



#WeRise

White Paper – Problems, Proposals → Policies



September 2019

Tim Westley, Ph.D. for U.S. Congress
P.O. Box 18062
San Antonio, TX 78218
Telephone: 210-373-0440
E-mail: Westley4Congress@gmail.com
Website: www.timwestley.com



Table of Contents

2. Part I – Problem Statements	4
3. Border Security.....	4
4. Asylum.....	7
5. Second Amendment.....	9
6. Pro-Life.....	11
7. Small Businesses	13
8. Energy (Gas / Oil).....	14
9. Protecting Veterans	15
10. Healthcare	17
11. Education	19
12. Infrastructure	21
13. Farming / Ranching.....	23
14. Social Security.....	24
15. Protecting Religious Freedoms.....	26
<i>Proposals - Solutions</i>	
16. Part II – Proposals / Solutions	28
17. Border Security.....	28
18. Asylum.....	30
19. Second Amendment.....	31
20. Pro-Life.....	34
21. Small Businesses	35
22. Energy (Oil/Gas).....	36
23. Protecting Veterans	38
24. Healthcare	40
25. Education	42
26. Infrastructure	44
27. Farming / Ranching.....	46
28. Social Security.....	47
29. Protecting Religious Freedoms.....	48
30. Conclusion.....	49
31. References	50
32. Author’s Biography.....	57
33. Copyright	58
34. Disclaimer.....	58



Executive Summary

Conservative values are under attack in America. From the halls of Congress to the streets of our nation, and places in between, those values are being pressed and people beholding to them are being silenced. However, there are still many who not only believe in those values, but are willing to stand up and fight for them. Many people in our nation are promoting policies and actions which are detrimental to society and will destroy our nation as we know it moving forward.

Such policies and ideas are discussed in this *White Paper* and opposition to those stances with proper support and better options are provided. We are a nation built off of Conservative principles with God at our foundation. To abandon such great pillars will lead to the destruction of our nation. As a nation, we must turn away from the rejection of God's directions in our leadership, uphold our U.S. Constitution, and ensure we hold on to the Conservative values which have made America Great.

The purpose of this *White Paper* is to advocate for conservative stances and policy positions on the following topics. Border Security, Asylum Laws Reform, Second Amendment, Pro-life Issues, Small Businesses, Energy Reform, Protecting Veterans, Healthcare Reform, Education Reform, Infrastructure, Farming & Ranching, Social Security Reform, and Religious Freedoms. Data and statistics are provided throughout the paper to highlight points and provide a foundation for future policy options. Each category will highlight the problems in the section as label in Part I followed by solutions in Part II.

Part I

Problem Statements

Border Security

Total Governmental Expenditures on Illegal Aliens



Figure 1. Cost of illegal immigration to taxpayers at federal and local level.
Source: Federation For American Immigration Reform.

Currently, illegal immigration cost American Taxpayers upward of \$134 Billion. O'Brien & Raley (2019) noted, "At the federal, state, and local levels, taxpayers shell out approximately \$134.9 billion to cover the costs incurred by the presence of more than 12.5 million illegal aliens and about 4.2 million citizen children of illegal aliens. That amounts to a tax burden of approximately \$8,075 per illegal alien family member..." This equates to over \$365 Million per day. This cost is passed on to taxpayers and is a result of unsecured borders. We are hemorrhaging taxpayer dollars over illegal immigration!

Further, the amount of people crossing our borders illegally has increased and passed the numbers for both FY17 and FY18 and is on target to possibly hit 1 million people by the end of FY19. Currently, without a report of August 2019 numbers, the U.S. has seen 760,370 apprehensions, with two months reporting remaining for FY19 (CBP, 2019). Note, the previous number represented the Southwest border (Texas) only.

Southwest Border Migration FY 2019

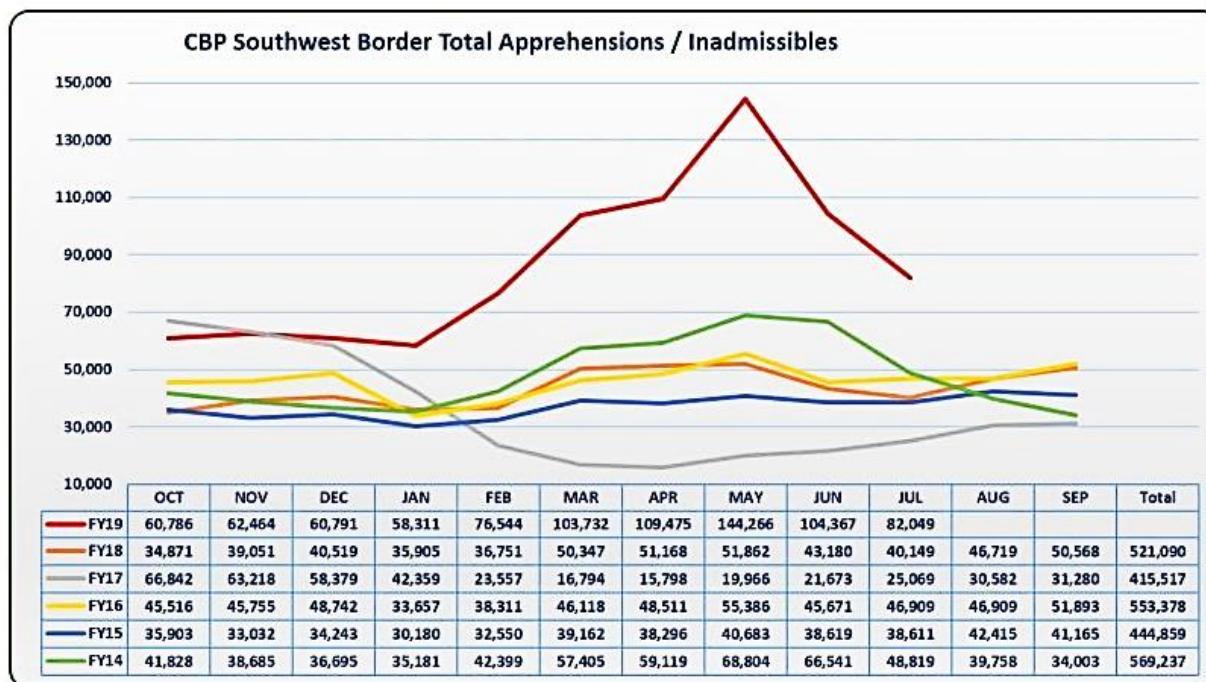



Figure 2. Number of illegal immigrants apprehended at Southwest Border. Adapted from Customs and Border Patrol Data & Statistics

In addition to the enormous cost factors associated with an unsecured border, American citizens have to contend with the followings as well:

- Ranchers & Farmers hit with the cost of illegal immigrants property violations (Wagner, 2017):
 - Fences Destroyed
 - Irrigation Lines Cut
 - Property damaged and stolen
- Women and girls at put at great risk trying to cross into America illegally (Fleury, 2016):
 - According to Amnesty International, 60% of migrant women and girls are raped while migrating, while other data indicate that 80% of women experience rape and sexual assault during the migration process.
 - Given the frequency of sexual and gender-based violence, many migrant women take contraceptives before migrating to avoid the risk of pregnancy from rape by armed criminal groups, locals, or their smugglers.

- 
- Unfortunately, contraceptives don't protect women from sexually transmitted diseases or other health risks, and migrant women often do not report or seek medical care for sexual and gender-based violence.
 - Migrant women captured by criminal groups are also in danger of being sold into prostitution and human trafficking.

Overall, whether it's the negative economic impact, cost to our farmers and ranchers, risk and attacks on women and girls, loss of life on the journey, etc., securing our border becomes a deterrent and a benefit to American citizens.

Asylum



Figure 3. Asylum Process. Source: Senate RPC

Many asylum claims accompany the apprehensions, however, the overwhelming majority proved to be illegitimate. According to acting Homeland Security Secretary, Kevin McAleenan, 90% of those claiming asylum miss their court dates after being released into the US (Tacopino, 2019). Unfortunately, the overwhelming majority of people are not even attempting to enter America through one of the 328 legal ports of entry to claim asylum as seen by the 396,579 (70%) apprehension between the ports of entry (CBP, 2019). This indicates a broken system.

Further, the backlog continues to grow at a pace that cannot be reasonably addressed as the system is currently operating. In November 2018, there were around 809,000 pending cases on the U.S. immigration court's docket (Earl, 2019) and asylum seekers are waiting an average of 1000 days before their cases to be reviewed in an immigration court. This equates to those who often enter illegally being in the U.S. almost 3 years on the American Taxpayer dollar before a decision is made and in 65% of the cases in FY18, they were denied (Earl, 2019), about the same rate as FY2017.

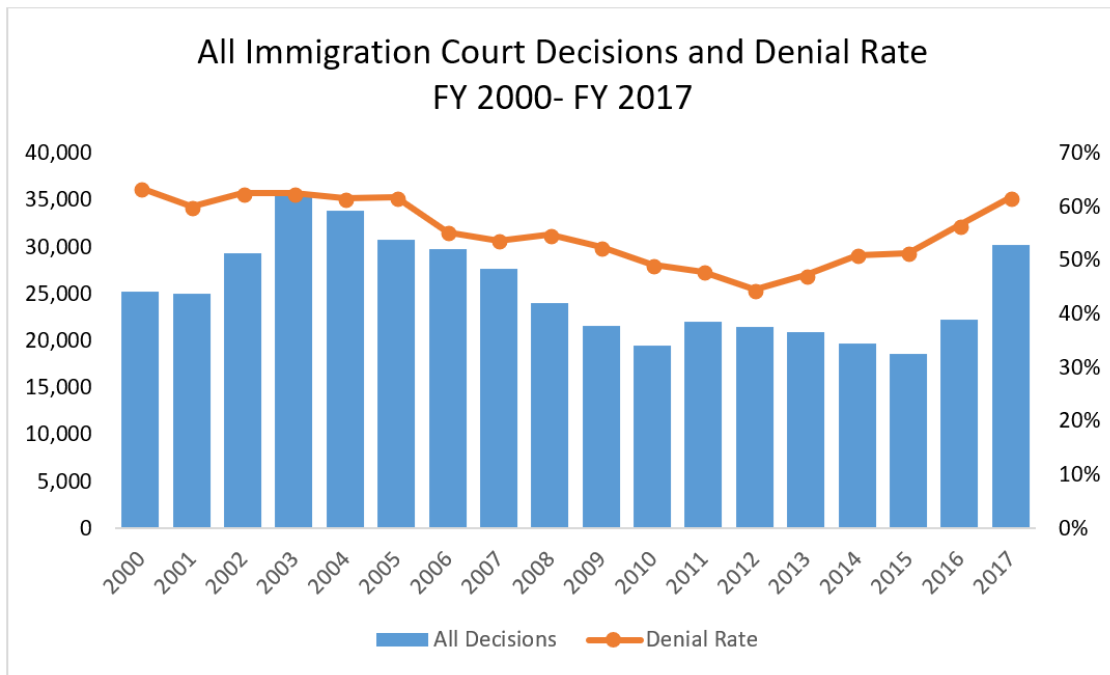


Figure 4. Asylum Denial Rates 2000-2017. Source: Trac Immigration

Further, in FY2018, less than 10% of those entering the country claiming asylum, entered through one of the 328 legal ports of entry (CBP, 2018). Therefore, it is clear that the overwhelming majority of those entering the country illegally are not coming for asylum reasons as the media portrays. Ultimately, as this continues to cost American taxpayers and put our nation at great risk.

Second Amendment



Figure 5. Second Amendment. Photo Credit: Stephanie Frey/Dreamstime.
Source: National Review

“Mass shootings; Gun Control; Assault Weapons”...are catchphrases that trigger emotions of people who would prefer guns are removed from the hands of the average American. Such people say there are too many guns, too many shootings, too many people dying, etc. Sure, one life lost to gun violence is one too many, yet things must be put into perspective. Using the AR-15 for example, which anti-gun advocates love to highlight as an assault weapon, a comparison will be made. Consider the death statistics from guns (Ar-15) vs. other methods, and ask why one narrative gets more scrutiny and the other more support than the other on a national platform:

- 1,670 children died from abuse or neglect in FFY 2015 – average 4.5 per day. National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS)
- 1,604 people killed with “knives or cutting instruments.” FBI: UCR Table 12
- 656 people were beaten to death with “hands, fists, feet, etc. Average 1.7 deaths per day. FBI: UCR Table 12
- 374 people were shot and killed with rifles (of which AR-15 included). Average 1.2 death per day. FBI: UCR Table 12
- 926,190 legal induced abortion deaths were reported by Guttmacher per year. 2,537 abortion deaths per day in the US. Guttmacher, 2014
- Of the 30,000+ Deaths with Firearms, 20,000+ are suicides (which are associated with mental health issues).

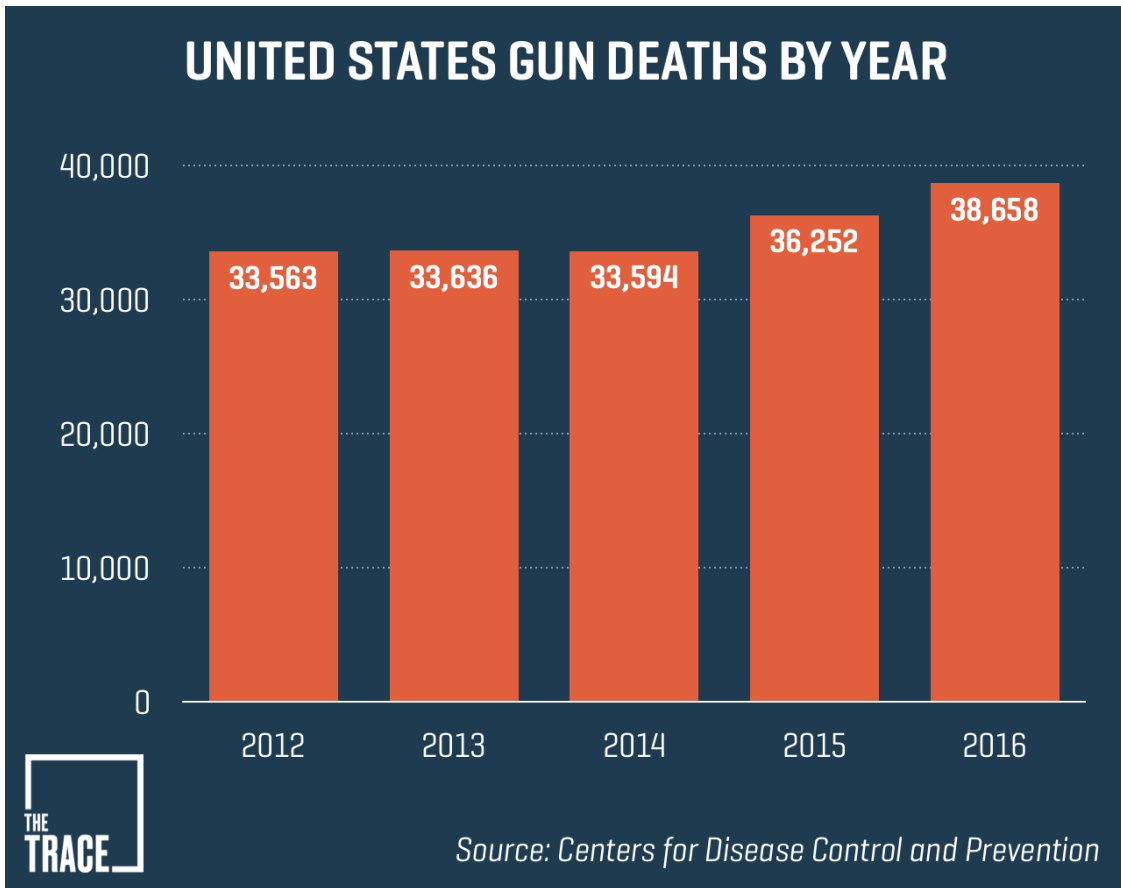


Figure 6. United States Gun Deaths. Photo Credit: Daniel Nass. Source: The Trace

Whether it is the AR-15, a handgun, long gun, etc. the number of deaths by shootings versus other means does not match up to the media firestorms about guns. Specifically, many of the ways people die, as listed above are rarely discussed in such a context of mass killings. The Second Amendment Right is just that, a ‘Right’ and must be protected.

Protecting Life of the Unborn



Figure 7. Pro-Life – Pro-Choice Debate. Photo Credit: WVTM13.


According to the CDC (2019), during 2015, 638,169 legal induced abortions were reported from 49 reporting areas. The abortion rate for 2015 was 11.8 abortions per 1,000 women aged 15–44 years, and the abortion ratio was 188 abortions per 1,000 live births. That equates to:

- 1,748 babies killed per day.
- 72 babies killed per hour.
- 1.2 babies killed per minute

Those who could easily be deemed the most innocent among us are also the most vulnerable, the unborn. Yet they are being killed and disposed of at such an alarming rate. Research showed the following:

- In 2015, unmarried women accounted for 86% of all abortions (CDC).
- Adolescents under 15 years obtained .03% of all 2015 abortions; women aged 15–19 years accounted for less than 10% (CDC).
- Black women were more than 3.5 times more likely to have an abortion in 2015 than white women (CDC).
- Etc.

At a glance, being unmarried, 20 years or older, and/or black races the chances of a woman getting an abortion tremendously. Also, contrary to what is promoted, people are getting abortions, not simply because of the woman’s right to do what she



wants with her body, instead here are the documented reasons (Finer, Frohwirth, Dauphinee, Singhand, and Moore, 2004):

Percentage Reason

<0.5%	Victim of rape
3%	Fetal health problems
4%	Physical health problems
4%	Would interfere with education or career
7%	Not mature enough to raise a child
8%	Don't want to be a single mother
19%	Done having children
23%	Can't afford a baby
25%	Not ready for a child
6%	Other

So, the top three reasons for killing an innocent baby is the woman is *done having children*, *can't afford a baby*, or *not ready for a child*, therefore the child is killed and discarded. This is unacceptable.

Small Businesses



Figure 8. Small Business. Photo Credit: Joshua Rodriguez. Source: Unsplash

Small businesses are the heartbeat of America. Therefore, they should not be overly concerned with the threat of new regulations that cause huge uncertainties, thus leading to a reluctance to hire. The NFIB (2017) highlighted their President and CEO, Juanita Duggan saying “All of the top problems for small businesses relate directly to excessive federal regulation and taxation.” Ultimately, at the heart of the issues with small businesses, Duggan noted, owners are frustrated by the problems that the federal government creates.

Energy (Oil / Gas)



Figure 9. Oil & Gas Revolution. Photo Credit: Intertek.

All estimates of America's oil and natural gas reserves indicates they are plentiful and will be for generations to come. Considering the prolific Permian oil and gas basin that straddles Western Texas and Southeastern New Mexico, for example, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) estimates that over 46 billion barrels of oil, 280 trillion cubic feet of gas, and 20 billion barrels of natural gas liquids are trapped in these low-permeability shale formations (Cohen, 2018).

However, opponents of the increased exploration of such resources, hinder retrieval of such them and the economic growth which accompanies it. Further, America encourages other nations to explore their coast while barriers continue to exist for exploration of its own. Many of the reasons opponents stand against increased exploration are anchored in environmental concerns. Some of the major concerns are as follows (TWS, 2019):

1. Drilling disrupts wildlife habitat.
2. Oil spills can be deadly to animals
3. Air and water pollution hurt local communities
4. Dangerous emissions contribute to climate change
5. Oil and gas development ruins pristine landscapes
6. Fossil fuel extraction turns visitors away
7. Light pollution is impacting wildlife and wilderness

Protecting the environment must always be of great concern, however, we must not lose balance and forgo opportunities at Energy Independence during the process. America has some of the brightest minds on earth so we must use them collectively to plan ways to achieve Energy Independence while protecting the environment. Being stagnant in such efforts will continue to cost the nation greatly.

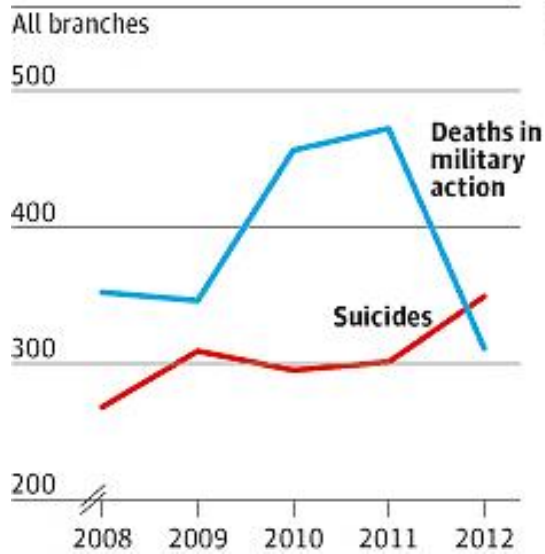
Protecting Veterans



Figure 10. D-Day veterans listen during the Utah Beach Memorial Ceremony in Normandy, France on June 4, 2016. Photo Credit: Photo by U.S. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Sean Spratt.

The endless stories of veterans dying while waiting to receive care at V.A. facilities are sad and intolerable. As Devine (2015) notes, over 300,000 veterans may have died while awaiting V.A. Healthcare. The U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) designated VA health care as a high-risk area in 2015 due to five areas of concern regarding VA's ability to provide timely access to safe, high-quality health care for veterans: (1) ambiguous policies and inconsistent processes; (2) inadequate oversight and accountability; (3) IT challenges; (4) inadequate staff training; and (5) unclear resource needs and allocation priorities. In 2017, GAO reported that while VA had taken some actions to address these issues, little progress had actually been made (GAO, 2019).

US military deaths



Which service?

Suicides by branch of the military, 2012

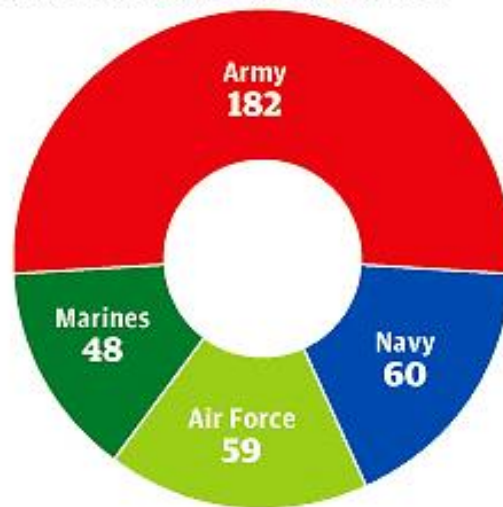


Figure 11. U.S. Military struggling to stop suicide epidemic among war veterans.
Source: The Guardian

Although those crucial deficiencies were noted, full-resolution has still not been attained 4 years later. As Lee (2015) noted, 18 to 22 veteran suicides a day and this must be addressed and resolved expeditiously. We must prioritize the mental health of veterans just as much as we do their physical health!

Healthcare



Figure 12. Healthcare. Photo Credits: Hush Naidoo. Source: Unsplash

Since the enactment of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, often shortened to the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare), the healthcare debate has been at the forefront of debates and discussions. Obamacare was plagued with problems such as (Amadeo, 2019):

1. Americans (including experts) don't know its cost to the nation.
2. Health insurance companies canceled plans for 1 million people because they didn't comply with the ACA's 10 essential health benefits, therefore not allowing people to keep their plans as President Obama promised.
3. Between 3 million and 5 million people lost their company-sponsored health care plans as many businesses found it was more cost-effective to pay the penalty than provide health insurance benefits.
4. Consumers ended up with higher premiums because health care providers and health insurance companies ultimately paid additional taxes to help fund Obamacare's benefits and thus additional cost was absorbed by the people (insured).

Ultimately, what was slated to be a remedy for healthcare resolutions, has resulted in higher healthcare costs, fewer choices for care for the average person, exploding Medicaid enrolments with fewer choices for the enrollees, etc. (Moore, 2018).



Overall, Obamacare has driven up premiums and deductible costs for individuals, families, and businesses and forced people off the plans they liked. Further, it has fuelled waste, fraud, and abuse. Such issues must be rectified for the American people.

Education

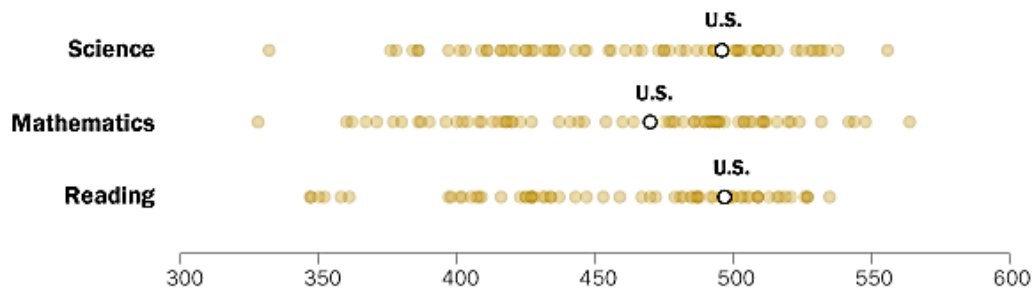


Figure 13. U.S. Education Challenges. Photo Credits: Adam Vagley. Source: Expat

America is the greatest nation on earth and has many accolades to substantiate such a claim. However, from an educational perspective America is lagging behind many nations. As such it will begin to see the long-term effects of such shortcomings. Desilver (2017) highlighted, “Recently released data from international math and science assessments indicate that U.S. students continue to rank around the middle of the pack, and behind many other advanced industrial nations.” We are not a middle of the pack type of nation, we are a leading nation and we must resume doing so on the Education front as we do in many other areas.

Internationally, U.S. stands in middle of pack on science, math, reading scores

Average scores of 15-year-olds taking the 2015 Program for International Student Assessment



Note: Scale ranges from 0-1,000. Results from China not included because only four provinces participated in PISA 2015.
Source: OECD, PISA 2015

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Figure 14. U.S. International Standings. Source: Pew Research.

As recently as 20 years ago, the United States was ranked No.1 in high school and college education (Randolph, 2019). Although the United States still ranks No.1 in the world's higher education institutions (i.e., colleges) the ability to help graduates transition into the job market, it has experienced a tremendous negative downturn in ranking for primary education. Due to complacency and inefficiency, reflective of lower priorities in education, and inconsistencies among the various school systems, America's schools have witnessed a decline. In 2009, the United States was ranked 18th out of 36 industrialized nations (Randolph, 2019). Such a mediocre ranking is not acceptable for the greatest nation on earth.

Further, issues stated above have a negative impact on the children, which in turn on the communities and ultimately, the nation. Lastly, consider the pay challenges, day to day stresses with educators, and the fact that more than a million teachers don't have Social Security to fall back on (Turner, 2018) and America's public education system is one subject to imminent collapse in the future.

Infrastructure



Figure 15. U.S. Infrastructure Issues. Photo Credits: Industry Week.

When thinking of America's infrastructure, one may often think of roads and bridges (though it is much more). Considering roads and bridges nevertheless, great undertakings and infrastructure projects on a mass level haven't taken place since the New Deal under President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. The New Deal converted dirt roads to concrete ones, built airports and brought electricity to all corners of the nation (Wharton PPI, 2017). Over the past several decades since that time, America has seen the number of automobiles on the roads drastically increase and with them, an increase of wear and tear on those roads and bridges. Unfortunately, keeping up repairs on them is endless and today we have many bridges (and roads) that are in dire need of replacement.

Allowing them to remain in their current condition cost Americans greatly. As Ferguson (2018) noted, "America's roads and bridges cause issues that range from the small daily inconveniences of longer commutes to safety concerns and economic burdens." Infrastructure problems cause other issues such as (Ferguson, 2018):

1. **Traffic Congestion** - In 2014, traffic congestion wasted 6.9 billion hours of motorists' travel time and almost 3.1 billion gallons of fuel.
2. **Consumer Cost** - Driving on poor roads cost motorists roughly \$112 billion in additional repair and operating costs annually.
3. **Risk** - Americans take over 200 million trips daily across deficient bridges in the 102 largest metropolitan regions.

Even more concerning is the unnecessary cost of life due to such poor roads and bridges. The U.S. roads infrastructures received a D rating in the most recent American Society of Civil Engineers report and the poor infrastructure has led to an increase in traffic fatalities by 7% from 2014 to 2015. We must not continue to take such risk and put Americans in harm's way when such things are avoidable.

Beyond roads and bridges, more work has to be done with respect to other areas of infrastructure. Consider the below-average grades for U.S. infrastructure below:

Table 1

Image: US Infrastructure Report Card Since 2001. Source: CNBC, American Society of Civil Engineers.

The table is titled 'Infrastructure report card' with the CNBC logo and 'SOURCE: ASCE'. It displays grades for 17 categories across five years (2001, 2005, 2009, 2013, 2017) and a final status column. The categories and their corresponding grades are as follows:

Category	2001	2005	2009	2013	2017	
Overall GPA	D+	D	D	D+	D+	NC
Aviation	D	D+	D	D	D	NC
Bridges	C	C	C	C+	C+	NC
Dams	D	D+	D	D	C+	↑
Drinking Water	D	D-	D	D	D	NC
Energy	D+	D	D+	D+	C+	↑
Hazardous Waste	D+	D	D	D	D+	↑
Inland Waterways	D+	D	D-	D	D-	↓
Levees	NA	NA	D-	D	D	NC
Ports	NA	NA	NA	C	C+	↑
Public Parks/ Recreation	NA	C-	C-	C	D+	↓
Rail	NA	C	C	C+	B	↑
Roads	D+	D	D	D	D	NC
Schools	D	D	D	D	D+	↑
Solid Waste	C+	C+	C+	B	C+	↓
Transit	C	D+	D	D	D-	↓
Wastewater	D	D-	D	D	D+	↑

Notice, there are no grades of 'A' on the table above. From our schools, ports, bridges, roads, aviation, transit, etc., America is behind. We must not allow known deficiencies to continue any longer. It's is time for plans and action to get resolution.

Farming/Ranching



Figure 16. Ranchers and Farmers. Photo Credits: Noah Buscher. Source: Unsplash

Farmers have undoubtedly faced their share of challenges since the Trump Administrations trade war with China. Today, our farmers still have some barriers in place which makes it more difficult to sell their products to our northern neighbors, Canada, and southern neighbors, Mexico. Currently, they are America’s largest trade partners with \$4 billion a day of trade between the three countries.

According to the AFBT (2019), “The required International Trade Commission economic impact report on USMCA was released on April 18, 2019. It projects that USMCA, when fully implemented, will add \$2.2 billion to the amount of agricultural and food exports to Canada and Mexico.” This is a windfall of economic resources that help both the farmers and the American people. Regulations, however, which hinder such trade, do not help farmers during a time they need it the most, and also hinder such expansion and increase.

Further, farmers and ranchers want to be able to make decisions about managing their land and water resources without uncertainty or time-consuming and expensive red tape as existing with cumbersome regulations. Such hindrances must be addressed and rectified.


Social Security



Figure 17. Social Security. Photo Credit: iStock. Source: Kiplinger

Mention *Social Security* and many things can ensue from discussions, disagreements, concern, frustration, anxiety, etc., most -- simply not good. At hand is many people who have paid into *Social Security* for years and are not sure if it would be around for them to reap the benefits and collect a check. Workers and employers pay for Social Security. Workers pay 6.2 percent of their earnings up to a cap, which is \$127,200 a year in 2017. (The cap on taxable earnings usually rises each year with average wages.) Employers pay a matching amount for a combined contribution of 12.4 percent of earnings (NASI, 2019).

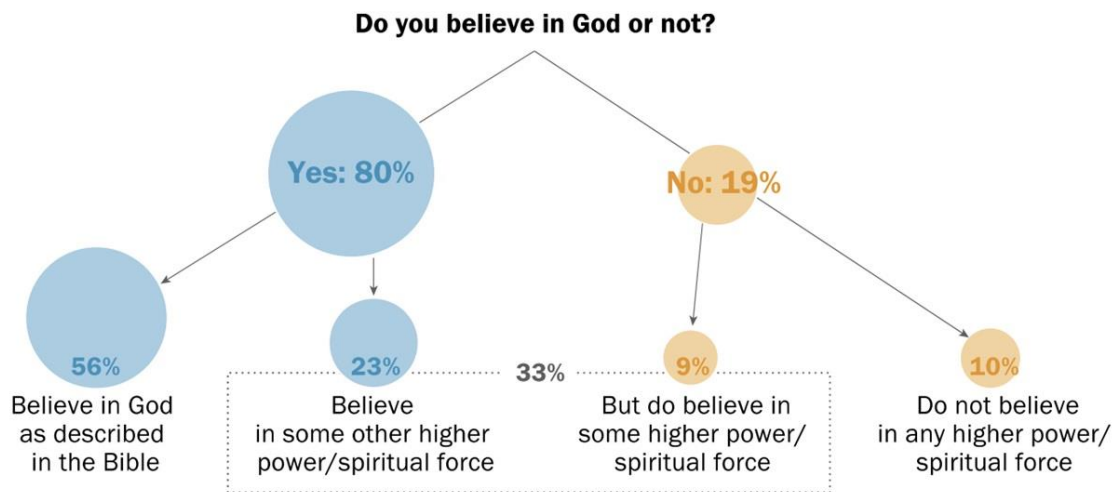
Unfortunately, those paying into the system today may never recoup the amount paid in. According to Luby (2013), “Couples now in their early 40s will have forked over \$808,000 in Social Security taxes by the time they retire, but get back only \$703,000 in benefits.” This is discouraging, especially during a time whereby, the future existence of Social Security is in question. Many problems exist with the Social Security system as is, however, two stand out and must be addressed immediately (Williams, 2018):

- 
1. **A falling worker-to-beneficiary ratio** – more people collecting versus fewer working and paying into the system.
 2. **Rising life expectancies** – people are living longer which means they can collect more benefits.

Americans simply want to know, when I am retirement age after I have paid into Social Security for years, will there be a fund of which I can draw financial benefits. Such a concern is valid and must be addressed and resolved.

Protecting Religious Freedoms

One-third of U.S. adults believe in a higher power of some kind, but not in God as described in Bible



Note: Don't know or unclear responses not shown. Figures may not add to subtotals indicated due to rounding.
Source: Survey conducted Dec. 4-18, 2017, among U.S. adults.
"When Americans Say They Believe in God, What Do They Mean?"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER


Figure 18. Belief in God. Photo Credit: Pew Research (2018).

Although a recent survey conducted by pew research shows over half of U.S. adults have a belief in the God of the Bible, religious freedoms as a whole are still under attack. Dougherty (2018) highlighted the issue as follows:

“Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious People,” John Adams wrote, “It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.”

Well, Americans stopped being a “religious People” quite a long time ago. And they are becoming progressively less attached to organized religion by the day. Consequently, the accepted meaning of the First Amendment has been changing. And the Constitution is becoming inadequate for the defense of religious people and their institutions.

Whether its people threatening to boycott Chick-fil-A because of their support for anti-LGBTQ groups or the city of San Antonio, TX not allowing the chain to operate in the city’s airport, the attack on religious freedoms is clear. Considering the last example, Del Valle (2019) noted how the San Antonio City Council decided to remove a proposed Chick-fil-A location from its airport concession agreement, because of this businesses’ “religious beliefs and moral convictions, including beliefs and convictions regarding marriage.”



Chick-fil-A is among many businesses that have been targeted due to their religious stances. America will not be the prosperous, free nation that we have come to know if such blatant attacks are allowed to continue. Greater than the attacks on businesses is the attack on Religious Freedoms taking place in the Halls of Congress. Currently, there is a push to pass what is dubbed the “Equality Act”. Currently, Title VII prohibits employers from making employment decisions based on an individual's “race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.” The *Equality Act* would replace the word “sex” with the phrase “sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity).” Here are a few problems with this Act (Burke, 2019):

1. It would penalize Americans who don’t affirm new sexual norms or gender ideology.
2. It would compel speech.
3. It could shut down charities.
4. It would allow more biological males to defeat girls in sports.
5. It could be used to coerce medical professionals.
6. It could lead to more parents losing custody of their children.

This is not an exhaustive list, but if it sounds shocking, it should. Unfortunately, these issues are already arising across the nation and will explode if such legislation is passed. We must stand with religious freedoms and for our Constitution by protecting such rights.

Part II

Proposals / Solutions


Border Security



Figure 19. A U.S. Border Patrol agent looks along the Rio Grande for people trying to enter the United States illegally. Photo Credit: Larry W. Smith / EPA/Shutterstock.

Border Security has been in the spotlight more prevalent in recent years than in the past and is one of the most pressing, volatile, topics in modern times. Such a topic is sure to stir up debates, but must be addressed soon from a congressional perspective in the greatest efforts to provide resolution. To start, we must:

- Advocate for, and increase the number of Border Agents.
- Advocate for General Schedule (G.S.) workers to operate within Customs & Border Patrol, for the purposes of processing and overseeing children / unaccompanied minors, which will free up agents to be in the field. Such G.S. workers could come from a pool of recently, honorably discharged veterans looking to transition into the civilian sector but still serve.
- Ensure funding is provided for more and better technology and equipment for our CBP Agents.
- End any form of catch and release.
- Implement harsher penalties for those entering the country illegally.
- Fight to ensure the U.S. Constitution is upheld. Article 4, Section 4 states, “The United States shall guarantee to every state in this union a republican



form of government, and shall protect each of them against invasion; and on application of the legislature, or of the executive (when the legislature cannot be convened) against domestic violence.”

- Ensure Border Patrol Agents are authorized over time which will help against high levels of attrition.
- Provide better incentives to retain Agents and increase family readiness such as better education options for children of Agents in areas of low performing schools.
- Promote legislation to navigate beyond environment issues on the border preventing Agents from being more effective in doing their jobs.
- Increase the number of immigration judges.

Too many of our lawmakers are placing walls of protection around those who enter our country illegally, but provide no walls of protection and support for our U.S. Customs and Border Patrol Agents, who are both physically and verbally attacked all too frequently. Further, they are reluctant to provide proper funding for a physical barrier our Agents say will help support their efforts to secure our border. Whether Republican or Democrat, members of both the House and Senate swore or affirmed the same oath which states *they will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; ...*. Today, it is clearly under attack.

It's time we fight to place a protective wall around our nation as a whole, the U.S. Constitution, and spirit thereof, which has served us so greatly since September 17, 1787 (Amended as needed)! Stand with freedom, stand with justice, stand with America!

Asylum



Figure 20. Asylum Process. Source: Senate RPC

With over 800,000 immigration cases pending (many asylum cases), we must review and revise our asylum laws. I would push to do the following:

1. Ensure immigrants can apply for asylum outside the United States, not just when they enter the country. And allow decisions to be made at such time.
2. Establish a cap for asylum applications just as we have for refugee admissions (with flexibility for review of special cases beyond the cap as necessary).
3. Authorize temporary work authorization for asylum applicants after 180 days in the United States.
4. Ban anyone proven to have filed a frivolous application for asylum from applying in the future, any future opportunity to become a citizen or any possible guest-worker opportunities which may become authorized in the future.
5. Immediate deportation order and a lifetime ban from entering the country if asylum seeker fails to appear in court.

Overall, we have many things that must be done to bring better security to our border, save taxpayer dollars, help those seeking refuge in the U.S. who enter properly while accounting for illegal activity. There will continually be work to be done and improvements to be made, but we must start now!

Second Amendment



Figure 21. Second Amendment. Photo Credit: Adapted from Foundation for Economic Education.

It is clear in our U.S. Constitution that Americans have a right to bear arms. Many people, however, would love to see that right taken away. We must not allow such desires to come to fruition. Most people don't realize that your chances of dying from many other things are far greater than dying due to gun violence. For example, a person in America, has a far greater chance of dying from a fall, than dying due to gun assault, and over 90 x greater than dying from a mass shooting.

Table 2

Image: Gun deaths versus other causes. Source: Skye Gould / Business Insider. Adapted from <https://www.businessinsider.com/us-gun-death-murder-risk-statistics-2018-3>

Gun violence is a leading cause of death in America

CAUSE OF DEATH	LIFETIME ODDS	CAUSE OF DEATH	LIFETIME ODDS
Heart disease	1 in 6	Airplane, boat, and spaceship incidents	1 in 2,499
Cancer	1 in 7	Assault by sharp object	1 in 2,517
Any injury	1 in 19	Any force of nature	1 in 2,586
Chronic lung disease	1 in 26	Choking on food	1 in 3,461
Any accident	1 in 28	Bicycling	1 in 4,030
Stroke	1 in 29	Police/law enforcement	1 in 7,703
Alzheimer's disease	1 in 37	Accidental gunshot	1 in 8,349
Diabetes	1 in 51	Mass shooting	1 in 11,125
Influenza and pneumonia	1 in 72	Electricity/radiation/heat/pressure	1 in 15,210
Drugs	1 in 72	Heat wave	1 in 16,581
Kidney disease	1 in 82	Sharp objects	1 in 32,403
Poisoning (accidental, including drug overdoses)	1 in 86	Venemous animal or plant	1 in 44,459
Suicide	1 in 92	Foreign-born terrorist	1 in 45,785
Any motor vehicle incident	1 in 108	Tornado	1 in 60,000
Falling	1 in 122	Stinging by hornets, wasps, and bees	1 in 63,215
Alcohol	1 in 123	Cataclysmic storm	1 in 66,324
Murder	1 in 229	Asteroid strike (global impact)	1 in 75,000
Assault by gun	1 in 315	Bus, train, or streetcar	1 in 101,144
Riding inside a car, van, or truck	1 in 491	Dog attack	1 in 112,382
Suffocation	1 in 591	Legal execution	1 in 118,993
Pedestrian	1 in 611	Earthquake	1 in 130,000
Motorcycle	1 in 921	Lightning	1 in 161,831
Drowning	1 in 1,133	Asteroid strike (regional impact)	1 in 1,600,000
Fire or smoke	1 in 1,579	Shark attack	1 in 8,000,000

Note: Most odds based on 2015 death, population, and life expectancy data. Gun deaths were counted as mass shootings when four or more victims were shot. Terrorism odds based on 41-year average (1975-2015).

Sources: National Safety Council; National Center for Health Statistics; Alex Nowrasteh/Cato Institute; Stephen A. Nelson/Tulane University; "Natural Disasters"/Patrick L. Abbott; Gun Violence Archive

BUSINESS INSIDER

As a strong advocate for gun rights and our Second Amendment as a whole, the following suggestions are foundational to legislation I would support and/or promote:

- Allow concealed license carriers to bear arms in schools, movie theatres, etc.
- Promote awareness and sharing. “Be Aware and Ready to Share!” information to stop gun violence. For Example, it’s documented that 75% of lone wolves tell another person, usually a friend or family member, about their intentions or even post their plans on social media (Connor & Flynn, 2018).

- 
- Understand death statistics from guns vs. other methods.

Although many reject the discussion of mental illness as associated with gun deaths in an effort to steer towards gun control, the fact remains that about two-thirds of gun deaths are due to suicide. As such, those deaths highlight the potential of mental illness being associated with such deaths. It is time to exercise forward-thinking and designate 1% of the annual federal tax dollars collected for firearm sales (\$123,000,000), which would be \$6,150,000 to mental health professionals' educational scholarships, fund public and private mental health opportunities for those under or uninsured, marketing, etc. to share opportunities for treatment of mental illness. The education factor will hopefully encourage people to enter the field and commit time in public sector offering services as the funds may also be earmarked to pay off student loans of those opting to work in the mental health public sector.

Pro-Life



Figure 22. Pro-Life Advocates. Photo Credit: Maria Oswald. Source: Unsplash

Many people argue that a woman has a right to do what she chooses with her own body and that is true. However, that should not include destroying another innocent body of an unborn baby by way of abortion. I will focus on passing pro-life legislation that will protect the unborn from the moment of conception; legislation such as:

- Life at Conception Act which would in essence dismantle the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* ruling that favors abortion. It will also provide protection for the unborn under the 14th Amendment.
- Parental Intervention Laws requiring minors to inform parents before any abortions are performed.
- End taxpayer funded abortions.
- Support a human life amendment to the Constitution and fight for legislation to make clear that the Fourteenth Amendment's protections apply to unborn children as well.
- Legislation ensuring no non-consensual withholding or withdrawal of care or treatment for babies born alive.

I believe that the most innocent among us are the unborn and they are also the most vulnerable as they have no voice to be heard. I will be a strong legislative voice, speaking for those who cannot speak for themselves and fight to protect the lives of the unborn!

Small Businesses



Small Business

ideas....

Figure 23. Small Businesses. Source: We Search On

Small businesses are the heartbeat of America and must be treated that way. We must:

1. Increase federal contracting dollars to small businesses
2. Decrease and control excessive federal regulation and taxation affecting small businesses.
3. Promote and establish favorable and stable regulations for small businesses, which can translate into increased employment.

Overall, problems created and identified by the federal government, which hinders the progress of small businesses must be rectified.

Energy (Oil/Gas)

Map of United States Oil and Gas Wells, 2017

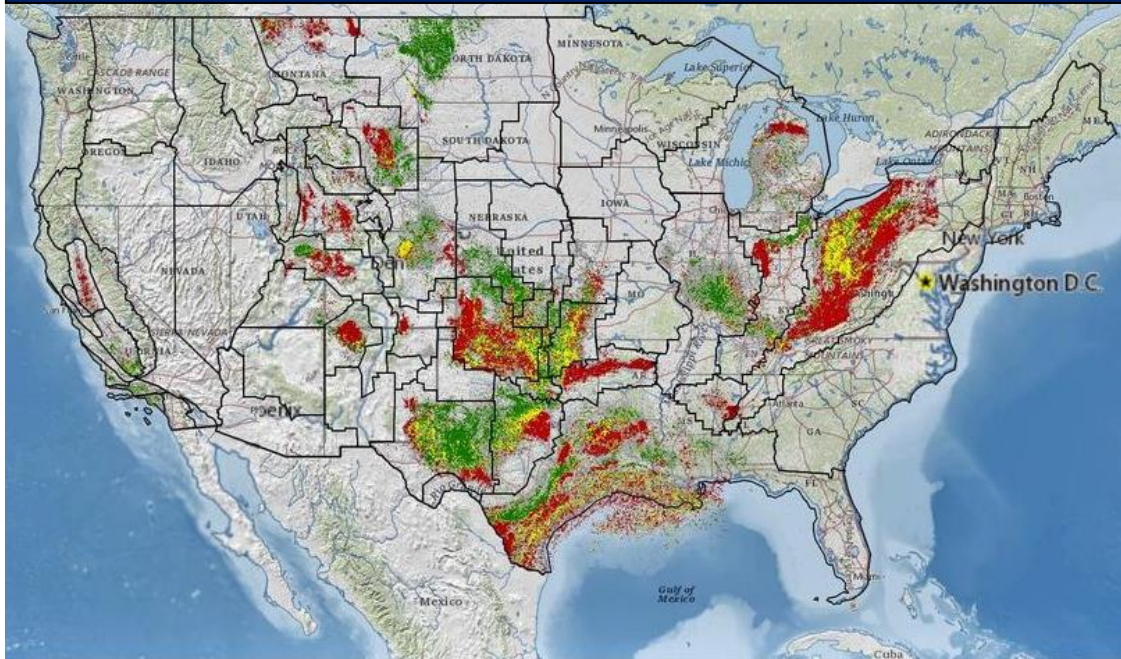



Figure 24. USGS Map. Photo Credit: Christopher Skinner. Source: USGS

We must not allow cumbersome regulations to thwart progress, production, and prosperity of our nation for fear of pollution. We must ensure that our gas transmission and gathering pipelines are updated from the antiquated pre-1970's apparatuses we currently have in many places.

Our regulators act as if energy is primarily a source of pollution, not jobs or prosperity. They try to keep our resources in the ground, needlessly delaying projects for years and letting our energy infrastructure grow old. Most of our gas transmission and gathering pipelines predate 1970. It doesn't have to be all-or-nothing. There is a better way. We can and should strike a balance between economic growth and environmental stewardship. Efforts to reduce pollution should achieve real benefits for the environment and be compatible with real benefits for our economy.

- Ensure favorable legislation which will allow the U.S. to expand the pathway to Energy Independence by continuing to tap into oil and natural gas reserves that are plentiful in the U.S.
- Ensure we are maximizing the use of on and offshore reserves that may be used to power the country and promote job creation & economic growth.
- Ensure states get a reasonable share of the royalties and revenue resulting from the use of oil and natural gas resources within its borders.

- 
- Fight for reasoned approaches to all offshore energy development.
 - Ensure we provide tax incentives for production.
 - Ensure we avoid and update legislation which delays projects for years while our infrastructure becomes outdated.

Ultimately, we must work with environmental organizations and promote efforts to reduce pollution in the environment while striving to access the vast resources which will benefit our economy and our energy independence.


Protecting Veterans



Figure 25. Honoring Veterans. Adapted from Source: AARP

Although there is lots of work to be done in order to overhaul and fix the V.A. Healthcare System. The following are a few things that must be done immediately:

1. **Fill Vacancies** – fill vacancies in key high-level positions in addition to the more than 30,000 clinical staff openings. At the top, this will relieve the V.A. Secretary of extended duties which should be delegated and ensure at the most direct level contact with veterans, the organization is fully staffed. The latter will contribute to better service and a less stressful environment.
2. **Target Veteran Suicide** - Prioritize filling the thousands of unfilled positions for doctors, nurses, mental health therapists, and any others on the front lines of helping lower the high rate of veteran suicides.
3. **Update Medical Records System** - VA's medical record-keeping system is antiquated which leads to greater potential for errors, whereby the veterans may pay the cost, even with their lives.
4. **Ensure Mission Act 2018 Is Fully Enacted** – The Veteran Community Care program allows certain Veterans to have more choices with respect to their healthcare and also allows for urgent care outside of the VA Healthcare system.
5. **Ensure the expedient release of ineffective leaders** - those in leadership that prove to be inefficient and ineffective in carrying out their jobs.



6. **Ensure protection of Veterans Disability** – we must ensure veterans’ disability benefits are protected now and in the future.

Overall, there must be a Veteran Focus – Veteran First mentality established with proper oversight of those not meeting the standards set for caring for our Veterans. This has to be coupled with the right of expeditious removal as needed to ensure proper accountability.

Healthcare

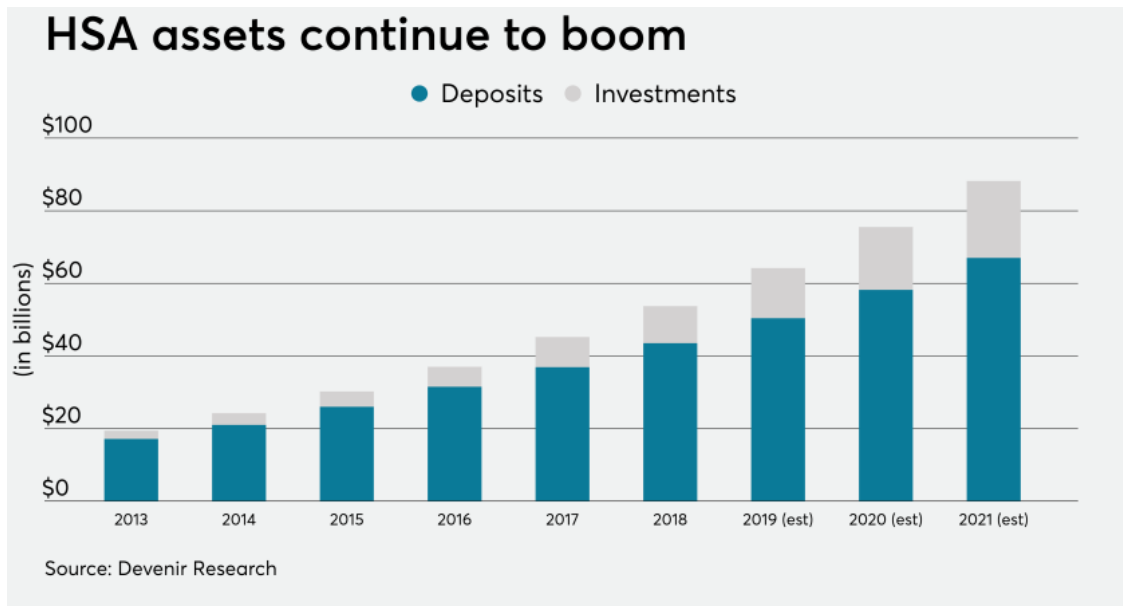



Figure 26. Health Savings Accounts. Photo Credit: EBN Source: Benefit News

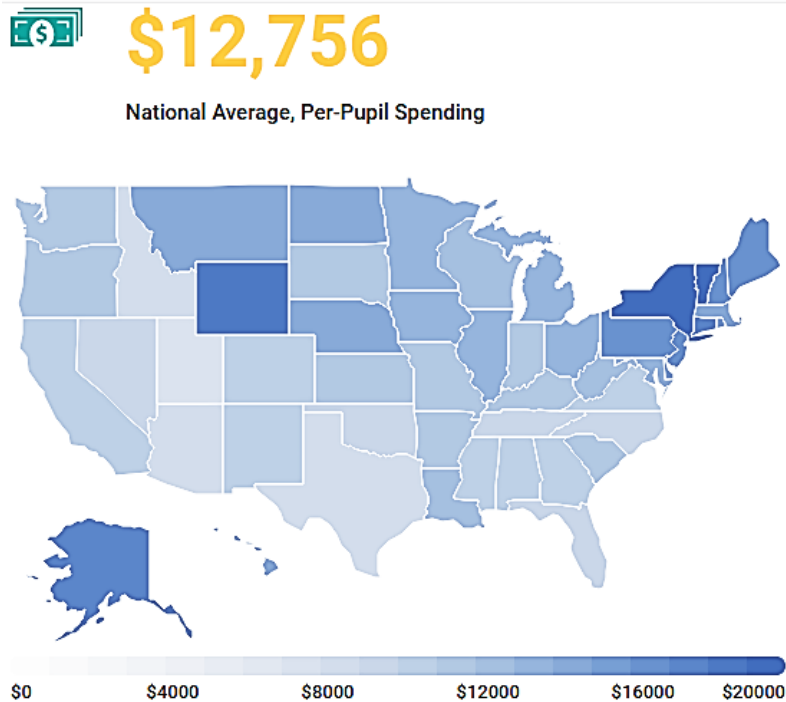
The healthcare issues and concerns of Americans will likely continue to deteriorate unless drastic measures and changes take place soon. Government-sponsored healthcare is not the answer, however, we must provide an avenue for Texans and Americans to be able to afford reasonable healthcare, now and for years to come. The following are a few things that can be done to help our ailing healthcare system:

- We must strip away anti-trust exemption that allows monopolies (with AMA price-fixing and Insurance Companies). Insurance companies are already profiting from taxpayer dollars in the area of 15 billion dollars per year.
- Allow insurance companies to cross state lines.
- Allow employers the opportunity to opt-out of ACA (Obamacare). We must have an immediate repeal of the employer mandates which requires most Americans to purchase government-controlled health insurance.
 - May reverse trends with reductions of full-time employees being hired.
 - May encourage economic growth in general.
- Allow seniors to opt-out of Medicare and ensure the protection of other benefits earned through years of working.
 - Protect seniors who disenroll from Medicare from automatically losing their Social Security benefits and from any requirements to pay back any benefits they've received in the past.
 - May allow options and other access to care.

- 
- May allow more options as far as doctors are concerned as many refuse to take Medicare patients because of inefficient government reimbursements.
 - Ensure Americans can have Tax Deductible Healthcare Savings Plans or Health Reimbursement Arrangements
 - Increase the amount of individuals and employers can contribute.
 - Allow HSA's for seniors on Medicare.
 - Allow greater flexibility for items that can be purchased from HSA such as vitamins, supplements, and even over the counter drugs that may help keep the individual healthy and avoid doctor's visits.
 - Encourage more HSA (Health Savings Accounts) and Health Reimbursement Arrangements (HRA) or (Health Reimbursement Accounts) and allow greater flexibilities with yearly rollovers.
 - Allow individuals to join groups to combat high costs.

Americans are living longer, yet obtaining and keeping healthcare at a reasonable price is getting tougher. This is yet another area, which tough decisions, which may reside outside of the norm, must be made, to ensure the viability of our future healthcare options as a nation.

Education




SOURCE: Education Week Research Center, 2019

Figure 27. How much spent per pupil. Photo Credit: Education Week Research Center

America is currently lagging behind other nations with education rankings and public schools suffering as a whole. We must make adjustments while we can to change the direction for our education systems before a collapse. There has to be a renewed and consistent focus on giving states and school districts back the control needed to do what is best for their students. Further, we must:

- Support legislation which gets Washington out of the classroom and return the responsibility of educating the children back into the hands of the experts.
- Promote school choice as a viable option.
- Fight to ensure the average \$12,000+ per student is able to follow them where they go:
 - Charter
 - Online
 - Traditional
 - Or Trade School
- Increase graduation rates by challenging how students are educated.
- Higher Education Reform

- 
- Allow Pell Grants to be used year-round, which can allow many students to be able to accelerate their coursework. This will contribute towards them completing their program sooner and at a lower cost which helps with lowering student loan debt as well.
 - Eliminate burdensome higher education regulations which may increase compliance costs on institutions and be passed on to the students.
 - Temporarily suspend interest rates on the \$1.3 Trillion in outstanding student loan debt, for certain categories of people, with a structured timeline, to encourage quicker repayment for some and bring others out of default.

Collectively, there is much to be done for both primary, secondary, and higher education in America. We must be creative and aggressive in bringing about needed changes so that we remain competitive with other nations and soon be the leader in education once again.

Infrastructure



Figure 28. America's Infrastructure. Photo Credit: Matt Barnes. Source: Star News

To a certain extent, America is crumbling with respect to infrastructure. From outdated bridges and highways to antiquated airports, failing dams and inadequate waterways, etc., our nation is in dire need of repairs, upgrades, and upkeep of its infrastructure. Although there are many things that can be done to address these deficiencies, a few that we may start with is as follows:

1. **Partnerships** - Form public-private partnerships – not only private investment in public capital but also public investment in private technology. The Government should invest in private organizations that research and develop improvements in all areas related to transportation.
2. **Deregulations** – we must streamline the regulatory review process. In 2011, the average time to secure approvals for a major infrastructure project in the US was between six and eight years. Therefore federal government must ease the onerous burden of regulatory approval.
3. **Invest now** – we must view our infrastructure from a perspective of invest now and reap the benefits later or don't invest now and pay the cost later. Ultimately we must improve all aspects of its infrastructure in order to maintain economic prosperity.

Overall we must promote Infrastructure-driven development and fight for resources that are systematically directed towards long term resources such as



transportation, energy, and social infrastructure which includes our schools, universities, hospitals, training facilities, etc. Such resources can contribute to economic growth, technological advancements, better transportation networks, power grids, and much more.

Farming/Ranching

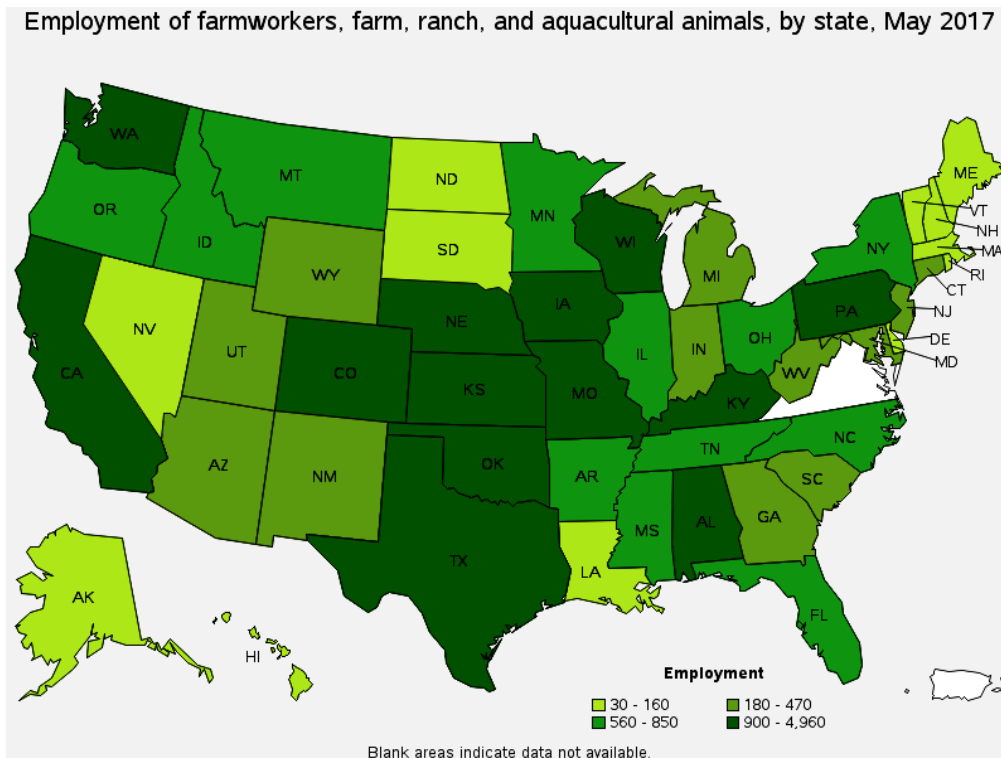


Figure 29. States with the highest employment level in this occupation.
Photo Credit: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

American farmers and ranchers must continually be supported as they are foundational to who we are as a nation and one of the greatest sources of our future viability. They are producing food that keeps America going. In order to provide immediate and long term support, we must:

- a. From a Congressional perspective, pass the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA).
- b. Fight against regulatory overreach of Congress and work to reform the federal regulatory process while preserving the farmers' and ranchers' land-use and water rights.
- c. Ensure The Administrative Procedure Act, which governs how regulations are set forth, is updated from its 1946 version.
- d. Strive to create a new guest worker program that can address shortages in agriculture workers amongst the American workforce.

“The food and agriculture industry supports more than 21 million U.S. jobs (that’s 11 percent of U.S. jobs), and contributed \$1.05 trillion to U.S. gross domestic product in 2016 (AFBF, 2019).” Ultimately, when the farmers and ranchers are doing well, Americans do well, as those workers provide food security and jobs as well.

Social Security



Figure 30. Social Security. Photo Credit: Kameleon007, Getty Images/iStockphoto.

Guaranteeing Social Security benefits for future generations will require several actions, many of which are tough but necessary such as follows:

- Increase the number of workers per retiree by continuing legislation favorable toward job creations.
- Help workers with disabilities remain employed so as to lower the withdrawals from the Disability sector of Social Security.
- Ensure that we curb illegal workers, many of whom are not paying into the Social Security System money that would increase funds for this benefit.
- Gradually raise the age for Social Security beneficiaries for those that will be at least 10 years from eligibility to receive benefits.

The *Social Security Act* was signed into law by President Roosevelt on August 14, 1935, whereby at 65 years of age a person could begin to draw this benefit. We must keep in mind that in the 1930s the life expectancy was only 58 for men and 62 for women, and the retirement age was 65 which meant that most people that could draw Social Security, would only do so for a limited time. However, today it is about 76 for a man and about 81 for a woman. So that has changed but the age for drawing benefits hasn't. Therefore, if we gradually raise the age for Social Security beneficiaries for those that will be at least 10 years from eligibility to receive benefits, this also help to ensure benefits for the future.

Protecting Religious Freedoms



Among the constitutional freedoms listed by the founding fathers in the First Amendment, the restriction upon the government from interfering with religious expression comes first. The government may not limit this expression directly through regulation, indirectly through taxation or other power of government, nor may it use its spending power to promote or discourage any religion.

People of faith should be allowed to practice their faith freely as their holy books prescribe as long as it does not become a threat to the safety and welfare of our citizens. George Washington noted in his farewell address, “Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports...” This is something we must never forget if we desire to go on being the great nation we are. Taking a stance in Congress to protect these freedoms is paramount and the following must be done:

- Stand against legislation like H.R. 5, or the “Equality Act”.
- Stand for and support legislation favorable to our allies Israel.
- Promote legislation which will further protect individuals, business owners, health care providers, and government workers from threats being sued for their sincerely held religious beliefs on marriage, human sexuality, etc. which aligns with their faith practices.

Ultimately, our laws must provide continued and specific protection for people of faith and now promote laws that will limit or restrict the practice thereof. As Thomas Jefferson noted, “All tyranny needs to gain a foothold is for people of good conscience to remain silent.” When in Washington, I will not remain silent, instead I will be a strong, consistent voice, speaking and acting to protect Religious Freedoms!



Conclusion

In conclusion, I have shared both problems which if not addressed will continue to move Texas and America as a whole in the wrong direction. Such a digression will inevitably have a negative effect on society that is visible now but will be much greater in the years to come. If we do nothing to address the problems listed, we are sure to have an American far worse than the one we have been able to enjoy for decades. Future generation will only be able to read about the greatness of today, which will surely be history for tomorrow and possibly never seen again.


Solutions have been made, which if adopted and transitioned to legislation, will have a great positive impact on the state of Texas and our nation as a whole. Some of the suggestions may be aggressive, but necessary if we are going to have a great America for our children, their children, and generations to come. It will take forward-thinking such as has been shared in this paper to ensure we push the limits of mediocrity, in order to get us back on the fields of excellence in all areas discussed. With the proper resources and support, Washington and this nation are sure to gain a Congressman from the people, for the people, who will listen to the people, and work diligently on behalf of the people.

Signed,

Tim Westley, Ph.D.

References

- Amadeo, K. (2019). What's Wrong With Obamacare. Retrieved August 24, 2019 from <https://www.thebalance.com/what-is-wrong-with-obamacare-3306076>
- American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF). (2019). 2018 Farm Bill. Retrieved August 29, 2019 from <https://www.fb.org/issues/farm-policy/the-2018-farm-bill/>
- American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF). (2019). U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). Retrieved August 29, 2019 from <https://www.fb.org/files/Trade-USMC.pdf>
- America's Infrastructure. Photo Credit: Matt Barnes. Adapted from the Star News <https://prospect.org/article/great-american-infrastructure-farce>
- Asylum Denial Rates 2000-2017. Adapted from Source: <http://trac.syr.edu/immigration/reports/491/>
- Asylum Process. Adapted from Source: <https://www.rpc.senate.gov/policy-papers/asylum-current-law-and-proposed-changes>
- Belief in God. Photo Credit: Pew Research (2018). Adapted from <https://www.christianitytoday.com/news/2018/april/we-believe-in-god-what-americans-mean-pew-survey.html>
- Burke, M. (2019). 7 Reasons Why the Equality Act Is Anything But. Retrieved August 30, 2019 from <https://www.dailysignal.com/2019/03/14/7-reasons-why-the-equality-act-is-anything-but/>
- CBP, (2018). *Claims of Credible Fear Increase in Fiscal Year 2018*. Customs and Border Patrol Southwestern Border Migration Data and Statistics. Retrieved,



August 23, 2019 from <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/national-media-release/claims-credible-fear-increase-fiscal-year-2018>

CBP, (2019). Customs and Border Patrol Southwestern Border Migration Data and Statistics. Retrieved, August 22, 2019 from <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/sw-border-migration>


CDC, (2019). CDCs Abortion Surveillance System FAQs. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Retrieved August 20, 2019 from https://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/data_stats/abortion.htm

Cohen, A. (2018). America's Oil And Gas Reserves Double With Massive New Permian Discovery. Retrieved August 21, 2019 from <https://www.forbes.com/sites/arielcohen/2018/12/21/americas-oil-and-gas-reserves-double-with-massive-new-permian-discovery/#1edbcc92c91e>

Connor, J.C. & Flynn, C.R. (2018). What To Do About Lone Wolf Terrorism? Examining Current Trends and Prevention Strategies. The Foreign Policy Research Institute. Retrieved on July 29, 2019 from <https://www.fpri.org/article/2018/11/what-to-do-about-lone-wolf-terrorism-examining-current-trends-and-prevention-strategies/>

Cost of illegal immigration to tax payers at federal and local level. Adapted from the Federation For American Immigration Reform. <https://www.fairus.org/issue/publications-resources/fiscal-burden-illegal-immigration-united-states-taxpayers>

D-Day veterans listen during the Utah Beach Memorial Ceremony in Normandy, France on June 4, 2016. Photo Credit: Photo by U.S. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class



Sean Spratt. Adapted from <https://www.calhealthreport.org/2017/06/15/aging-veterans-reluctant-apply-aid-help-stay-homes/>

Desilver, D. (2017). U.S. students' academic achievement still lags that of their peers in many other countries. Retrieved August 23, 2019 from <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/02/15/u-s-students-internationally-math-science/>

Del Valle, G. (2019). Chick-fil-A's many controversies, explained. Retrieved August 30, 2019 from <https://www.vox.com/the-goods/2019/5/29/18644354/chick-fil-a-anti-gay-donations-homophobia-dan-cathy>

Dougherty, M.R. (2019). The Coming Test Acts Will Challenge Religious Freedom. Retrieved August 30, 2019 from <https://www.nationalreview.com/2019/01/test-acts-will-challenge-religious-freedom/>


Earl, J. (2019). Asylum requests overwhelm US immigration system: A look at the numbers. Fox News. Retrieved August 17, 2019 from <https://www.foxnews.com/us/immigration-system-overwhelmed-asylum-requests-look-at-numbers>

How much spent per pupil. Photo Credit: Education Week Research Center. Adapted from Source: <https://www.edweek.org/ew/issues/education-statistics/index.html>

Finer, L.B., Frohwirth, L.F., Dauphinee, L.A., Singhand, S. & Moore, A.M. (2004). Reasons U.S. Women Have Abortions: Quantitative and Qualitative Perspectives. Retrieved August 19, 2019 from <https://www.guttmacher.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/pubs/psrh/full/3711005.pdf>

Ferguson, C. (2018). 5 Issues with America's Infrastructure. Committee for Economic Development. Retrieved on August 20, 2019 from <https://www.ced.org/blog/entry/five-issues-with-americas-infrastructure-problem>

Fleury, A. (2016). Fleeing to Mexico for Safety: The Perilous Journey for Migrant Women. Retrieved August 21, 2019 from



<https://unu.edu/publications/articles/fleeing-to-mexico-for-safety-the-perilous-journey-for-migrant-women.html>

GAO. (2019). Managing Risks and Improving VA Health Care. Retrieved August 23, 2019 from

https://www.gao.gov/key_issues/managing_risks_improving_va_health_care/issue_summary

Healthcare. Photo Credits: Hush Naidoo. Adapted from

https://unsplash.com/photos/ZCO_5Y29s8k

Health Savings Accounts. Photo Credit: EBN Adapted from Source:

<https://www.benefitnews.com/news/hsa-assets-surpass-60-billion-growth-expected-to-continue>

Honoring Veterans. Adapted from Source: <https://states.aarp.org/georgia/columbus-area-veterans-and-military-families-this-workshop-might-be-for-you>

Lee, M.Y.H. (2015). The missing context behind the widely cited statistic that there are 22 veteran suicides a day. Retrieved August 23, 2019 from

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/fact-checker/wp/2015/02/04/the-missing-context-behind-a-widely-cited-statistic-that-there-are-22-veteran-suicides-a-day/>

Luhby, T. (2013). Social Security: Many pay more in taxes than they'll get back.

CNN Business. Retrieved August 19, 2019 from

<https://money.cnn.com/2013/04/14/news/economy/social-security-benefits/index.html>

Moore, S. (2018). 8 Reasons To Still Hate Obamacare. Retrieved August 20, 2019 from <https://www.heritage.org/health-care-reform/commentary/8-reasons-still-hate-obamacare>

National Academy of Social Insurance (NASI). (2019). Who Pays for Social Security.

Retrieved August 20, 2019 from <https://www.nasi.org/learn/socialsecurity/who->



pays

NFIB. (2017). NFIB Research: The Top 10 Small Business Issues. Retrieved August 26, 2019 from <https://www.nfib.com/content/playbook/economy/nfib-research-the-top-10-problems-facing-small-business/>

O'brien, M, & Raley, S. (2017). The Fiscal Burden of Illegal Immigration on United States Taxpayers. Federation For American Immigration Reform. Retrieve August 21, 2019 from <https://www.fairus.org/issue/publications-resources/fiscal-burden-illegal-immigration-united-states-taxpayers>

Oil & Gas Revolution. Photo Credit: Intertek. Adapted from <http://www.intertek.com/themes/shale/>

Pro-Life Advocates. Photo Credit: Maria Oswalt. Adapted from https://unsplash.com/photos/g5ZI__7MwMw


Pro-Life – Pro-Choice Debate. Photo Credit: WVTM13. Adapted from <https://www.wvtm13.com/article/ban-on-nearly-all-abortions-in-alabama-now-in-gov-iveys-hands/27481205>

Ranchers and Farmers. Photo Credits: Noah Buscher. Retrieved from <https://unsplash.com/photos/G0m9kKvkkB8>

Randolph, L. (2019). Was The USA Ever No. 1 In Education? Retrieved August 25, 2019 from <https://www.historynet.com/was-the-usa-ever-no-1-in-education.htm>

Second Amendment. Photo Credit: Adapted from Foundation for Economic Education. <https://fee.org/articles/firearms-technology-and-the-original-meaning-of-the-second-amendment/>

Second Amendment. Photo Credit: Stephanie Frey/Dreamstime. Adapted from



National Review <https://www.nationalreview.com/2015/06/second-amendment-not-responsible-easy-gun-access/>

Small Business. Photo Credit: Joshua Rodriguez. Retrieved from

<https://unsplash.com/photos/f7zm5TDOi4g>

Small Businesses. Adapted from *We Search On*

<https://wesearchon.com/how-to-find-the-right-small-business-ideas/>

Social Security. Photo Credit: iStock. Adapted from

<https://www.kiplinger.com/article/retirement/T051-C032-S014-why-you-should-delay-social-security-benefits.html>

States with the highest employment level in this occupation. Photo Credit: Bureau of

Labor Statistics. Adapted from

<https://www.bls.gov/oes/2017/may/oes452093.htm>

Tacopino, J. (2019). Homeland Security chief says 90% of asylum seekers miss court dates. Retrieved on August 20, 2019 from

<https://nypost.com/2019/06/11/homeland-security-chief-says-90-of-asylum-seekers-miss-court-dates/>

The Wilderness Society (TWS). (2019). 7 ways oil and gas drilling is bad for the environment. Retrieved August 29, 2019 from

<https://www.wilderness.org/articles/blog/7-ways-oil-and-gas-drilling-bad-environment>

Turner, C. (2018). Why More Than A Million Teachers Can't Use Social Security.

Retrieved August 15, 2019 from

<https://www.npr.org/sections/ed/2018/04/20/602846417/why-more-than-a-million-teachers-cant-use-social-security>

United States Gun Deaths. Photo Credit: Daniel Nass. Adapted from The

Trace <https://www.thetrace.org/rounds/gun-deaths-increase-2017/>



U.S. Education Challenges. Photo Credits: Adam Vagley. Adapted from

<https://www.iamexpat.nl/expat-info/dutch-expat-news/guide-moving-abroad-education>

U.S. Infrastructure Issues. Photo Credits: Industry Week. Adapted from

<https://www.industryweek.com/economy/infrastructure-crumbles-so-does-us-manufacturing>

U.S. International Standings. Source: Pew Research. Adapted from

<https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/02/15/u-s-students-internationally-math-science/>

U.S. Military struggling to stop suicide epidemic among war veterans. Adapted from

Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/feb/01/us-military-suicide-epidemic-veteran>

USGS Map. Photo Credit: Christopher Skinner. Adapted from

<https://www.usgs.gov/media/images/map-united-states-oil-and-gas-wells-2017>

Wagner, D. (2017). Border ranchers, in a world without a wall. USA Today.

Retrieved August 21, 2019 from <https://www.usatoday.com/border-wall/story/us-ranchers-deal-with-migrants-border-crossers-mexico/559702001/>

Wharton PPI. (2017). America's Infrastructure Problem And How To Fix It.

Retrieved August 19, 2019 from

<https://publicpolicy.wharton.upenn.edu/live/news/2084-americas-infrastructure-problem-and-how-to-fix-it/for-students/blog/news.php>

Williams, S. (2018). The 4 Biggest Problems Facing Social Security. The Motley Fool.

Retrieved August 20, 2019 from <https://www.fool.com/retirement/2016/08/27/the-4-biggest-problems-facing-social-security.aspx>



Author's Biography

This White Paper written by:

Tim Westley, Ph.D.

Dr. Tim Westley is a veteran of the U.S. Army, author of four books, and a graduate of Wayland Baptist University whereby he obtained a B.S. in Religion and a Masters of Christian Ministry. He has also earned his Ph.D. in Educational Leadership from Trident University International.

Dr. Westley pastored Shepherd's Vineyard Christain Church for over 12 years and is currently still active as a minister of the gospel. He is also a former public school teacher at both the Elementary and Middle school levels. At the college/university level, he is a former *Area Chair*, whereby he has trained Instructors and is a current *Instructor* with the University of Phoenix (San Antonio, TX) whereby he teaches various courses, to include *Critical Thinking*.

Further, as an Adult Educator, he has taught countless people in a Fortune 500 company to speak English. In addition, he has traveled thousands of miles, in the past, as a Professional Speaker, impacting the lives of thousands of high school students and education professionals, preparing students for college, careers, & success. Currently, he is the Coordinator of Student Success with San Antonio College whereby he teaches students about Financial Literacy and helps them to graduate with little to no educational debt.

Lastly, Dr. Westley is a candidate for the U.S. Congress, seeking to represent the people of U.S. Congressional District 15, TX.



Copyright

This White Paper contains a variety of copyright material. Some of this is the intellectual property of the author. Some material is owned by others which are shown through attribution and referencing. Some material is in the public domain. Except for material which is unambiguously and unarguably in the public domain, only material owned Dr. Tim Westley as so indicated, may be copied, provided that textual and graphical content are not altered and the source is acknowledged. Dr. Tim Westley reserves the right to revoke that permission at any time. Permission is not given for any commercial use or sale of the material.

Disclaimer

While Dr. Tim Westley has attempted to ensure the information in this White Paper is as accurate as possible, the information is for political and educational use only and is provided in good faith without any express or implied warranty. There is no guarantee given to the accuracy or currency of information contained in this White Paper. Dr. Tim Westley does not accept responsibility for any loss or damage occasioned by use of the information contained in this White Paper.