Forensics Team (Fall 2024) - Crossfires

Topic: US government should substantially expand its surveillance infrastructure along its southern border.

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CROSSFIRE SAMPLES FOR INCREASING US BORDER SURVEILLANCE

AT: LACKING EFFECTIVENESS (CON)

WHEN YOU CONSIDER... Surveillance systems are only effective a small percentage of the time because cameras can cover only about 10% of the border and are often hindered by bad weather or poor image quality,

DON'T YOU THINK... Increasing US border surveillance will waste billions of dollars because it fails to effectively prevent unauthorized border crossings?

Technological Advancements

WE DISAGREE! OUR RESEARCH SAYS... Advanced border surveillance technology has made significant progress in recent years because new systems can detect unauthorized crossings more effectively, even in challenging weather conditions. SO, wouldn't you have to agree that... Increasing US border surveillance will actually help secure millions of Americans because these improved systems provide more reliable and comprehensive border protection?

Deterrent Effect

WE DISAGREE! OUR RESEARCH SAYS... The presence of visible surveillance technology serves as a strong deterrent because potential border crossers are less likely to attempt illegal entry when they know they're being watched. SO, don't you think... Increasing US border surveillance will help reduce illegal crossings for hundreds of thousands of potential migrants because it discourages them from even attempting to cross illegally?

Complementary Measures

WE DISAGREE! OUR RESEARCH SAYS... Border surveillance is most effective when used in conjunction with other security measures because it provides crucial intelligence for border patrol agents to respond quickly and effectively. SO, wouldn't you have to agree that... Increasing US border surveillance will enhance overall border security for millions of Americans because it complements and improves the efficiency of other border protection strategies?

AT: WASTING RESOURCES (CON)

WHEN YOU CONSIDER... Border surveillance technology is tremendously expensive because it includes not only the initial cost but also ongoing maintenance, updates, and training, totaling tens of billions of dollars over time,

DON'T YOU THINK... Increasing US border surveillance will harm millions of Americans because it diverts valuable resources from essential services like education, healthcare, and infrastructure?

Long-term Cost Savings

WE DISAGREE! OUR RESEARCH SAYS... Enhanced border surveillance helps to catch potential threats before they can enter the country because it provides early detection and response capabilities. SO, wouldn't you have to agree that... Increasing US border surveillance will actually save billions of dollars in the long run because it prevents costly security incidents and reduces the need for more expensive interventions later?

Economic Protection

WE DISAGREE! OUR RESEARCH SAYS... Illegal immigration can put a heavy financial burden on social services and contribute to job loss for American workers because it increases competition for jobs and strains resources like healthcare and education. SO, don't you think... Increasing US border surveillance will help protect millions of American workers and taxpayers because it reduces these economic burdens by preventing illegal entry?

AT: WASTING RESOURCES (CON): CONTINUED…

Efficiency Improvements

WE DISAGREE! OUR RESEARCH SAYS... Modern surveillance technology can significantly reduce the need for human personnel in certain areas because it can monitor vast stretches of border continuously without fatigue. SO, wouldn't you have to agree that... Increasing US border surveillance will actually optimize resource allocation because it allows for more efficient use of border patrol agents and reduces long-term staffing costs?

AT: VIOLATING PRIVACY (CON)

WHEN YOU CONSIDER... Border surveillance technology can gather personal information from people without their consent because it tracks location, intercepts communications, and uses facial recognition on both citizens and non-citizens near the border,

DON'T YOU THINK... Increasing US border surveillance will harm millions of innocent people because it violates their privacy rights and creates an atmosphere of fear and discomfort?

Privacy Regulations

WE DISAGREE! OUR RESEARCH SAYS... Modern surveillance technology is designed with privacy protections in mind because new systems use advanced algorithms to focus only on suspicious activities and ignore irrelevant personal information. SO, don't you think... Increasing US border surveillance will actually protect millions of people's privacy because these systems are designed to balance security needs with individual rights?

Targeted Surveillance

WE DISAGREE! OUR RESEARCH SAYS... Border surveillance systems are primarily focused on detecting and preventing illegal crossings and criminal activities because they are not designed for mass surveillance of law-abiding citizens. SO, wouldn't you have to agree that... Increasing US border surveillance will help protect millions of innocent people because it targets specific threats rather than indiscriminately monitoring everyone?

Transparent Policies

WE DISAGREE! OUR RESEARCH SAYS... Government agencies implementing border surveillance are required to have clear policies and oversight mechanisms because transparency is crucial for maintaining public trust and accountability. SO, don't you think... Increasing US border surveillance will actually enhance privacy protections for millions of people because it encourages the development of more robust and transparent privacy policies?

AT: MAKING FALSE ACCUSATIONS (CON)

WHEN YOU CONSIDER... Border technology may incorrectly identify individuals, particularly with facial recognition, because these systems can make errors in recognizing faces or behavior,

DON'T YOU THINK... Increasing US border surveillance will harm thousands of innocent individuals because it can lead to false accusations, unfair treatment, and serious disruptions to their daily lives?

Improving Accuracy

WE DISAGREE! OUR RESEARCH SAYS... Facial recognition and other identification technologies are constantly improving because of ongoing research and development in artificial intelligence and machine learning. SO, wouldn't you have to agree that... Increasing US border surveillance will actually reduce false accusations over time because the technology is becoming more accurate and reliable?

AT: MAKING FALSE ACCUSATIONS (CON): CONTINUED…

Human Oversight

WE DISAGREE! OUR RESEARCH SAYS... Border surveillance systems are not used in isolation but are always combined with human judgment because trained personnel review and verify any alerts or identifications made by the technology. SO, don't you think... Increasing US border surveillance will help protect innocent individuals from false accusations because it combines technological capabilities with human expertise and discretion?

Rigorous Testing

WE DISAGREE! OUR RESEARCH SAYS... Before implementation, border surveillance technologies undergo extensive testing and validation processes because accuracy and reliability are crucial for effective border security. SO, wouldn't you have to agree that... Increasing US border surveillance will minimize the risk of false accusations for millions of people because only well-tested and proven systems are deployed?

AT: THREATENING MIGRANT SAFETY (CON)

WHEN YOU CONSIDER... When border surveillance intensifies, individuals attempting to cross the border often choose more hazardous routes to avoid detection because they feel compelled to take greater risks,

DON'T YOU THINK... Increasing US border surveillance will endanger thousands of migrants because it forces them to attempt more dangerous border crossings, resulting in more injuries and fatalities?

Deterrence Effect

WE DISAGREE! OUR RESEARCH SAYS... Enhanced border surveillance actually discourages many people from attempting dangerous illegal crossings because they realize the high likelihood of being caught. SO, don't you think... Increasing US border surveillance will actually save lives because it deters thousands of migrants from undertaking risky border crossings in the first place?

Rescue Capabilities

WE DISAGREE! OUR RESEARCH SAYS... Border patrol agents use surveillance technology not just for enforcement but also for search and rescue operations because it helps them locate and assist migrants in distress more quickly. SO, wouldn't you have to agree that... Increasing US border surveillance will help save lives of thousands of migrants because it enhances the ability of border patrol to conduct timely rescue operations?

Combating Smugglers

WE DISAGREE! OUR RESEARCH SAYS... Improved surveillance helps identify and apprehend human smugglers because it provides real-time information about their operations and routes. SO, don't you think... Increasing US border surveillance will actually protect migrants because it disrupts the activities of smugglers who often put migrants' lives at risk for profit?

AT: NATIONAL SECURITY THREATS (PRO)

WHEN YOU CONSIDER... Border agents have intercepted approximately 375 individuals on the terrorist watchlist attempting to enter illegally at the southern border because improved surveillance technology has enhanced detection capabilities,

DON'T YOU THINK... Increasing US border surveillance will help protect millions of Americans because it will make it much harder for dangerous individuals to enter our country undetected?

Exaggerated Terrorism Risk

WE DISAGREE! OUR RESEARCH SAYS... The risk of being harmed in a terrorist attack is extremely low because the chance of dying in a bathtub accident is higher than being killed by a terrorist. SO, wouldn't you have to agree that... Increasing US border surveillance will actually harm millions of taxpayers because it wastes resources on an exaggerated threat while neglecting more pressing safety concerns?

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AT: NATIONAL SECURITY THREATS (CON): CONTINUED…

Limited Surveillance Effectiveness

WE DISAGREE! OUR RESEARCH SAYS... Surveillance systems are only effective a small percentage of the time because cameras can cover only about 10% of the border, and bad weather or poor image quality can make them almost useless. SO, don't you think... Increasing US border surveillance will harm hundreds of thousands of people because it provides a false sense of security while failing to effectively prevent unauthorized border crossings?

Unaddressed Root Causes

WE DISAGREE! OUR RESEARCH SAYS... People cross the border due to deeper issues such as poverty and violence in their home countries because building more surveillance won't solve those underlying problems. SO, wouldn't you have to agree that... Increasing US border surveillance will actually harm millions of people because it diverts resources from addressing the root causes of migration, which would be more effective in reducing illegal border crossings?

AT: THREATS FROM DRUG/WEAPON SMUGGLERS (PRO)

WHEN YOU CONSIDER... Advanced border surveillance technology can detect unusual behavior or objects that people might miss because it uses smart computer programs to analyze camera footage and sensor information,

DON'T YOU THINK... Increasing US border surveillance will help protect millions of Americans because it will more effectively prevent the smuggling of dangerous drugs and weapons into our country?

Adaptive Smuggling Tactics

WE DISAGREE! OUR RESEARCH SAYS... Drug and weapon smugglers quickly adapt their tactics to evade new surveillance measures because they have significant resources and motivation to continue their operations. SO, don't you think... Increasing US border surveillance will actually be ineffective in stopping smuggling because criminals will simply find new ways to bypass these systems, wasting billions in taxpayer money?

Demand-Driven Problem

WE DISAGREE! OUR RESEARCH SAYS... The flow of drugs and weapons across borders is primarily driven by demand within the country because as long as there's a market, suppliers will find ways to meet it. SO, wouldn't you have to agree that... Increasing US border surveillance will fail to address the root cause of smuggling because it doesn't reduce the demand for these items, merely shifting the problem elsewhere?

Resource Misallocation

WE DISAGREE! OUR RESEARCH SAYS... The vast majority of drugs and weapons enter the country through legal ports of entry because smugglers often hide contraband in otherwise legal shipments. SO, don't you think... Increasing US border surveillance between ports of entry will waste billions of dollars because it focuses on the wrong areas, leaving the main smuggling routes largely unaffected?

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AT: THREATS FROM HUMAN TRAFFICKERS (PRO)

WHEN YOU CONSIDER... Enhanced border surveillance helps border agents identify and intercept human trafficking operations because it provides real-time information about suspicious movements and activities,

DON'T YOU THINK... Increasing US border surveillance will help protect thousands of vulnerable individuals because it will make it much harder for traffickers to move people across the border illegally?

Misidentification of Victims

WE DISAGREE! OUR RESEARCH SAYS... Increased surveillance can lead to the misidentification of trafficking victims as willing participants in illegal border crossings because the technology cannot distinguish between coerced and voluntary movement. SO, don't you think... Increasing US border surveillance could actually harm thousands of trafficking victims because they might be treated as criminals rather than receiving the help they need?

Driving Trafficking Underground

WE DISAGREE! OUR RESEARCH SAYS... Heightened border security often pushes human trafficking operations to use more dangerous and hidden routes because traffickers adapt their methods to avoid detection. SO, wouldn't you have to agree that... Increasing US border surveillance could actually endanger more lives because it forces trafficking operations to take greater risks with their victims?

Neglecting Domestic Trafficking

WE DISAGREE! OUR RESEARCH SAYS... A significant portion of human trafficking occurs within US borders or through legal ports of entry because not all trafficking involves illegal border crossings. SO, don't you think... Increasing US border surveillance will waste resources that could be better used to combat domestic trafficking because it focuses too narrowly on cross-border movements?

AT: JOB LOSS (PRO)

WHEN YOU CONSIDER... Illegal immigration can lead to job losses for American workers because it increases competition for certain types of employment, particularly in low-wage sectors,

DON'T YOU THINK... Increasing US border surveillance will help protect millions of American jobs because it will reduce the number of unauthorized workers entering the job market?

Labor Market Dynamics

WE DISAGREE! OUR RESEARCH SAYS... Immigrants often take jobs that American workers are unwilling to do because these are frequently low-paying, physically demanding positions that are essential but unpopular. SO, don't you think... Increasing US border surveillance could actually harm the economy because it reduces the workforce for these essential jobs, potentially increasing costs and reducing services for millions of Americans?

Economic Contribution

WE DISAGREE! OUR RESEARCH SAYS... Immigrants, including undocumented ones, contribute significantly to the economy because they pay taxes, start businesses, and stimulate economic growth through their spending. SO, wouldn't you have to agree that... Increasing US border surveillance could actually lead to job losses for hundreds of thousands of Americans because it reduces overall economic activity and growth?

Automation Impact

WE DISAGREE! OUR RESEARCH SAYS... The primary threat to many American jobs is automation, not immigration, because technological advancements are rapidly changing the nature of work across various industries. SO, don't you think... Increasing US border surveillance will waste billions that could be better spent on job retraining and education because it doesn't address the real challenges facing American workers?

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AT: WAGE DEFLATION (PRO)

WHEN YOU CONSIDER... The influx of unauthorized workers can lead to wage depression in certain sectors because these workers often accept lower pay, putting downward pressure on wages for all workers in those industries,

DON'T YOU THINK... Increasing US border surveillance will help protect the wages of millions of American workers because it will reduce unfair competition from unauthorized workers?

Complementary Labor

WE DISAGREE! OUR RESEARCH SAYS... Immigrant workers often complement rather than compete with native workers because they tend to have different skills and fill different roles in the labor market. SO, don't you think... Increasing US border surveillance could actually harm wage growth for millions of Americans because it reduces this complementary effect that can increase productivity and wages across the board?

Consumer Prices

WE DISAGREE! OUR RESEARCH SAYS... Lower wages in certain sectors contribute to lower consumer prices because reduced labor costs often translate to more affordable goods and services. SO, wouldn't you have to agree that... Increasing US border surveillance could lead to higher costs of living for millions of Americans because it may result in higher consumer prices across various industries?

Economic Dynamism

WE DISAGREE! OUR RESEARCH SAYS... Immigration, including unauthorized immigration, often leads to increased economic dynamism because immigrants are more likely to start businesses and contribute to innovation. SO, don't you think... Increasing US border surveillance could actually suppress wage growth for hundreds of thousands of Americans because it reduces the economic vitality that drives wage increases in a growing economy?

AT: DEPLETING COMMUNITY RESOURCES (PRO)

WHEN YOU CONSIDER... Illegal immigration costs the states $115 billion per year because more states are providing access to welfare, schools, and healthcare to illegal immigrants,

DON'T YOU THINK... Increasing US border surveillance will help protect millions of taxpayers because it will reduce the number of illegal immigrants using these services, saving billions of dollars annually?

Valuable Immigrant Contributions

WE DISAGREE! OUR RESEARCH SAYS... Many immigrants, including undocumented ones, pay taxes and contribute to local economies because they pay sales taxes, property taxes (through rent), and often income taxes using Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers. SO, don't you think... Increasing US border surveillance could actually harm local economies and reduce tax revenues because it would decrease the number of contributing immigrants, potentially affecting services for millions of residents?

Misallocation of Resources

WE DISAGREE! OUR RESEARCH SAYS... The cost of implementing and maintaining increased border surveillance is extremely high because it requires expensive technology, personnel, and ongoing maintenance. SO, don't you think... Increasing US border surveillance will actually deplete community resources more severely because it diverts billions of dollars from essential services that could directly benefit millions of citizens?

Exaggerated Cost Estimates

WE DISAGREE! OUR RESEARCH SAYS... The $115 billion figure is disputed by many economists because it often includes costs for U.S.-born children of immigrants and doesn't fully account for economic benefits. SO, wouldn't you have to agree that... Increasing US border surveillance based on potentially inflated numbers could lead to misguided policies that harm communities because it doesn't accurately represent the true economic impact of immigration?