

# Policy Options: Border Security

Proposals to tighten border security include:

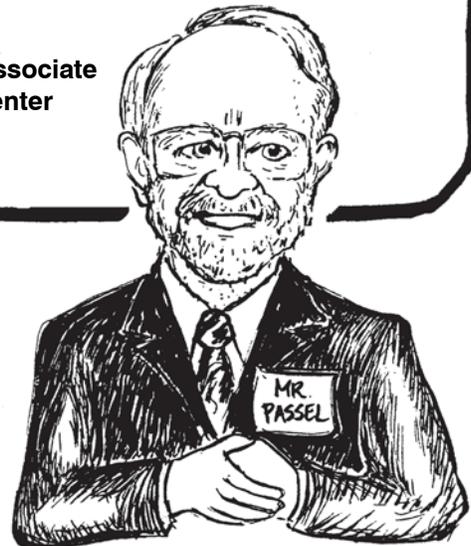
- ◆ building 300-700 miles of “triple fence” along the U.S.–Mexican border,
- ◆ sending National Guard troops to help patrol it,
- ◆ hiring more Border Patrol agents, and
- ◆ using technology like unmanned vehicles and sensors to identify border crossers returning all those caught at the border to their home country without giving them a chance to have a judge hear their case.

## Discussion Questions:

1. What does a “secure” border mean to you?
2. Who do you think will be secure because of increased border security? Who might be less secure?
3. Do you think that walls will stop people from coming to the U.S.? Why or why not?
4. Who benefits from a wall being built on the U.S.–Mexican border?
5. Why do you think there are no proposals to build a wall on the Canadian border?

The [increased border] security has done more to keep people from going back to Mexico than it has to keep them from coming in.

**Jeffrey Passel,**  
Senior Research Associate  
at Pew Hispanic Center

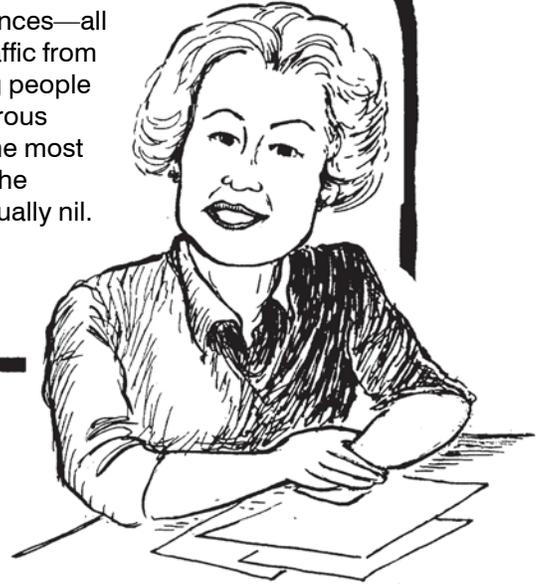


**For additional questions that help you think through different opinions, see *Questioning Immigration Proposals* on page 14.**

**Editor’s note:** *The term “illegal” as it refers to those who cross the border without documents is widely used in the current public debate. The editorial board for this issue opposes using this term to refer to human beings and feels it is important to question its widely accepted use. Please see the article on page 31 about word choices. Terms used in the following excerpts reflect the authors’ original word choice.*

Construction of more and more fences—all it is going to achieve is shifting traffic from one place to another and pushing people into ever more remote and dangerous places—not just the desert, but the most remote parts of the desert where the possibility of being rescued is virtually nil.

**Claudia Smith,  
Migrant Workers' Advocate**



Our country needs security at our borders in order to slow the flow of illegal immigration and make America safer from foreign criminals and terrorists.

**Senator Bill Frist,  
(R-TN)**



Migrants say as long as desperation and poverty exist in Mexico and Central America, no amount of fences will stem the human tide of illegal immigration.

**Jeffrey Kaye,  
News Correspondent**

