

WIN WITHOUT WAR



KEY TAKEAWAY: Trump's speech is a callous political stunt that underscores his dangerous, immoral, and wasteful immigration policies. Congress must not give in to his blatantly absurd "pro-Wall" agenda and it must act immediately to address genuine security needs by passing the remainder of the Fiscal Year 2019 Appropriations bills and reopen the government.

DANGEROUS: Donald Trump's threats to declare a national emergency and seize military funds to build a border wall is a direct attack on our democracy.

- Donald Trump's desperate attempt to create a fictional security emergency for political survival is driving the United States into a constitutional crisis, making political pawns out of our military, and subverting the will of Congress as a co-equal branch of government.
- There is no national security emergency at the Southern border. The only national security threat here is the president himself and his administration of bigoted, anti-immigrant hardliners, like Kirstjen Nielsen and Stephen Miller.
- By forcing the construction of his multi-billion dollar border wall, Trump would be sidestepping Congress in order to continue his administration's hardline anti-immigrant agenda, blatantly abusing Executive power, and adding to a litany of human rights abuses.
- Donald Trump spent the 2018 midterm elections highlighting immigration and fear-mongering over the border, and voters overwhelmingly rejected him and his policies, electing a Democratic House to serve as a check. He is now attempting to subvert the clear will of the American public by pushing the very policies voters rejected only two months ago.

IMMORAL: The only emergency at the Southern border is the mounting humanitarian catastrophe and irreversible harm to refugee-seeking children and families.

- Donald Trump's obsession with the border wall has held the livelihoods of hundreds of thousands of Americans hostage through a shutdown, empowered the jailing and death of children, and allowed unaccountable agents to fire tear gas and rubber bullets at families seeking refuge.
- The hyper-militarization of the Southern border already causes massive human suffering. An unnecessary border wall will only exacerbate the situation.
 - As of 2017, [hundreds of miles](#) of "walls" (fences, barricades, levees, etc.) have already been built across the southern border.
 - Our broken immigration system, including construction of various border barriers, has pushed people seeking asylum to attempt crossings in more dangerous environments, placing them at greater risk for harm and death.
- The southern border should be a place of refuge and hope, not a site of militarization and fear.
 - Rather than terrorizing vulnerable families, the U.S. should concentrate on accelerating and humanizing our asylum processes to uplift the rights and dignity of all people seeking refuge.
 - The U.S. should be providing humanitarian protections, allowing people seeking safety to pursue their legal right to ask for asylum, and addressing the global and local drivers to forced displacement.
 - The U.S. cannot ignore that it bears some responsibility for creating the conditions that drive migration in Central America. For decades throughout Latin America, the U.S. has waged disastrous political and economic interventions, destabilizing military missions, exploited local resources, and bolstered corrupt governments and militaries that drive conflict, crime, and human rights abuses.

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WASTEFUL: Donald Trump's border wall would waste countless taxpayer dollars that could be better spent revitalizing our nation and providing genuine security for the American people.

- Donald Trump's multi-billion dollar border wall would cost countless taxpayer dollars that could be better spent addressing genuine security crises – not manufactured ones – such as our crumbling roads and infrastructure, the adverse effects of climate change, the opioid epidemic, and the absence of key diplomatic posts left vacant by the Trump administration.
- Reports have indicated that the Trump plan would involve contracting out the construction of the wall to private corporations who have already made a killing off of the human suffering on our southern border.

RESOURCES:

Trump's Plan to Have the Military Build a Wall is Illegal ([Just Security](#), 01-08-19)

'The real national emergency is the threat of Trump's collapse' ([Washington Post](#), 01-08-19)

Win Without Twitter Thread on Trump's threat to declare a national emergency ([Twitter](#))

There is no crisis at the border -- and DHS stats prove it is ([Forbes](#), 06-25-18)

Terrorists and the Southern Border: Myth and Reality ([Just Security](#), 01-08-19)

Mothering on the Borders (Yifat Susskind, Executive Director, [Madre](#))

Tweet Samples

The President's supposed "emergency" is simply a distraction from his disastrous government shutdown. The real crisis is @realDonaldTrump's willingness to subvert Congress and use the military to terrorize vulnerable migrants and score political points. #StateOfEmergency

There is no national security emergency at the southern border. The only national security threat here is the president himself and his administration of racist, anti-immigrant hardliners, like Kirstjen Nielsen and Stephen Miller. #StateOfEmergency #ConstitutionalCrisis #TrumpShutdown

If the President were really concerned about national security, he would end the #shutdown, which really threatens the American public. I want to address genuine security issues: crumbling infrastructure, man-made climate change crisis, and diplomatic posts left vacant by the Trump administration. #StateOfEmergency

The President's cavalier use of a #StateOfEmergency to score points with his base is a reckless and unconstitutional subversion of Congress that undermines the foundation of our republic. This is a crisis, but not the one the President is claiming. #ConstitutionalCrisis