

# NOTES FROM KERI LOPEZ ON THE SOUTHERN BORDER CRISIS

I recently had the opportunity to travel to the Southern Border in Yuma, Arizona with several Oregon legislators and candidates. The experience was profoundly impactful and heavy. It's difficult to process the travesties happening to women and children at the hands of the cartels, knowing that there are tools and resources that can be deployed to protect innocent lives.

## BEHIND GAP 3 THE UNTHINKABLE HAPPENS

In addition to the physical atrocities happening to women and children behind Gap 3, **a pill press machine was confiscated** near this location that was being **used to make rainbow colored fentanyl pills**. At one point there were three cartels warring over this territory.

The white tent along the border wall is a processing site. During peak hours, 10 pm to 2 am, upwards of 2,000 people are presenting themselves, claiming asylum and given a notice to appear- **with dates as far out as 82 months**. Since October, data collected from the National Sheriffs Association reports that 150,000 to 250,000 "got aways" have eluded Border Patrol. **Minors from the United States are being solicited** on social media and offered cash **to pick up and transport the "got aways"** to neighboring cities and states.

Piles of steel walls that have been paid for are lying on the ground, uninstalled and being **offered for sale** on the internet. Lights and security cameras that are used as deterrents are also being **uninstalled and sold** as well.

The Southern Border matters because fentanyl is flowing freely into our state and our communities. Just last week the Oregon Health Authority launched a fentanyl information campaign as **overdose deaths continue to skyrocket** in Oregon, including teens and innocent children.

**The statistics are staggering**. People are dying in record numbers because our communities are flooded with fentanyl from the Southern Border. Women and children are being trafficked here too- you don't have to look very hard to see the scourge.

Oregon became a drug haven for the cartels operating along the Southern Border upon the passage of Measure 110- perpetuated by the deeply flawed policies and heart wrenching, prolonged inaction from the Democrat controlled Legislature- including current District 53 Representative Levy.

Central Oregonians deserve safe, healthy communities. **We can't afford another term of too little too late** and that's why I'm looking forward to representing District 53 and am actively working on legislation to bring to Salem in 2025.

Our group discusses the alarming US-Mexico border crisis we've witnessed first-hand in Yuma, Arizona

Keri Lopez hears the facts at the US-Mexico border

Mexican road leading straight to our border

Commissioner Jonathan Lines explains the crisis at a popular US border water crossing

Keri Lopez with Commissioner Jonathan Lines\*

Lights, security cameras, and the steel wall are being uninstalled and sold online

\*Commissioner Lines leads the charge on securing the border in Yuma for the board of commissioners.

