

Even though we are facing a crisis at the southern border and drugs like fentanyl are pouring into our communities, Bob Casey has regularly voted against tougher border security measures, has supported sanctuary cities and voted to allow illegal immigrants to receive taxpayer-funded federal benefits.

Drugs like fentanyl are pouring into Pennsylvania communities and the country is facing a crisis at the southern border.

- The situation at the southern border has been described as a migrant crisis. “The number of migrant encounters in Eagle Pass, Texas – very recently the epicenter of the migrant crisis – has dropped significantly, from thousands of apprehensions daily a few weeks ago to about 500 a day this week, city officials said.” (Rosa Flores, Sara Weisfeldt, Jay Croft, “Tensions at the border grow as the number of migrant apprehensions drops significantly,” [CNN](#), 1/12/24)
- In December 2023, more than 10,000 migrants were crossing daily. “But over recent days, more than 10,000 migrants have unlawfully crossed the US-Mexico border daily – numbers not seen since days before the lifting of a Covid-era restriction known as Title 42 that allowed authorities to turn back migrants at the border.” (Priscilla Alvarez, “Authorities encountering record number of migrants at the border each day amid unprecedented surge,” [CNN](#), 12/22/23)
- HEADLINE, *Pew Research Center*: “Monthly encounters with migrants at U.S. – Mexico border remain near record highs.”

JANUARY 13, 2023



## Monthly encounters with migrants at U.S.-Mexico border remain near record highs

BY JOHN GRAMLICH

(John Gramlich, “Monthly encounters with migrants at U.S.-Mexico border remain near record highs,” [Pew Research Center](#), 1/13/23)

- In January 2023, Pew Research Center reported that monthly encounters of migrants crossing the southern border in 2022 were the highest in two decades. “Monthly encounters between U.S. Border Patrol agents and migrants attempting to cross into the United States at the U.S.-Mexico border remain at levels not seen in more than two decades, according to the latest available government statistics.”

(John Gramlich, "Monthly encounters with migrants at U.S.-Mexico border remain near record highs," [Pew Research Center](#), 1/13/23)

- **During the second quarter of 2023, Pennsylvania State Police seized more than 140 pounds of cocaine, nearly 60 pounds of fentanyl, and more than 160 pounds of methamphetamines.**

Table 1: Amount and value of prohibited drugs seized, second quarter of 2023

Drug	Total Seized	Estimated Value
Cocaine	140.43 lbs.	\$3,089,460
Crack Cocaine	4.84 lbs.	\$77,440
Heroin	10.95 lbs.	\$372,300
Fentanyl	57.97 lbs.	\$927,520
LSD – Pills and Paper	81 doses	\$1,620
Marijuana THC – Liquid	62.73 pints	\$420,291
Marijuana THC Solid	72.87 lbs.	\$364,350
Marijuana Plants	2,277 plants	\$375,705
Processed Marijuana	1,617.34 lbs.	\$4,852,020
Methamphetamines	163.73 lbs.	\$1,637,300
MDMA – Ecstasy	.44 lbs.	\$14,520
MDMA – Pills	179 DU	\$2,685
Other Narcotics	19.54 lbs.	\$39,080
Other Narcotics (pills)	73,814	\$1,845,350
	Total Value	<b>\$14,019,641</b>

(Pennsylvania Pressroom, "Pennsylvania State Police Seized \$14M In Prohibited Drugs During Second Quarter Of 2023," [Press Release](#), 7/10/23)

**Bob Casey has regularly voted against tougher border security measures, has supported sanctuary cities and voted to allow illegal immigrants to receive taxpayer-funded federal benefits.**

- **In February 2018, Casey voted against cloture on S. Amdt. 1959.** (S.Amdt. 1959 To H.R. 2579, [Vote Number 36](#), Failed 39-60, Casey Voted Nay, 2/15/18)
  - **S. Amdt. 1959 would have provided \$25 billion for a border wall, end the diversity visa lottery program, and limit the number of allowable visas.** "Motion to invoke cloture (thus limiting debate) on the Grassley, R-Iowa, substitute amendment no. 1959 to the bill, that would overhaul various aspects of the U.S. immigration system, including border security policies and infrastructure and the

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program. It would cancel the removal of, and provide temporary resident status to certain DACA recipients. It would appropriate \$25 billion, to be available through fiscal 2031, for border security enforcement. It would eliminate the diversity visa lottery program, would modify which individuals can receive visas and would reallocate the number of allowable visas between visa categories. It would place additional limits on which individuals can become naturalized citizens.” (S.Amdt. 1959 To H.R. 2579, [CQ Summary](#), 2/15/18)

- **In 2007, Casey voted against S. Amdt. 1158.** (S. Amdt. 1158 To S. Amdt. 1150 To S. 1348, [Vote Number 177](#), Rejected 4849, Casey Voted Nay, 5/24/07)
  - **S. Amdt. 1158 would have guaranteed information-sharing between federal and local law enforcement related to an individual’s immigration status.** “Coleman, R-Minn., amendment no. 1158 to the Kennedy, D-Mass., substitute amendment no. 1150. The Coleman amendment would amend the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 to allow law enforcement officials to question individuals about their immigration status if they have probable cause to believe the immigrants do not have legal status. The substitute would overhaul U.S. immigration policies and institute new border security measures, including an electronic verification system. It would allocate some green cards on a merit-based system based on certain criteria, including a high-demand occupation, proficiency in English, and higher education degrees. Half of the green cards would be allocated based on family relations. It also would provide for a temporary guest worker program that would allow workers to remain in the United States for up to six years, provided that they return to their home country for a year after every two years they remain in the United States.” (Vote Number 177, [CQ Summary](#), 5/24/07)
  - **Senator Coleman said on the Senate Floor that the amendment was meant to clarify the role of law enforcement against local and municipal sanctuary city policies.** “My amendment seeks to end the practice of sanctuary cities. These are cities that seek to evade their obligations under section 642 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996. That law expressly prohibits any Federal, State, or local government entity from preventing a law enforcement officer from sharing information with the Federal Government regarding the immigration status of a person with whom they come in contact. The law is very clear. Section 642, subsection (b) states: no person or agency may prohibit, or in any way restrict~ In any way restrict~ a Federal, State, or local government entity from doing any of the following with respect to information regarding the immigration status, lawful or unlawful, of any individual: It goes on to say, you cannot restrict ‘sending such information to, or requesting or receiving such information from, the Immigration and Naturalization Service.’” (Text, [S. Amdt. 1158](#), introduced 5/22/07)

- **In February 2018, Casey voted against cloture on S. Amdt. 1948.** (S.Amdt. 1948 To S.Amdt. 1959 To H.R. 2579, [Vote Number 34](#), Cloture Motion Rejected 5445, Casey Voted Nay, 2/15/18)
  - **S. Amdt. 1948 would have made sanctuary cities ineligible for certain federal law enforcement grants.** “Motion to invoke cloture (thus limiting debate) on the McConnell, R-Ky., for Toomey, R-Pa., amendment no. 1948 to Grassley, R-Iowa, amendment no. 1959 to the bill, that would prohibit certain economic development grant funding from being provided to a ‘sanctuary jurisdiction,’ which would be defined as a state, or political subdivision of a state, that has a statute, policy or practice which prohibits or restricts any government entity or official from sharing information related to an individual’s immigration status with a federal, state or local entity.” (Vote Number 34, [CQ Summary](#), 2/15/18)
  
- **In July 2016, Casey voted against cloture on the motion to proceed on S. 3100.** (S. 3100, [Vote Number 119](#), Cloture On The Motion To Proceed Rejected 5344, Casey Voted Nay, 7/6/16)
  - **S. 3100 would have made sanctuary cities ineligible for certain federal law enforcement grants.** “Motion to invoke cloture (thus limiting debate) on the McConnell, R-Ky., motion to proceed to the bill that would make states and cities ineligible for certain federal grants if they place restrictions on sharing information about the immigration status of individuals with the federal government or on fulfilling Homeland Security Department (DHS) requests to comply with ‘detainers,’ or requests to keep an immigrant in custody. Under the bill, in legal proceedings that challenge the legality of the detention of individuals pursuant to detainers issued by DHS, cities and states would not be liable for actions taken to comply with the detainers and the federal government would instead be the defendant.” (Vote Number 119, [CQ Summary](#), 7/6/16)
  
- **In October 2015, Casey voted against cloture on the motion to proceed to S. 2146.** (S. 2146, [Vote Number 280](#), Cloture On The Motion To Proceed Rejected 5445, Casey Voted Nay, 10/20/15)
  - **S. 2146 would have withheld certain federal law enforcement funds for sanctuary cities.** “Motion to invoke cloture (thus limiting debate) on the McConnell, R-Ky., motion to proceed to the bill that would withhold federal funds under the Community Development Block Grant Program and the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program from cities and jurisdictions that do not comply with certain federal immigration laws. The measure would create a maximum penalty of ten years for individuals who re-enter the country and have been deported three or more times, and would set a mandatory minimum sentencing requirement of five years for individuals who have been convicted of a felony and re-enter the United States illegally after deportation.” (Vote Number 280, [CQ Summary](#), 10/20/15)

- **The bill would have cut law enforcement grants from over 300 sanctuary cities and stripped community development block grants.** “Senate Democrats blocked a bill Tuesday that would have punished ‘sanctuary cities’ that protect undocumented immigrants from being turned over to federal agents to face deportation. Senators voted 54-45 to advance the legislation, falling six votes short of the 60 needed. The bill offered by Sen. David Vitter, R-La., would have cut off law enforcement grants – including money to hire police officers – to more than 300 cities, counties and states with sanctuary policies. The legislation, also would have stripped them of community development block grants, which are used to provide housing to low-income and moderate-income families and to help communities recover from natural disasters.” (Erin Kelly, “Senate Democrats Block Bill To Strip Federal Funds From ‘Sanctuary Cities,’” [USA Today](#), 10/20/15)
- **In October 2007, Casey voted to kill S. Amdt. 3277.** (S. Amdt. 3277 To H.R. 3093, [Vote Number 370](#), Motion To Table Agreed To 52-42, Casey Voted Yea, 10/16/07)
  - **S. Amdt. 3277 would have prevented Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) funding to communities that refused to help with federal enforcement of immigration law.** “Mikulski, D-Md., motion to table (kill) the Vitter, R-La., amendment no. 3277 that would prohibit the use of Community Oriented Policing Services funds in the bill for jurisdictions that prohibit local law enforcement from cooperating with federal agencies looking for illegal immigrants.” (Vote Number 370, [CQ Summary](#), 10/16/07)
- **In 2009, Casey voted to kill S. Amdt. 1371.** (S. Amdt. 1371 To S. Amdt. 1373 To H.R. 2892, [Vote Number 219](#), Failed 44-53, Casey Voted Yea, 7/8/09)
  - **S. Amdt. 1371 would have compelled federal agencies to require government contractors to check employee citizenship status through E-Verify.** “Schumer, D-N.Y., motion to table (kill) the Sessions, R-Ala., amendment no. 1371 to the Reid, D-Nev., substitute amendment 1373. The Sessions amendment would make the Homeland Security Department's E-Verify program permanent and compel federal agencies to require government contractors to check employee citizenship status in the E-Verify system. The substitute would provide \$44.3 billion in fiscal 2010 for the Homeland Security Department and related programs, including \$43 billion in discretionary spending. The total would include \$16 billion for customs, border protection and immigration; \$7.7 billion for the Transportation Security Administration, including fees; \$8.9 billion for the Coast Guard, excluding mandatory spending; \$1.5 billion for the Secret Service and \$7 billion for FEMA. It also would prohibit funding after Jan. 4, 2010, for Loran-C, a land-based radio navigation system.” (Vote Number 219, [CQ Summary](#), 7/8/09)
- **In 2009, Casey voted to kill S. Amdt. 604.** (S. Amdt. 604 To H.R. 1105, [Vote Number 93](#), Passed 50-47, Casey Voted Yea, 3/10/09)

- **S. Amdt. 604 would have extended E-Verify to determine if employees were legally entitled to work in the United States.** “Leahy, D-Vt., motion to table (kill) the Sessions, R-Ala., amendment no. 604 that would extend through 2014 a voluntary, Internet-based program known as E-Verify to determine if employees are legally entitled to work in the United States.” (Vote Number 93, [CQ Summary](#), 3/10/09)

***Editor’s Note:** E-Verify is a Department of Homeland Security website that determines both the eligibility of citizens and non-citizens for work.*

- **In February 2015, Casey voted against cloture on H.R. 240.** (H.R. 240, [Vote Number 51](#), Rejected 51-48, Casey Voted Nay, 2/3/15)
  - **H.R. 240 would have barred funding for any federal benefits to any illegal immigrant.** “Motion to invoke cloture (thus limiting debate) on the McConnell, R-Ky., motion to proceed to the bill that would provide \$47.8 billion in fiscal 2015 for the Homeland Security Department and related activities. The bill also would bar the use of funds to implement the administration's immigration policies or to grant any federal benefit to any illegal immigrant as a result of those policies.” (H.R. 240, [CQ Summary](#), 2/3/15)
- **In February 2015, Casey voted a second time against cloture on H.R. 240.** (H.R. 240, [Vote Number 52](#), Rejected 53-47, Casey Voted Nay, 2/4/15)
- **In February 2015, Casey voted a third time against cloture on H.R. 240.** (H.R. 240, [Vote Number 53](#), Rejected 52-47, Casey Voted Nay, 2/5/15)
- **In February 2015, Casey voted a fourth time against cloture on H.R. 240.** (H.R. 240, [Vote Number 57](#), Rejected 47-46, Casey Voted Nay, 2/23/15)