

Republican Perspective
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by Ed Manning

WHAT THREAT?

"I thought I was president, but when it comes to these bureaucrats, I can't do a damn thing" -Harry Truman (D), 33rd President of U.S.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer have told us we have little to worry about on our southern border. In a meeting with Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary, Kirstjen M. Nielsen, about the U.S - Mexico border, Mrs. Pelosi stated: "I reject your facts." The Secretary replied: "These aren't my facts. These are the facts."

On January 3, Nielsen offered more on Twitter: "I am disappointed that Dems did not want to hear from @DHSgov about the security & humanitarian crisis we are facing at the border. They didn't want to hear about criminal aliens, drug smugglers, smuggled & abused children or violent caravans trying to breach the border wall."

Why would Democrat leaders not want to hear about the bad guys? Troubling to say the least.

Mrs. Pelosi not only didn't want to hear from the Homeland Security Secretary, she didn't want to hear from "Angel Moms." These are mothers whose sons and daughters have been murdered by illegal aliens.

On January 15th these Angel Moms tried to meet with Democrat leaders in Washington, D.C. They were rebuffed. All January they attempted to meet with these Democrat leaders to discuss legislation to fund a U.S.-Mexico border wall. Their efforts were in vain.

Yet on January 16th, Chuck Schumer led an end the shutdown rally with other Democrat Senators in front of the Capitol. These Senators held large pictures of government workers that missed a paycheck. Angel Mom Sabine Durden, whose son Dominic was killed by an illegal alien, reacted to Schumer's rally on Twitter, saying: "Really? They can still hug their children, many of us Angel moms will never be able to do that. I would give up everything to just have my son for 1 hour."

Not able to meet with either Pelosi or Schumer, the Angel Moms took their protest to their offices. Pelosi's staff representative told the Angel Moms that the Speaker was "too busy" to meet with them. What if these were mothers of children separated at the southern border? Pelosi and Schumer would have made time.

Angel Mom Mary Ann Mendoza pushed hard for a meeting with the Speaker. She called Pelosi's office to try and set a future meeting date when Mendoza is back in D.C.

Mendoza said "and it was dead silence" on the other end of the phone "and the staffer said no." Mendoza's son was a police officer killed by a drunk illegal alien.

Mrs. Mendoza went on to say: "I would love the opportunity to stand in front of Nancy Pelosi mother to mother, and look her in the eye, and say, 'which child of yours, or grandchild of yours, would you give up to support this agenda?'" She added that Pelosi's refusal to meet with them was "like a slap in our face and a kick to our loved ones' graves."

Democrats are of the opinion that terrorists entering through the U.S. southern border is "manufactured" by the White House. They should read the House Homeland Security Majority Committee report: "Stopping Terrorist Travel Through Illicit Pathways to the Homeland." The Committee examined U.S. government efforts to monitor, track, and prevent Special Interest Aliens (SIAs) from entering the U.S. This report should debunk the "manufactured" claim.

Per the report, a SIA is a non-U.S. citizen from a country outside the Western Hemisphere who, based on country of origin and travel pattern, poses a potential national security risk to the United States. The 'special interest' is that they are from parts of the world where terrorism is prevalent, or nations that are hostile to the United States.

The report says that the DHS continues to prioritize the SIA threat as one of the top threats to the Homeland. As of September 2018, 630 Bangladeshi nationals have been arrested in Fiscal Year 2018 trying to enter the U.S. illegally in Laredo, Texas alone—a 300 percent increase from FY2017. The Laredo Sector remains the number one target for illegal entry into the U.S. due to its more than 170 miles of unprotected river border and lack of physical barriers.

Nielsen offered in her testimony before Congress: "we have also seen ISIS in written materials to encourage ISIS followers to cross our Southwest border given the loopholes that they also are aware of." On a Committee trip to Latin America, Panamanian officials told Committee staff that tens of thousands of SIAs have entered Panama since 2014. Colombian officials also said that hundreds of SIAs have entered Colombia each year for the past few years. In both countries, nearly all the SIA migrants were headed to the United States and originated from the Middle East, Asia, and Africa—including Syria, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Somalia, Bangladesh, India, Eritrea, and many others.

Perhaps Pelosi and Schumer along with Congressional Democrats should re-read the 911 Commission's report. Remember the failure to collect the dots?