

# The Republican Record on Border Security, Since 9/11

*As Enforcement Shrinks, GOP Votes  
Against Border Security*



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# REPUBLICAN RECORD ON BORDER SECURITY

After five years of underfunding and neglect, Congressional Republicans and President Bush are now giving speech and speech about the importance of border security - but the question is: *where have the Republicans been since 2001?*

Time after time over the last five years, Democrats have offered amendments to enhance border security resources. If these Democratic amendments had been adopted, there would be 6,600 more Border Patrol agents, 14,000 more detention beds, and 2,700 more immigration agents along our borders than now exist. Each time, these efforts have been rejected by the Republican Majority.

Five years after 9/11, it is clear that our borders remain alarmingly porous and that much needs to be done to truly make our borders secure.

The fact that our border is porous is not the fault of our hard-working Border Patrol agents and Customs and Immigration agents, who are doing the best they can with the staffing levels and resources that they have been provided. Rather, it is the result of the neglect and underfunding of border security over the last five years by the Bush Administration and Congressional Republicans - who have failed to provide our border security agencies the resources and personnel they need to succeed in their mission.

Under the Bush Administration and the Republican Congress, from 9/11 through April 2006, only 1,641 new Border Patrol agents had been hired - less than a 17 percent increase in four and a half years.

Border enforcement and immigration enforcement have fallen drastically under the Bush Administration. Between 1999 and 2004, worksite immigration enforcement operations against companies were scaled back 99 percent by the Immigration and Naturalization Service, which subsequently was merged into the Department of Homeland Security. In 1999, the United States initiated fines against 417 companies. In 2004, it issued fine notices to only three.

Over the past five years, Democrats have been highlighting the serious security gaps that exist along both our southern and northern borders - and have urged the GOP-controlled Congress to focus on targeting resources on unfilled gaps.

But, as this report shows, Republicans have voted time after time against efforts to enhance border security and provide our borders the agents, equipment, and state-of-the-art technology that our borders so desperately need.

Following is an overview of some of the key votes on border security since 9/11.

**2001 Vote #454 - November 28, 2001 - H.R. 3338, FY 2002 Defense Appropriations/  
Emergency Supplemental**

Republicans voted AGAINST consideration of an amendment to add \$223 million for border security - to help meet the promises in the 2001 PATRIOT Act on border staffing and to build needed border facilities. The amendment included \$145 million to make a down payment on the promise of Congress in the PATRIOT Act to triple the number of border agents and inspectors, which the bill failed to do, and to purchase surveillance equipment. The amendment also included \$78 million for the highest priority facility needs of the Border Patrol and other parts of the INS - particularly the Border Patrol's detention facility needs.



**2003 Vote #301 - June 24, 2003 - H.R. 2555, FY 2004 Homeland Security Appropriations**

Republicans voted AGAINST consideration of an amendment to add \$300 million for border security, including making a further downpayment on the promise of Congress in the 2001 PATRIOT Act to triple the number of border agents and inspectors along the northern border. The amendment was critically needed because the level of northern border personnel funded in the Republican bill was about 30 percent below the commitment made in the PATRIOT Act.

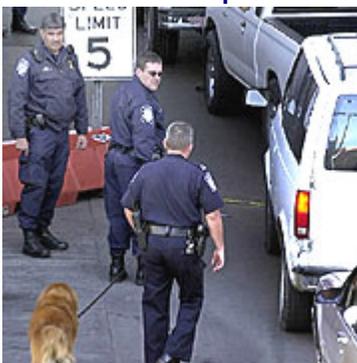
**2003 Vote #305 - June 24, 2003 - H.R. 2555, FY 2004 Homeland Security Appropriations**

This vote was regarding the same amendment as 2003 Vote #301 above. Republicans once again voted AGAINST consideration of this amendment that would have added \$300 million for border security, including adding border agents and inspectors along the northern border.

**2004 Vote #243 - June 16, 2004 - H.R. 4567, FY 2005 Homeland Security Appropriations**

Republicans voted AGAINST consideration of an amendment to add \$750 million for border security -- to increase border staffing, better monitor our borders, and deploy radiation portal monitors. The amendment would also have given the Border Patrol more equipment - including air stations for air patrols, radiation portal monitors, and state-of-the-art surveillance equipment.

**2005 Vote #160 - May 5, 2005 - H.R. 1268, FY 2005 Supplemental Appropriations  
Conference Report**



Republicans voted AGAINST a motion to the Supplemental Appropriations conference report to bring funding for border security measures up to the levels in the Senate-passed bill, including funding for 550 additional Border Patrol agents and 200 additional immigration agents. The motion also included the funding in the Senate bill for unmanned border aerial vehicles, which have been used successfully in Arizona to assist in surveillance.

## For FY 2006 and FY 2007, Republicans Have Repeatedly Broken the Promises They Made on Border Security in the Intelligence Reform (9/11) Act of 2004

In December 2004, the Congress enacted the Intelligence Reform (or 9/11) Act (PL 108-458). One of the key commitments Congress made in that Act was to beef up border security measures. This included the specific promise of providing 2,000 additional Border Patrol agents, 800 additional immigration agents, and 8,000 additional detention beds per year from FY 2006 through FY 2010. And yet, for both FY 2006 and FY 2007, the Republican Congress has repeatedly voted against efforts to meet this mandate.



### 2005 Vote #174 - May 17, 2005 - H.R. 2360, FY 2006 Homeland Security Appropriations

Republicans voted AGAINST consideration of an amendment to add funds to meet the promises Congress made on additional Border Patrol agents, immigration agents, and detention beds in the 9/11 Act. First, the President's budget for 2006 broke the promise of the 9/11 Act by providing funding for only 210 new Border Patrol agents in 2006 - 1,790 below the number promised. The Republican appropriations bill was somewhat better but was still 1,000 agents short of the promise made in the 9/11 Act. This amendment was designed to live up to the commitments of the 9/11 Act. It added funding for Border Patrol agents, and also added funding for 600 additional immigration agents to get to the 800 promised and added funding for 4,000 additional detention beds to get to the 8,000 promised.

### 2005 Vote #187 - May 18, 2005 - H.R. 1817, FY 2006 Homeland Security Authorization

Republicans voted AGAINST a Democratic substitute to the Homeland Security Authorization bill that would have fulfilled the promises in the 9/11 Act. For example, unlike the GOP bill, the substitute authorized funding for the 800 additional immigration agents for 2006 promised in the 9/11 Act and the 8,000 additional detention beds for 2006 promised in the 9/11 Act.

### 2005 Vote #188 - May 18, 2005 - H.R. 1817, FY 2006 Homeland Security Authorization



Republicans voted AGAINST a motion to add 15 mandates from the Intelligence Reform (or 9/11) Act that had not been included in the Republican bill, including full authorization for funding a total of 800 additional immigration agents for 2006 and full authorization for funding a total of 8,000 additional detention beds for 2006.

## 2006 Vote #56 - March 16, 2006 - H.R. 4939, FY 2006 Supplemental Appropriations

Republicans defeated an amendment to H.R. 4939, FY 2006 Supplemental Appropriations, offered by Rep. Martin Sabo (D-MN), which would have added \$600 million for border security measures to the bill. The \$600 million included \$400 million for installation of 1,500 radiation portal monitors at locations along the border and \$200 million for additional air patrols and other aviation assets at our land borders.

## 2006 Vote #210 - May 25, 2006 - H.R. 5441, FY 2007 Homeland Security Appropriations

Republicans voted AGAINST consideration of an amendment that would have added \$2.1 billion for border security, including \$1.5 billion to meet the promises Congress made on additional Border Patrol agents, immigration agents, and detention beds in the 9/11 Act. The Republican Congress has failed to meet these mandates for both 2006 and 2007. The GOP bill left the Border Patrol 1,800 agents short of what the Congress had promised in the 9/11 Act. The Democratic amendment provided funding for these 1,800 additional agents. Similarly, the amendment also funded the nearly 500 additional immigration agents and 9,000 additional detention beds beyond those in the bill that were promised by the 9/11 Act. The amendment also included \$610 million to further increase border detection capabilities, including funding more radiation portal monitors along the borders and providing additional air patrols along the borders.

