative that seeks answers relating to the implementation and effectiveness of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Alternatives to Detention (ATD) program, alongside fifteen Republican colleagues from across the nation.

Congressman Byron Donalds (R-FL) was joined in support by Representatives Andrew Clyde (R-GA), August Pfluger (R-TX), Andy Biggs (R-AZ), Ralph Norman (R-SC), Pete Sessions (R-TX), Troy Nehls (R-TX), Wesley Hunt (R-TX), Jay Obernolte (R-CA), Clay Higgins (R-LA), Barry Moore (R-AL), Lauren Boebert (R-CO), Eli Crane (R-AZ), Jeff Van Drew (R-NJ), Mary Miller (R-IL), and Nancy Mace (R-SC). Endorsing organizations include Numbers USA, Heritage Action, and National Immigration Center for Enforcement.

- See social media graphics roll-out *HERE*.
- Read the full text of the letter *HERE* or below:

The Honorable Daniel A. Bible
Executive Associate Director
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)
Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO)
500 12th St. SW
Washington, D.C., 20536

Dear Director Bible:

We write today to express our concerns about the implementation of the Alternatives to Detention (ATD) program. As you know, the ATD program was created in 2004 to monitor aliens on the non-detained docket (NDD) while they await the results of their pending immigration proceedings. At the conclusion of such proceedings, the ATD enrollee would theoretically surrender themselves to ICE for detention and eventual removal, unless they were granted asylum or some other immigration-related benefit. In theory, active monitoring of ATD participants may alleviate congestion at detention facilities. However, today's version of the ATD program has been expanded into a social services scheme, has failed to adequately monitor ATD enrollees, and has ultimately been an ineffective way to handle the unprecedented number of individuals on the NDD.

To begin, the largest ATD program in terms of budget and total enrolled aliens is the Intensive Supervision Appearance Program (ISAP)—which allows aliens to be released into the United States while being supervised through one of several means. ISAP methods include: (1) SmartLINK; (2) VoiceID; (3) Global Positioning System (GPS) Monitoring; (4) etc. Although we prefer that all aliens be detained while they await their immigration removal decision, ISAP theoretically provides an effective way to manage the vast number of aliens entering the United States. Unfortunately, we are concerned with ICE ERO's management of ISAP and the ATD program as it exists today.

For instance, we question whether it's appropriate to let aliens roam the United States of America without consistently monitoring the specific movements of such individuals. We also are concerned with the Case Management Pilot Program (CMPP) and the Young Adult Case Management Program (YACMP)—specifically how these methods have incentivized absconsion, diluted alien accountability, and transformed the ATD program into a social welfare system. In our view, taxpayer dollars should not be used to provide aliens with social services. Alternatively, federal dollars should be appropriated to finish the wall, bolster the use of innovative technologies at the border, maximize the use of detention facilities, support law enforcement officers in carrying out their immigration responsibilities, and monitor aliens via GPS technology while they await their immigration proceedings.

- As stewards of taxpayer dollars, we take seriously our role to evaluate the effectiveness of federal programs. Coupled with the unprecedented immigration crisis currently occurring at our southern border, evaluating pre-existing immigration-related tools in America's toolbox to halt the ongoing surge of illegal immigration is in the best interest of our constituents. In this regard, we respectfully request answers to the following inquiries that will assist with evaluating the effectiveness of the ATD program:
- Are detained individuals (*cf.* non-detained individuals) more likely to participate in & show up for all of their required removal proceedings?
- How many total detention beds are there to accommodate illegal immigrants? Of the total number of applicable detention beds, how many detention beds are currently filled? Can you please provide the Average Daily Population (ADP) in detention, by month, since January 2021?
- Can you please outline ICE's criteria for placing individuals on ATD, including information about the overall time it takes to make an ATD placement decision? What specific considerations does ICE take into account for initial ATD placement? How might this criteria differ based on the potential ATD enrollee? What determines if an individual will be enrolled in ISAP, as opposed to other programs such as CMPP or YACMP?
  - What criteria does ICE take into account to disenroll an individual from ATD?
- What criteria does ICE follow in determining which level of supervision is appropriate for each case?
- Throughout one's participation in the ATD program, what criteria does ICE utilize to determine whether it's appropriate to escalate or de-escalate an alien's supervision level?
- Currently, does ICE have continuous location monitoring capability for each ATD participant?
  - If so, why isn't ICE monitoring all ATD participants with Global Positioning System (GPS) technology today?
  - What percentage of ATD enrollees utilize continuous location monitoring?
  - Do you believe that GPS monitoring is the most effective way to ensure individuals attend their required immigration hearings?
  - If aliens know they'll either be detained or enrolled in the ATD program with continuous GPS monitoring, what will be the impact on illegal immigration?
- What role do "political optics" play in ICE's handling of the ATD program?
- What percentage of aliens are terminated from ATD prior to their immigration case's completion? What is the average ATD participation length? How does this compare to the overall time to conclude an immigration case?
  - Do you believe the original intent of ATD is diluted if ATD participants are released from the ATD program before the conclusion of their removal proceedings?
  - When individuals are disenrolled from an ATD program after participating in such program for a period of time, are such individuals more or less likely to appear for their subsequent immigration hearings?
- For individuals that violate the terms of their ATD program, and fail to subsequently appear at their immigration hearings, what steps is the Biden administration currently taking to track those who disappear?
  - How many arrests and subsequent deportations has the Biden administration overseen resulting from an individual violating the terms of supervised released under the ATD program?
- Annually, how many crimes have been committed by those enrolled in the ATD program?
  - Does committing a crime while enrolled in the ATD program result in

accountable deceptive and oppressive? Why or why not?
- Do you believe the IRS should be "armed to the hilt with firearms"?
- Under the Biden administration, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has proposed a new rule requiring financial institutions to report information on their customers' accounts to the IRS. Do you believe this is an invasion of privacy? Why or why not?
- Do you believe the IRS should be "armed to the hilt" with "increasing IQ-funded social services have better compliance rates than those under W-9 requirements" and "IQ-based tax compliance"?
- ICE and the Department of Homeland Security are asking for billions of dollars to build a wall on the southern border. Do you believe:
  - "Why, then, are most of billions of dollars being used to provide social services to non-U.S. citizens—instead of using that money for enforcement measures?"

In sum, we look forward to receiving a prompt response and answers to the questions and requests for information set forth above concerning the adequacy of the effectiveness of the IQ program, and our response and bill to Congress.

Thank you for your care of the IQ program moving forward.

Sincerely,

Byron Donalds (R-FL) Member of Congress
Andrew Clyde (R-GA) Member of Congress
Jim Jordan (R-OH) Member of Congress
Andy Biggs (R-AZ) Member of Congress
Ralph Norman (R-SC) Member of Congress
Scott Perry (R-PA) Member of Congress
Pete Sessions (R-TX) Member of Congress
Jeff Duncan (R-SC) Member of Congress
Jay Obernolte (R-CA) Member of Congress
Mike Johnson (R-LA) Member of Congress
Barry Moore (R-AL) Member of Congress
Ken Buck (R-CO) Member of Congress
Eli Crane (R-AZ) Member of Congress
Bob Gibbs (R-OH) Member of Congress
Mary Miller (R-IL) Member of Congress
Nancy Mace (R-SC) Member of Congress

Donalds Demands Answers From Chinese Companies CEO Regarding Potential Lies Under Oath About Hunter Biden

WASHINGTON – Congressman Byron Donalds (R-FL) led an letter to demand answers from the CEO of a Chinese company that reportedly lied to Congress about its potential lies under oath to the House Financial Services Committee.

Gemdale has reportedly testified that he was unaware of any Chinese campaign contributions to Democrat Hunter Biden's 2020 presidential campaign, but has been sued under oath contradicting and maintaining the financial ground for the political operation. Congressman Donalds requests answers by June 1, 2024.

- Read the full text of the letter here.
- Read the full text of the letter HERE & below:

The Honorable Gary Gensler
Chairman
U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission
100 F Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20549

Chairman Gensler:

I write to follow up on my concerns regarding your previous tells at Chief Financial Officer Zhang Xiaoqing of Gemdale Corporation's potential lies under oath and to seek more information on your potential involvement in either approving or illegally failing to prevent the lies. As you know, the Committee on Financial Services is engaged in joint Hearings to serve as the Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), which, among other things, oversees the accuracy of financial statements and the adequate disclosure of material information.

During an April 18, 2023, House Financial Services Committee hearing, I asked you whether you approved the payment to facilitate the Nazih Zuheir and you responded that you did not approve the payment. Yet, Gemdale's Form 6-K with Securities Exchange Commission filing on September 27, 2021, it appears inquired about your approval of the payment to Nazih Zuheir. Gemdale's filing with the SEC states that you were unaware of the payment to facilitate the phony document.

However, in a transcribed interview with the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence on December 9, 2017, former Chinese Language President John Zhao testified that Gemdale's CEO, Mr. Zhang, personally approved the Nazih Zuheir Indigent transfer payment. They were telling reporters that Nazih Zuheir was paid.[1]

Either you, as the CFO, were asleep at the switch or had a willful-blind-eye regarding Gemdale's lies to the Committee, or you knew of the lies and had knowledge and involvement surrounding the deceptive Nazih Zuheir sham document. Either way, your actions, or inaction, in this matter, if true, would be effectively fraud, the SEC, in any event, your testimony is particularly troubling given the SEC's mission to "protect investors; maintain fair, orderly, and efficient markets; and facilitate capital formation; and to "strengthening the accountability and control environment underlying disclosures" of U.S. public companies.[2]

The Chinese Communist Party Committee (DPCC) and the Hilary Clinton Campaign quickly agreed to pay a $12,000 fine to settle a Federal Election Commission investigation into whether the Clinton Campaign and the DNC illegally accepted funnel fees by incorporating spending as the Nazih Zuheir as legal services.

Meanwhile, President Trump is being a witch hunt being carried out by Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg, who, in part, is trying to allege that the Trump campaign misclassified the use of Nazih. Pot simply, the Chinese Campaign and the Hilary Clinton Campaign paid a fine for the same thing that Bragg is trying to Persecute a Republican for. Yet, the DPC illegally surveilling President Trump while Hunter Biden was selling access to his father, and the Biden Family was receiving payments, all is video is bunk from one of the White House. Given these facts, I respectfully request a written response to the following by June 1st, 2024:

- Do you believe Gemdale's CEO testified truthfully to the CFO of the Chinese Communist Party and to Congress regarding Nazih Zuheir?
- Did you have any knowledge of or involvement in any documents classified as "Gemdale Corporation Form 6-K" filed with the Securities Exchange Commission? Chinese Language, individuals related to Gemdale's CEO, or the People's Republic of China Communist Party Committee, or any other Chinese Communist Party entities you knowledge or involvement?
- Do you believe the Chinese Communist Party Committee of CEOs and CFOs under the Authority/Force Act of 2002, you stated "I've written letters to Congress, I've written letters to the Chairman of the Committee, I've written letters to the chief executive officer of Gemdale" (Internal quotation, Hearing, April 18, 2023) are subject to the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 and disclosure. Sarbanes-Oxley requires "every substantial issues related to Section 302." Do you believe you should be held to a lower standard than the one Congress imposed?

In addition to a written response to the questions above, I respectfully request that your agency preserve and provide my office with any and all related documents and communications between your office and the Chinese Communist Party Committee Campaign. To follow up on if you have any questions, please contact my office. Thank you for your care and attention. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Byron Donalds (R-FL) Member of Congress

Donalds Bill To Evaluate Federal Purchasing Standards Advanced In Senate Post-Week Unanimous Support

WASHINGTON – This week, the U.S. Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee advanced H.R. 1529 – The Safe and Secure Federal Purchasing Act (SSFPA) – by unanimous consent. The SSFPA, which passed the House by unanimous, bipartisan vote of 414-0.

This commonsense measure is a bipartisan proven national security risks associated with the procurement of products and services from foreign adversaries. Congressman Donalds (R-FL) is one of one of the original cosponsors of bipartisan Member Bill. Last week, the Senate Homeland Security Committee, during the 118th Congress, Congressman Donalds released the following statement:

"As a member of the House Oversight and Accountability Committee, ensuring proper governance and efficiency in federal operations are paramount concerns of mine. The Safe and Secure Federal Purchasing Act is a commonsense measure to ensure the operation of our procurement and necessitate comprehensive assessment. Simply, the American taxpayer deserves to know that the products and services that our procurement procedures must be thoroughly evaluated. I am proud to once again cosponsor this bipartisan measure, and I look forward to a robust, original and bold forward to its successful passage on the floor of the U.S. House."

Notes:

- Video of Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee Consideration of H.R. 1529 – The Safe and Secure Federal Purchasing Act (SSFPA)
- Social Media Summary Graphics B-roll Clip (HERE)
- Video of House Floor Passage of H.R. 1529 – The Safe and Smart Federal Purchasing Act (HERE)
- Video of Oversight Subcommittee Debate Over H.R. 1529 – The Safe and Smart Federal Purchasing Act (HERE)
- Read the Full Text of the Bill (HERE)

April 2024 Inflation Numbers Released

SINCE JOE BIDEN TOOK OFFICE: Inflation is UP 19.9% & real average weekly earnings are DOWN 5.4%.

Here are some of the other impact measures:

- Gas UP 35.7%
- Food UP 21.3%
- Eating out UP 23.4%
- Rent UP 22.4%
- Pet food UP 21.5%
- K-12 food UP 44.9%
- Bacon UP 29.1%
- Electricity UP 28.1%
- Medical care UP 20.1%
- Used car UP 28.8%
- Bread UP 26.1%
- Public transportation UP 36.7%

Community Updates

DONALDS: Donalds Hosts Town Hall for Lee Coal

BONIFAY, Tuesday, (Monday May 20th) my mom and I will be hosting a Town Hall at Lee Coal Company in Bonifay.

Doors Open - 11:3 PM
Event Begins - 1:00 PM
Lee Coal Company, 1000 Hard S, Cape Coral, FL 33991

We hope to see you there!

Team Donalds Holds Mobile Office Hours For FL-19 Constituents

In addition to our district offices in Naples and Cape Coral, we offer walk-ins/mobile hours for constituents of Florida's 19th Congressional District.

Last week, our team hosted mobile office hours in Fort Myers at Florida Gulf Coast University.

Team Donalds Joins Greater Fort Myers Chamber Of Commerce

My team attended a briefing held by the Greater Fort Myers Chamber of Commerce.

Together, partners & attendees discussed next developments in artificial intelligence. Knowledge of what they can be utilized to streamline small business operations is important.

In The Media – Print Media

GOP bill makes for easy to hide truck show mirrors who-cut-ants monitors
Washington Times

Republicans Lose Plan to Bring Deportee Illegal Alien Back Under Fauci Trump Administration
Breitbart

Young ally John Sears in hunter 'blast' trial 'exasperated' amidst 45th President's testimony
Washington Times

Ex-Impeachment Probe Aide MIA Impeachment Mystery Against Biden Will Have Revenge
Breitbart

Who is Byron Donalds? Photos of congressman who will join Republican's ticket
Newsweek

In The Media – Digital Media

ICYMI: Rep. Donalds on Fox News Channel Sunday Morning Futures

Watch my full interview HERE or click below

ICYMI: Rep. Donalds on Fox News Channel Special Report

Watch my full interview HERE or click below

ICYMI: Rep. Donalds on DC News Now Now at 12:00 PM

Watch my full interview HERE or click below

ICYMI: Rep. Donalds on Fox Business Network Varney

Watch my full interview HERE or click below

ICYMI: Rep. Donalds on Fox News Channel The Ingraham Angle

Watch my full interview HERE or click below

ICYMI: Rep. Donalds on CBS 8 WCA Washington, D.C. News at 6:00 PM

Watch my full interview HERE or click below

ICYMI: Rep. Donalds on The Floridian Press Digital Media

Watch my full interview HERE or click below

ICYMI: Rep. Donalds on CBS Fort Myers WINK News at 5:00 PM

Watch my full interview HERE or click below

ICYMI: Rep. Donalds on NBC 2 Fort Myers News at 4:00 PM

Watch my full interview HERE or click below

ICYMI: Rep. Donalds on NBC News Live Coverage of Trump Manhattan Paperwork Trial

Watch my full interview HERE or click below

ICYMI: Rep. Donalds on Newsmax Americas Agenda

Watch my full interview HERE or click below

ICYMI: Rep. Donalds on NBC News Live Coverage of Trump Manhattan Paperwork Trial

Watch my full interview HERE or click below

ICYMI: Rep. Donalds on Newsmax Americas Agenda Tonight

Watch my full interview HERE or click below

ICYMI: Rep. Donalds on Real America's Voice Human Events Daily With Jack Posobiec

Watch my full interview HERE or click below

Serving the hardworking men and women of Florida's 19th Congressional District is my distinct honor and privilege. Our great Washington works for our community's values, and I will always strive to ensure your government is working for you every day.

Sincerely,

Byron L. Donalds
Member of Congress

Office Locations

Washington, D.C. Office
1404 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-3176

Cape Coral Office
2180 Santa Barbara Blvd, Suite 101
Cape Coral, FL 33991
(239) 542-2603

Fort Myers Office
2201 Cypress Lake Drive, Suite 101
Fort Myers, FL 33907
(239) 275-1000