

America has always prided itself on being a melting pot, but when it comes to actually stirring the pot, we tend to leave the spoon in the drawer. Our immigration policies destroy the dreams of thousands every year. Pass today to change that.

Principally, pass because immigrants are vital to the economy.

First, let's address the point Rep. ____ brings up about Venezuelans being a "drain" on American resources. It's simply false. According to a 2022 study by the Migration Policy Institute, refugee populations often surpass native-born citizens in employment rates after five years, especially since proper integration policies like the ESL programs outlined in this bill. When we are facing a huge labor shortage affecting the everyday life of our constituents, especially in the crucial sectors of agriculture and medicine. Not only passing the right thing to do, it is absolutely crucial.

Additionally, the \$100 million allocation under Section 3 is a smart investment. The American Immigration Council explains that every dollar spent on refugee integration yields \$2 in economic output within ten years. That means more jobs, more tax revenue, and less strain on public assistance programs. Rep. ____, you claim this bill is costly, but ignoring this opportunity costs us more.

But second, pass for regional security in Latin America.

Rep. ____ might claim that this bill only benefits Venezuelan migrants, but that's not it. This bill doesn't just address a humanitarian crisis; it provides a pathway to stabilize the entire Western Hemisphere. Consider this: The Council on Foreign Relations reported in August 2023 that Venezuela's collapsing economy and oppressive regime have already driven over 7 million migrants to flee to neighboring countries like Colombia, Peru, and Brazil. These nations are bearing the brunt of a crisis that could spill over into political instability and regional conflict.

By granting refugee status to Venezuelans, the United States alleviates pressure on these overburdened nations, ensuring they have the resources to maintain their own stability. This is critical because instability in Latin America often creates a domino effect that directly impacts the U.S. Through increased trade disruptions, weakened alliances, and surges in irregular migration at our southern border, the consequences of inaction are far-reaching.

In fact, Brookings tells us in 2022 that regional instability is one of the leading drivers of transnational crime, including drug trafficking and human smuggling. By absorbing a portion of Venezuela's migrant population, we reduce the strain on our neighbors and curtail the growth of organized crime networks that exploit migrants and destabilize borders. This is an investment in our own security.

Today, I just have one final question to this Congress. How many more will we stop? How many more will we shatter? Pass.