

Subject: RE: Public Records Request FL-GOV-22-0467
Date: Friday, September 9, 2022 at 4:17:09 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Desantis.OpenGovernment
To: AO Records
Attachments: image001.png

EXTERNAL SENDER

Good afternoon,

A search of the Executive Office of the Governor's files has produced documents responsive to your request as stated below. You may find your records on the Governor's website at the link provided below under "9-9-2022_Stoneman, T._24_Part_2_Responsive_Documents". Thank you for contacting the Executive Office of the Governor.

 [Public Records Requests](#)

Sincerely,

Office of Open Government

From: AO Records <records@americanoversight.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2022 3:43 PM
To: Desantis.OpenGovernment <Desantis.OpenGov@eog.myflorida.com>
Subject: Public Records Request FL-GOV-22-0467

Dear Public Records Officer:

Please find attached a request for records under Florida's public records laws.

Sincerely,

Mariuxi Pintado
Paralegal
American Oversight
records@americanoversight.org
www.americanoversight.org | @weareoversight

Public Records Request: FL-GOV-22-0467

Please note that under Florida law correspondence sent to the Governor's Office, which is not confidential or exempt pursuant to chapter 119 of the Florida Statutes, is a public record made available upon request.

From: /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=EEDE9520A10C4186AD2834A2A11B1A1E-PUSHAW, CHR

Sent: Tuesday, January 11, 2022 9:42 AM

To: Fenske, Taryn M. [Taryn.M.Fenske@eog.myflorida.com]

BCC: brendon@flconservativevoice.com; Leach, Matt [matt.leach@FOX.COM]; Stefan Kleinhenz [Stefan.Kleinhenz@oann.com]; Nanette Holt [nanette.holt@epochtimes.us]; Susan Ferrechio McKelway [sferrechio@washingtonexaminer.com]; 'yanky@rebelnews.com' [yanky@rebelnews.com]; 'brian@tampafp.com' [brian@tampafp.com]; sharktank411@gmail.com; Amanda Prestigiaco [aprestigiaco@dailywire.com]; 'rsaavedra@dailywire.com' [rsaavedra@dailywire.com]; Miller, AndrewMark [AndrewMark.Miller@FOX.COM]; Gabe Kaminsky [gabekaminsky23@gmail.com]; dbongino@gmail.com; hbleau@breitbart.com; scottmorefield@gmail.com; 'peter.hasson@fox.com' [peter.hasson@fox.com]; Isaac Schorr [ischorr@nationalreview.com]; david.rutz@fox.com; Paula Bolyard [paulab@pjmedia.com]; Olohan, MaryMargaret [MaryMargaret.Olohan@heritage.org]; Jeff Reynolds [jeff@jefferyreynolds.net]; Shawn Fleetwood [dolphinsfan321@gmail.com]; mboyle [mboyle@breitbart.com]; Miranda Devine [mdevine@nypost.com]

Subject: EMBARGO 11:35 AM - Gov. DeSantis State of the State Address

Attachments: SOTS_2022.pdf

Good morning,

Please see attached for a draft of the governor's State of the State Address. Please note the embargo. We request you do not share this copy. The final text will be press released immediately following the governor's remarks, so you can use that for quotes, but I wanted to share the draft with you for your planning purposes only.

The State of the State address will be streamed live. Please tune in around 11:00 AM to watch.

The link to the livestream will be shared on Governor DeSantis' official Twitter (<https://twitter.com/GovRonDeSantis>) and Facebook pages around that time. A full video will be available today on the governor's official Rumble account: <https://rumble.com/c/GovRonDeSantis>.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

Christina Pushaw

Press Secretary

Executive Office of the Governor

850-717-9238

Christina.Pushaw@eog.myflorida.com

EMBARGO 11:35 AM 1/11/22 -- DRAFT

Mr. Speaker, Mr. President, members of the Legislature and fellow citizens,

Together we have made Florida the freest state in these United States.

While so many around the country have consigned the people's rights to the graveyard, Florida has stood as freedom's vanguard.

In Florida, we have protected the right of our citizens to earn a living,

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Florida has become the escape hatch for those chafing under authoritarian, arbitrary and seemingly never-ending mandates and restrictions.

Even today, across the nation we see students denied an education due to reckless, politically-motivated school closures, workers denied employment due to heavy-handed mandates, and Americans denied freedoms due to a coercive biomedical apparatus.

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We will, fortunately, be able to confront our challenges with an incredibly favorable budget outlook and strong economic performance that has withstood unfavorable national headwinds:

- My recommended budget of \$99.7 billion has more than \$15 billion in reserve - one of the largest surpluses in state history
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Inflation is an invisible tax. It represents a pay cut for individuals and families alike. And one of the ways families have felt the pinch has been in significantly higher gas prices.

To help alleviate this burden for Florida families, I am proposing a \$1 billion gas tax holiday to help reduce prices at the pump. If Washington, DC won't change course then we have a responsibility to step up on behalf of Floridians.

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I'm happy to be joined by Officer Yehuda Topper from the North Miami Beach Police Department, who moved from NYC and is the state's first orthodox Jewish police officer.

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Law and order requires strong borders. The crisis at the US-Mexico border over the past year has witnessed staggering illegal migration and a massive influx of narcotics like fentanyl. Rather than defend our sovereignty and enforce the border, the federal government has released hundreds of thousands of illegal aliens to communities across the US, shipping them to Florida at alarming rates, including by sending clandestine flights in the dark of night.

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It is Orwellian doublespeak to invoke the concept of "Voting rights" to mean ballot harvesting, prohibiting voter ID and taxpayer funding of elections. Those are political concepts that erode the integrity of our elections.

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A free society requires the ability to have robust discussions about issues of public importance, yet today Big Tech companies have used their platforms to elevate preferred narratives and to stifle dissent, serving as a de facto council of censors. Florida was the first state to legislate protections for its citizens and we should build on this success.

These same companies make a fortune by selling user data. Floridians should not have their data utilized by Big Tech without providing affirmative consent and I urge the Legislature to enact protections for the data privacy of all Floridians.

I also recommend that the Legislature strengthen protections for Floridians' 2nd Amendment rights - these important rights should not depend on the whims of politicians who reject the existence of those rights.

Finally, we have an opportunity to strengthen protections for the right to life, without which the other rights mean little.

Protecting life does not end with the unborn - it must also include continued efforts to promote adoption and foster care so that all Floridians have a fair chance in life. Florida has 4,000 more licensed caregivers than in 2019 and I am proposing additional funds for foster parents in next year's budget.

Nobody has done more to support Florida's children than our First Lady, whose Pathway to Prosperity program has served

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more than 17,000 families in need through a collaboration between DCF and the faith community.

On behalf of our family, I want to personally thank everyone who has sent prayers and well-wishes for her recovery from breast cancer. Casey is strong, resilient, and has a husband and three kids who love her dearly. 2022 is the year she will be cancer free!

Florida has understood how important it is to put our seniors first – and we have done that time and again over the past two years.

Most recently, we led the nation in raising awareness of and expanding access to monoclonal antibody treatments. This effort has kept thousands of seniors out of the hospital and has saved many lives.

Wally and Doris Cortese from Cape Coral are with us today. Wally is a WWII and Korean War veteran who has been married to Doris for 62 years. When they both contracted COVID-19, they utilized monoclonal treatments to make full recoveries. God bless you both.

On June 24, millions of Floridians were shocked to wake up the news of a catastrophic partial collapse at the Champlain Towers South condominium complex.

First responders rescued dozens of people from an adjoining tower and searched a massive pile of rubble for survivors for weeks.

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Our first responders poured their heart and soul into the rescue efforts. Ray Jadallah is the assistant chief of Miami-Dade Fire Rescue who helped lead those efforts. We thank Ray and all the members of the Urban Search and Rescue Teams that worked tirelessly during those very difficult days.

The loss of the 98 victims who perished in the collapse has been devastating and incalculable.

One of the victims was 92 year old the Hilda Noriega, whose son, North Bay Village Chief of Police Carlos Noriega, and grandchildren are with us today. Hilda was the matriarch of an amazing family and is dearly missed by those who knew her.

The grief and anguish endured by Noriega family and the other Surfside families has been overwhelming, and reminds us that:

“The Lord is close to the brokenhearted; he saves those whose spirits are crushed.”

Our state should provide support for an appropriate memorial so that future generations will never forget the legacies of the victims of that terrible event.

The Surfside tragedy reminds us that you never know what tomorrow will bring. Don't take anything for granted and make the most out of each and every day.

We have sixty days to work together to build upon our rock of freedom. Lost time is never found again. Seize the moment. And be thankful that God has blessed us to live and serve in America's liberty outpost, the free state of Florida!

From: Pushaw, Christina [Christina.Pushaw@eog.myflorida.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 11, 2022 9:57 AM
To: Fenske, Taryn M. [Taryn.M.Fenske@eog.myflorida.com]
BCC: 'brendon@flconservativevoice.com' [brendon@flconservativevoice.com]; Leach, Matt [matt.leach@FOX.COM]; Stefan Kleinhenz [Stefan.Kleinhenz@oann.com]; Nanette Holt [nanette.holt@epochtimes.us]; Susan Ferrechio McKelway [sferrechio@washingtonexaminer.com]; 'yanky@rebelnews.com' [yanky@rebelnews.com]; 'brian@tampafp.com' [brian@tampafp.com]; 'sharktank411@gmail.com' [sharktank411@gmail.com]; Amanda Prestigiacomio [aprestigiacomio@dailywire.com]; 'rsaavedra@dailywire.com' [rsaavedra@dailywire.com]; Miller, AndrewMark [AndrewMark.Miller@FOX.COM]; Gabe Kaminsky [gabekaminsky23@gmail.com]; 'dbongino@gmail.com' [dbongino@gmail.com]; hbleau@breitbart.com; scottmorefield@gmail.com; 'peter.hasson@fox.com' [peter.hasson@fox.com]; Isaac Schorr [ischorr@nationalreview.com]; david.rutz@fox.com; Paula Bolyard [paulab@pjmedia.com]; Olohan, MaryMargaret [MaryMargaret.Olohan@heritage.org]; Jeff Reynolds [jeff@jefferyreynolds.net]; Shawn Fleetwood [dolphinsfan321@gmail.com]; mboyle [mboyle@breitbart.com]; Miranda Devine [mdevine@nypost.com]
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Our constitutional rights have been under assault on a number of fronts and Florida has stood tall in defending the rights of its people.

A free society requires the ability to have robust discussions about issues of public importance, yet today Big Tech companies have used their platforms to elevate preferred narratives and to stifle dissent, serving as a de facto council of censors. Florida was the first state to legislate protections for its citizens and we should build on this success.

These same companies make a fortune by selling user data. Floridians should not have their data utilized by Big Tech without providing affirmative consent and I urge the Legislature to enact protections for the data privacy of all Floridians.

I also recommend that the Legislature strengthen protections for Floridians' 2nd Amendment rights - these important rights should not depend on the whims of politicians who reject the existence of those rights.

Finally, we have an opportunity to strengthen protections for the right to life, without which the other rights mean little.

Protecting life does not end with the unborn - it must also include continued efforts to promote adoption and foster care so that all Floridians have a fair chance in life. Florida has 4,000 more licensed caregivers than in 2019 and I am proposing additional funds for foster parents in next year's budget.

Nobody has done more to support Florida's children than our First Lady, whose Pathway to Prosperity program has served

EMBARGO 11:35 AM 1/11/22 -- DRAFT

more than 17,000 families in need through a collaboration between DCF and the faith community.

On behalf of our family, I want to personally thank everyone who has sent prayers and well-wishes for her recovery from breast cancer. Casey is strong, resilient, and has a husband and three kids who love her dearly. 2022 is the year she will be cancer free!

Florida has understood how important it is to put our seniors first - and we have done that time and again over the past two years.

Most recently, we led the nation in raising awareness of and expanding access to monoclonal antibody treatments. This effort has kept thousands of seniors out of the hospital and has saved many lives.

Wally and Doris Cortese from Cape Coral are with us today. Wally is a WWII and Korean War veteran who has been married to Doris for 62 years. When they both contracted COVID-19, they utilized monoclonal treatments to make full recoveries. God bless you both.

On June 24, millions of Floridians were shocked to wake up the news of a catastrophic partial collapse at the Champlain Towers South condominium complex.

First responders rescued dozens of people from an adjoining tower and searched a massive pile of rubble for survivors for weeks.

EMBARGO 11:35 AM 1/11/22 -- DRAFT

Our first responders poured their heart and soul into the rescue efforts. Ray Jadallah is the assistant chief of Miami-Dade Fire Rescue who helped lead those efforts. We thank Ray and all the members of the Urban Search and Rescue Teams that worked tirelessly during those very difficult days.

The loss of the 98 victims who perished in the collapse has been devastating and incalculable.

One of the victims was 92 year old the Hilda Noriega, whose son, North Bay Village Chief of Police Carlos Noriega, and grandchildren are with us today. Hilda was the matriarch of an amazing family and is dearly missed by those who knew her.

The grief and anguish endured by Noriega family and the other Surfside families has been overwhelming, and reminds us that:

“The Lord is close to the brokenhearted; he saves those whose spirits are crushed.”

Our state should provide support for an appropriate memorial so that future generations will never forget the legacies of the victims of that terrible event.

The Surfside tragedy reminds us that you never know what tomorrow will bring. Don't take anything for granted and make the most out of each and every day.

We have sixty days to work together to build upon our rock of freedom. Lost time is never found again. Seize the moment. And be thankful that God has blessed us to live and serve in America's liberty outpost, the free state of Florida!

From: /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=EEDE9520A10C4186AD2834A2A11B1A1E-PUSHAW, CHR
Sent: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 4:52 PM
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Subject: RE: Invitation to ADF Summit on Religious Liberty 2022

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Looking forward to hearing from you! 😊



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From: Pushaw, Christina [Christina.Pushaw@eog.myflorida.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 10:54 AM
To: 'Eric Finley' [efinley@adflegal.org]
Subject: RE: Invitation to ADF Summit on Religious Liberty 2022

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From: Uthmeier, James [James.Uthmeier@eog.myflorida.com]
Sent: Friday, January 21, 2022 7:20 PM
To: Tonya Shellnutt [tshellnutt@adflegal.org]
CC: Schrader, Taylor [Taylor.Schrader@eog.myflorida.com]; Fisher, Dylan [Dylan.Fisher@LASPBS.STATE.FL.US]
Subject: Re: Senior Counsel visit

For you guys always. Taylor will follow up with a good time.

Look forward to seeing you soon.

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From: Tonya Shellnutt <tshellnutt@adflegal.org>
Sent: Friday, January 21, 2022 6:08 PM
To: Uthmeier, James
Subject: Senior Counsel visit

Good evening James. I wanted to reach out as our Senior Counsel, Matt Sharp will be in Tallahassee with me next Tuesday testifying on our HELP Act that is being heard in committee. Additionally, Louis Brown will also be in town and I wanted to see if you had availability to meet with us. I could reach out to Taylor and work directly with her, but wanted to make sure that you were ok with that. Please let me know your thoughts. We appreciate you so much. Blessings.



Tonya Shellnutt
State Government Relations Director
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+1 480 388 8140 (Direct Dial)
+1 803-899-0080 (Mobile)
480-444-0028 (Fax)
tshellnutt@adflegal.org
ADFlegal.org

From: Pushaw, Christina [Christina.Pushaw@eog.myflorida.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 26, 2022 8:37 PM
To: Carmack, Dustin [Dustin.Carmack@heritage.org]
Subject: Re: FYI

Thank you!

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From: Carmack, Dustin <Dustin.Carmack@heritage.org>
Sent: Wednesday, January 26, 2022 7:28:40 PM
To: Pushaw, Christina <Christina.Pushaw@eog.myflorida.com>
Subject: FYI

<https://www.dailysignal.com/2022/01/26/floridas-governor-makes-smart-proposal-to-go-after-election-crimes-so-corrupt-media-attacks-him/>

Dustin Carmack
Research Fellow in Technology Policy
Davis Institute for National Security and Foreign Policy
The Heritage Foundation
214 Massachusetts Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20002
202-608-6276
[heritage.org](https://www.heritage.org)

From: Pushaw, Christina [Christina.Pushaw@eog.myflorida.com]
Sent: Friday, February 4, 2022 5:24 PM
To: 'Eric Finley' [efinley@adflegal.org]
Subject: RE: Invitation to ADF Summit on Religious Liberty 2022

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Sent: Monday, February 7, 2022 5:50 PM

To: Fenske, Taryn M. [Taryn.M.Fenske@eog.myflorida.com]

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Subject: Gov. DeSantis hosts roundtable to discuss how Biden Border Crisis harms children

Attachments: Pedro Pan Oped to Herald 2-4-22_.docx; Feb 7 Miami Dade transcript.docx

Hi, hope your week is off to a good start!

I wanted to make sure you had all the information about the roundtable Governor DeSantis hosted to discuss the Biden Border Crisis and child trafficking, in Miami this morning.

Here's a link to the press release: <https://www.flgov.com/2022/02/07/governor-ron-desantis-faith-leaders-and-pedro-pans-biden-border-crisis-is-harming-children/>

I also want to share another example of **corporate media deliberately misrepresenting the facts**, in order to push a destructive open-borders agenda. Last week, the Miami Herald drew an egregious false equivalency between Operation Pedro Pan (the controlled evacuation of Cuban children as refugees from the Communist regime in the 1960s) and the current Biden Administration human smuggling operation amid the free-for-all at our southern border.

<https://www.miamiherald.com/news/politics-government/state-politics/naked-politics/article257982263.html>

The Miami Herald headline misleads readers by claiming that “Cubans who arrived through ‘Operation Pedro Pan’ oppose DeSantis’ immigration orders,” as though a few people were speaking for an entire group. The fact that the Herald neglected to mention, is that the organization of Cuban-Americans who arrived in “Operation Pedro Pan” does not take political positions. But many of the individuals in that group fully support Governor DeSantis and his immigration policies.

In fact, more than 40 “Pedro Pans” signed a letter to the Miami Herald calling out their false and manipulative reporting. Unsurprisingly, the Herald hasn’t published this letter yet, but you can find it attached with all the signatories. Two “Pedro Pans,” Max Alvarez and Carmen Valdivia, spoke at the roundtable today to share their experiences and express support for the governor’s immigration policies – you can find the full transcript attached.

Please feel free to use any of the video clips below, courtesy Office of Governor Ron DeSantis. You can also see a video of the full roundtable on Rumble. Please let me know if you have any questions.

CLIPS: Biden Border Crisis / Child Trafficking Roundtable in Miami

- *Full Roundtable:* <https://rumble.com/vubgja-gov.-desantis-holds-roundtable-on-bidens-border-crisis.html>
- Biden’s Border Policy Is a Failure: <https://we.tl/t-vrsjre4oeR>
- Why Gov. DeSantis Opposes CRT: <https://we.tl/t-B5HKHKLXWB>
- Parents Deserve a Seat at the Table: <https://we.tl/t-dE3MF42UNr>
- Maskless Politicians Forcing Kids to Wear Masks: <https://we.tl/t-VWGL2rsBT8>

Kind regards,

Christina Pushaw
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With reference to the article *Cubans who arrived through Operation Pedro Pan oppose DeSantis' immigration orders* published by the Miami Herald on February 3rd, 2022, we would like to address some inaccuracies found therein.

Operation Pedro Pan Group, Inc. is a non-profit organization and thus refrains from involvement in political matters. However, the above-referenced article mentions political operatives that are not Pedro Pans and do not speak for us. If there were former Pedro Pans involved, their names were omitted from the article. Moreover, others have decided to become vociferous on the matter to the point of writing letters to Pedro Pans instigating us to act. Therefore, the undersigned former Pedro Pans can no longer stay silent. Those of us associated with OPPG are speaking personally and not through the organization.

The entire Pedro Pan element has been introduced into this issue under false pretenses, as it has nothing to do with Operation Pedro Pan. The facilities that would be losing their licenses under Governor DeSantis' proposal were never used for Pedro Pans, as some have been trying to imply. While the licenses may go back to the time of our exodus, there are no facilities housing unaccompanied children today that were used for Pedro Pan children. Some of those were sold by the Catholic Church; others had been temporarily rented and went back to their owners when they were no longer needed.

No one is more aware of the vulnerability of children than a former unaccompanied child and no one feels more for the plight of present-day unaccompanied children than we do. It is for this reason that we find that facilitating the dangerous trips that these children take in the hands of unscrupulous coyotes is unconscionable. It is even more alarming to find that they are being secretly flown, in the dead of night, and that no record of their names is given to the State.

Children should never be handled in this irresponsible manner. Transporting these minors in secrecy exposes them to dangerous sex trafficking and other evils from which they should be protected. During Operation Pedro Pan, we came directly into the hands of the Catholic Church. We had passports and documents identifying who we were and, even more importantly, who our parents were. Under the guidance of Monsignor Bryan O. Walsh, our spiritual father, we were extremely well protected. We know that the children that fall under the umbrella of Catholic Charities are more than well taken care of, but do we know how many are not that fortunate and end up in the wrong hands?

Because we consider the safety and wellbeing of unaccompanied minors to be of the utmost importance, we fully support Governor DeSantis' efforts in combatting this reckless manipulation of human beings. His initiative minimizes the involvement of cartels and traffickers in the lives of these innocent children.

Sincerely,

Pedro Pan Maximo Alvarez

Pedro Pan Carmen Valdivia

Pedro Pan Carmencita Romanach

Pedro Pan Juan Pujol

Pedro Pan Miriam Castro

Pedro Pan Melvin Noriega

Pedro Pan Maria De La Milera

Pedro Pan Javier Llorens

Pedro Pan Eddie Dulon

Pedro Pan Orestes Wrrves

Pedro Pan Jorge Finlay

Pedro Pan Justo Martinez

Pedro Pan Ramon Flores

Pedro Pan Libia M. Mendez

Pedro Pan Emma Quevedo

Pedro Pan Nancy Cruz

Pedro Pan Olivia Nuñez Gonzalez

Pedro Pan Frank Rego

Pedro Pan Alicia Rego

Pedro Pan Bethsy Parajon

Pedro Pan Rolando Parajon

Pedro Pan Sara Cruz

Pedro Pan Mercedes Cesari

Pedro Pan Caridad Cesari

Pedro Pan Evelio Prieto

Pedro Pan Nancy Quevedo

Pedro Pan Silvia Portu

Pedro Pan Caridad Echeverria

Pedro Pan Frank Echeverria

Pedro Pan Georgina Andraca

Pedro Pan Juan Jose Rodriguez

Pedro Pan Jorge Pardo

Pedro Pan Roger Gonzalez

Pedro Pan Juan Gozalez

Pedro Pan Carlos Barquin

Pedro Pan Jorge Adan

Pedro Pan Rogelio de la Rosa

Pedro Pan Santiago Eljaiek

Pedro Pan Fausto Campuzano

Pedro Pan Manuel Miguel

Pedro Pan Teresa Gonzalez Angulo

Pedro Pan Lourdes Mendez

Governor Ron DeSantis (00:00):

Sit down, sit down. All right. It's good to be down in Miami again. We're happy to be joined by our great attorney general, our great lieutenant governor. We also have Dr. Jerry Haag, CEO of One More Child, Jack Brewer, founder of the Jack Brewer Foundation, Max Alvarez, President of Sunshine Gas, Carmen Valdivia, executive director at the American Museum of Cuban Diaspora, and senior pastor Frank Lopez from Iglesia Doral Jesus Worship Center. So I want to thank everybody for coming. You know, we're discussing today, and really getting great perspective, on the disastrous border policies of the Biden administration. And then Florida's position -- that we don't want to be facilitating what are very harmful policies. Not only in terms of the rule of law, not only in terms of what drug cartels may be introducing into our country, but also of the treatment of people who are basically being trafficked as part of what is effectively the largest human smuggling operation in American history -- illegal operation.

Governor Ron DeSantis (01:12):

And so our perspective is that that those are bad policies. You know, if you look at the absolute explosion of illegal migrants across the Southern border, it's unlike anything we've ever seen. Just go back to 2020, it was a much different situation. And we in the state of Florida actually sent support last summer to help Texas and to help interdict. The problem is, you interdict and then you give them to the feds, and then the feds will do things like fly people in the middle of the night at two in the morning and drop them off. They will provide bus, all this other stuff, and then put into different communities. There's no papers. No one knows who the hell any a lot of these people are. So, it's chaos. But the thing that really stuck out to me where two things, one -- I don't think most people understand this.

Governor Ron DeSantis (02:06):

This is not Mexicans coming across by and large. These are people from all over the world. I mean, when we were there, we saw people from Africa, the Middle East, South America, you name it. The APB has basically gone out to say, "Why would you want to go through three years of an immigration process, it takes us years to vet." So, we want to bring a doctor in from like Nigeria -- it takes like three years, or maybe even more. Why would you want to go through that? Just come across the border illegally. And you're basically home free. And so, the total breadth of people that we're coming from so many different places around the world. There's actually countries that are closer to Florida, that are closer to us, but they're going all the way through this roundabout.

Governor Ron DeSantis (02:53):

The other thing that really stuck out was when our folks were interdicting people, they would be asking, "Where would you like to go?" And a lot of them said Florida. Now, that's true. I mean, you look at where people from failed states in the United States want to go, they want to come to Florida. And I guess people that are fleeing bad places -- not that they're anything that -- and we'll talk a little bit more about Pedro Pan and the communists and everything. They're not qualified as refugees because they just want to be in America for whatever reason. But it was a huge amount. So people -- when we sent the folks to help, they were like, "Well, this is a Texas problem. This is a border problem.

Governor Ron DeSantis (03:30):

What does that have to do with Florida?" It does have to do with Florida. Unfortunately, I wish it had nothing to do -- but it does. And so that was what we were able to now. And we have some folks here -- we're going to discuss some of this stuff -- I just think there's a lot of bad analogies that get made in modern political discourse. But to equate what's going on with the Southern border with mass

trafficking of humans, illegal entry, drugs, all this other stuff -- with operation Pedro Pan quite frankly, is disgusting. It's wrong. It is not even close to the same thing. We had people that were coming because they were fleeing a communist dictatorship that was persecuting them. Those are not illegal immigrants. These are people that were sanctioned to come by the United States government. And I've talked with Max and some of these other people and said, "If Cuba was free in the 1960s, we would have never accepted communist refugees into this country."

Governor Ron DeSantis (04:29):

We were doing it because it was the right thing to do, but it was also consistent with our national interest in fighting communism, and the same reason we had a lot of, obviously, involvement in Cuba over the years. It's the same reason why people fleeing the communist regime in Vietnam were welcomed in the United States. We had of course a lot of involvement there. And so to equate those things with what we're seeing there is just frankly wrong. And it's not something that I think most people that have any sense of what's going on -- would think that's something that's good. If you look at the amount of people, you'll hear things about unaccompanied alien children, and that's different than refugees. People that qualify as refugees, these are basically illegal entrants. It's important to point out though, when they talk about "children," most of these people are what would be considered in most parts of the world, military age males, 15 to 17.

Governor Ron DeSantis (05:26):

That's who's typically coming across. I think it's CBS News who reported 75% of everybody, I think in 2021, was 15 to 17 -- and the overwhelming majority of those were males. So that's what it is. So, I think it's sometimes portrayed that these are like, some babies dropped over the border, or something like that. That's just not what's happening. But regardless of that, it's not a good policy to want to incentivize unaccompanied minors to be taking these types of voyages, because there's a huge problem with what human smugglers are doing. Human traffickers, sex traffickers, drug cartels. And I can tell you, this is the golden age for the cartel since Biden became president. They are eating our lunch every single day with what's going on down there, and the sheer increase in what you're seeing is really unbelievable.

Governor Ron DeSantis (06:23):

So just in 2021, you're looking at about 2 million people coming illegally across the Southern border and, and they're not showing any inclination to want to change their policies in a really radical direction. If you look at the amount of fentanyl, and I know Ashley will probably want to talk about this. You know, there's been fentanyl coming across the border -- there's been enough to kill like 275 million Americans. And if you look in 2021, fentanyl was the leading cause of death for Americans between the age of 18 and 45. And so those policies are poisoning this country. You also look at the methamphetamines that are coming across the border. There used to be a lot of that produced in the United States, not as much anymore, most of it is coming across the Southern border.

Governor Ron DeSantis (07:17):

And so, you deal with that here in south Florida. I can tell you -- you go to other parts of Florida, the percentage of folks who get involved, unfortunately in meth is way too high, particularly in some of our rural counties, that's the number one scourge that they're fighting. So that's coming across the border in record time. And so our view in is -- and then I also think about, "If these policies are so great, why are you hiding them at two o'clock in the morning? How come you're not being honest? Why aren't you giving the state a heads up about who you're bringing in to the state, how come you're not blaring this

from the rafters so that everybody knows how great you're doing?" And I think it's because people understand that what's being done is a violation of federal law.

Governor Ron DeSantis (08:07):

Clearly from a policy perspective, it's having hugely negative consequences. But it's also a failure of the president to fulfill his constitutional oath that the laws be faithfully executed. He is not taking care to do so and the result is what we're seeing. But I also think to myself, Florida's been very clear, we're not a sanctuary state for illegal immigration. We've made that clear in our laws. We made that clear in our policies. You have other states who have done differently, California, New York, some of those places. And yet they're sending more illegal immigrants to Florida than they are even to California, which is twice our size. And so if this policy is "so great," and you have all these sanctuary states that are always virtue signaling mostly against Trump from four years ago, why not then just redirect there?

Governor Ron DeSantis (08:59):

I can tell you we're getting money from the legislature because we will be redirecting to Delaware and California and these other sanctuary states, that's going to happen in Florida. But until then we're in a situation where they do this without providing notification, always under the radar, clandestine, and doing it in a way to try to escape any type of public scrutiny. So I'm really glad that we have a great panel here today. We'll have the lieutenant governor, attorney general, then we'll go around the horn and you guys can speak your piece.

Lt. Governor Jeanette Nunez (09:36):

Good morning. Thank you, governor, for being here and, and of course, to Carmen for hosting us here at the museum. And this exhibit tells the stories of so many of the 14,000 Cuban refugee children that made that fight, that their parents made the difficult decision. And while neither of my parents came through Operation Pedro Pan, I would like to share just a brief story of how my parents came to ultimately change the trajectory of their lives, and mine as well. My father -- 25 at the time -- had a cousin that worked at the embassy, who continuously told him, "Get your visa. The United States and, and Cuba are going to break diplomatic relations." My father, he went to the embassy, he got his visa. He encouraged my mom to do the same. She had just had my oldest sister and they had their first child.

Lt. Governor Jeanette Nunez (10:22):

And so my mom procrastinated, as you can imagine, and did not get her visa. And then of course the relations were broken. My mom often jokes that because she rarely listened to my father, she would always get into trouble. And this is just another example of how that ended up happening. But what I'll tell you is that they had to make the difficult decision. And so, my father came ahead in search of democracy, liberty, and freedom, and left behind his wife and infant child. Very difficult to leave behind your family, not knowing when, or if you'll be reunited. And so, for those that are here, that experienced that as children, I can only imagine the difficult nature of having to not only experience it from your perspective, but also from your parents' perspective. And that's why I feel so strongly. It is incumbent upon all of us to educate those that would like to, as the governor said, conflate one operation that was fully vetted, organized and legal, with complete and utter chaos at the border.

Lt. Governor Jeanette Nunez (11:20):

And what you're seeing with the disastrous policies at the border -- they are bringing over 2 million migrants from all over the world, not just Central America, all over the world -- that are crossing our

border. And those numbers in December were up to almost 179,000. Month over month, those numbers increased. And so the presence of reckless policies have incentivized this mass influx, which brings as the governor mentioned, drug trafficking, human trafficking. And I want to thank our attorney general for being here. This is an issue that she and I have worked on quite a bit, and her leadership on that issue is extremely important. And we appreciate you being here as well. And so, for us, again, I think these acts of human trafficking, human smuggling, drug smuggling, they're plain evil. And for the federal government to shirk its responsibility and ignore the laws that this country was founded upon. I believe very strongly that Florida is leading the way under Governor DeSantis' leadership to push back and to make sure that we protect our citizenry, make sure that we are protecting our children. They like to use children as a pawn in this game, but I can tell you from our perspective, we are protecting children from this heinous scourge that is human trafficking. And so if I could governor say few words in Spanish.

Governor Ron DeSantis (14:45):

Okay, thanks so much. Our attorney general, thank you so much for coming.

Attorney General Ashley Moody (14:50):

Thank you, governor, for your tremendous leadership. Lieutenant governor, thank you so much. What is important about today is that you have an administration, the governor and others here that are saying, "Please pay attention to what's going on right now." It's not just being felt here in Miami. It's all over Florida. We are a pro-immigration state. In fact, our state is so prosperous and successful because of the folks sitting around this table, please do not let anyone say otherwise. Florida welcomes legal immigrants who have made this state what it is, but we are anti-trafficking. We are anti-crime. We are anti-chaos. We are anti-cartel. Make no mistake about it. And let no one tell you that what's being done now is similar to what has been done in the past that has made Miami what it is today, in terms of immigration. I will go back just one short year.

Attorney General Ashley Moody (15:53):

When Biden first got in office, he immediately stopped doing what presidents have historically done in the past, which is follow public safety and immigration laws, both Democrat and Republican. They immediately started telling our sheriffs across the state: "If there are those here illegally and they're committing crimes, we are not taking them for rotation. Release them back into the communities." This administration, we sued. We then started seeing folks being spread all over the nation that had crossed the border illegally, not vetted, being done in secret. The information has not been shared with the administration. We demanded to know who was coming in the state. After we saw someone murdered by someone that was brought in, after we saw cops shot at, by people that were here illegally, we need to know how the process is taking place, who was being brought in, how is the vetting being done?

Attorney General Ashley Moody (16:48):

No answers. We had to sue our own government, the federal government, to get information about their policies and who they are bring bringing into the state of Florida. Now they may be sharing information with other states, but they're not sharing that information with Florida. And then we started learning that not only are there open borders, open chaos, anything goes at the Southern border. They are building new programs, totally outside of federal immigration laws, that allow for those who have crossed here illegally to be released. And then the United States government is helping bring over, not just children don't fall for that -- up to 21 years old, people that identify as caretakers, you

name it. Your taxpayer dollars have now become a travel agency to help them with illegal immigration programs. We don't know who they're bringing here, because they're not telling us. So we have repeatedly had to sue our own government because of not just open borders, but because of illegal programs they are building today.

Attorney General Ashley Moody (18:06):

The numbers of those folks that they have brought in and released are astronomical. Florida is already feeling the effects. Do not let anyone convey to you that this is just for humanitarian purposes. They are doing this completely in violation of public safety immigration laws. Biden is ignoring every law that has been put in place by congresses leading up to today. He has ignored historically what both parties have done in office and he is endangering American lives. We will continue to push back. I am so proud to stand with a governor who is not afraid to speak out. He does not see a news story or take criticism and back away from what needs to be said to protect Floridians. And we won't back down. And Governor DeSantis, thank you so much for bringing folks together.

Governor Ron DeSantis (19:13):

And thanks to the AG, we worked together, and she led the way on suing the Biden administration over their catch and release policies that are in violation of the law. And we've already gotten them to change some of the policies. So what they had been doing is basically giving people a sheet of paper. If they come across illegally and they say, "Hey, here's this 800 number, just call and set up your own procedure, whatever." I mean, can you imagine if that's how laws were enforced? Like somebody robs your house, and the prosecutor says, "Hey, just call, schedule your burglary trial, whatever you want. Go ahead." No, of course people aren't going to do that. And there was no sanction for not showing up. So, we called them on it. So now they've had to change to -- if someone doesn't show up, they've waived any rights and that they are deportable at that instant.

Governor Ron DeSantis (19:59):

And so, we've already made headway -- we're working on doing even more. And so I want to thank her for what she's been doing to really help really fight for safe communities. And she pointed out, you had this guy that murdered a fellow in Jacksonville. This person said they were "minor." It was a 24-year-old man. Comes in illegally, dumped by Biden into Jacksonville, and then he committed this murder. And so that's bringing problems into our state, but it shouldn't be there. So I appreciate that very much. Okay. Max Alvarez -- just a great, great member of this community. Very, very strong in understanding the dangers of totalitarianism and communism and the star of the 2020 convention. So go ahead. Make sure the mic is a little closer...

Maximo Alvarez (20:53):

Well, number one, thank you very much for coming down and meeting with us. We also want to thank you as well, attorney general, for the work that you're doing. And we want to assure you that we're behind you. There was an article in the paper. If I remember February 3rd -- at my age, I get confused with the dates. But anyway, this article tried to tell people that our group was against the policies that you're trying to implement in order to make sure that our people are safe. And naturally when I read that -- I'm a little emotional, the first time I want to do things that I'm not supposed to do, you have to understand. But I was also very sad simply because if you can see in this museum, what this country what the Catholic charities, what our spiritual father did for all of us.

Maximo Alvarez (22:00):

When we came over here, we thought it was literally temporary until the communist government of Cuba would be finished. As you know, in Central and south America, we change governments like you change hats. So, I remember my parents thinking, the kids are going to go out because want to make sure that we don't lose any school's time. So really I was on my way to Spain. I wasn't even coming over here. It just so happens -- and I try not to get emotional -- but the same day that I leave Cuba in my way to Spain, through Miami, my brother passed away in Spain. So kind of sad, but at the same time, how fortunate that I end up in this great country of ours. Now, let me assure you, they know exactly who I was. I had a passport, I had a visa. As a matter of fact, I had a visa to go into the seminary, the (inaudible) brothers in Spain.

Maximo Alvarez (23:04):

They know who my parents were. And I'm so fortunate to end up in the program that Monsignor Walsh was leading later on. We find out that he was responsible for more than 14,000 kids. And you know, it sounds sad, but at the same time, look how fortunate we were. I, as a kid, didn't really know what was happen until later on. But imagine the courage of mom and dad to send a kid somewhere. And I was very fortunate to stay here because the program -- whenever you came here within days or weeks, sometimes months -- you were assigned to a foster home or some other place. But Monsignor kept a home St. (inaudible) Hall. Biscayne Boulevard on 21st. And since they didn't know whether I was going to go back to Cuba or going to Spain, they kept in the program where I stayed about four years until my parents finally...

Maximo Alvarez (24:08):

Now let me tell you what is really sad. That they use this program to try to convince people that this is similar to what is happening today. Not even close! This is the way, and you keep using the word socialism, it's communism. This is the way communists work. Remember, the ends justify the means. So they use whatever they can use. They pretend to be whoever they're not to make sure that they get whatever they want. And here's the problem, because we are a Judeo-Christian society, a Judeo-Christian country. We not only forgive, but we are the most generous people in the world. We are not allowed to kill. We're not allowed to steal. We're not allowed to lie. Then we have to forgive. Communist people don't. If you don't agree with you, then they'll kill you! You have no doubt about that. Everybody who's came from any communist country will understand that.

Maximo Alvarez (25:14):

So now they're trying to use -- illegally, by the way -- because the federal power organization is a nonprofit organization, and we are politically color blind. We are really keeping the mission of the Monsignor, which is to take care of children. This is not what is happening right now. What is happening right now is that using children, some of them like we did, like we were, as merchandise! That's what it is. And these cartels and these drug people, they're using these kids as merchandise for personal gain. And believe me, when we came, we came directly into the hands of the church, in my case to the hands of Monsignor Brian Walsh. And we were like family. I'll tell you right now, Monsignor was my dad.

Maximo Alvarez (26:16):

So don't dare, ever compare what is happening now. Because what they are trying to do is to destroy you because you are fighting for us. You're fighting for the state. You're fighting for the children that are coming over here unattended. And that's what they're trying to do. So make sure everybody in this

group understands -- maybe the media does not -- but everybody here understands that. Okay. And let me assure you, what they're trying to do is destroy this country. This is nothing about Republicans or Democrats. This is about the land. And my father always said it. He knew because he had lost Spain and then he lost Cuba and he'd tell me, "Don't lose this place." So thank you, governors. Thank you for what you're doing. And we're going to die supporting you and anybody who fights to save the only land in the world.

Maximo Alvarez (27:16):

Everybody wants to come over here. Nobody wants to leave. Nobody wants to go to California. Everybody wants to come here, all these people that say "if such and such gets elected. I'm going to leave." They haven't left -- nobody in Hollywood left. And I remember listening to all of "if this guy gets elected. We're going to leave." Nobody left. So again, thank you. By the way, we are so proud, not only of our governor, but so very proud of our Lieutenant Governor. So proud of our attorney general. We are in such great hands in the state of Florida. We have a great speaker of the house... I yield my time.

Governor Ron DeSantis (28:07):

Thank you so much. And obviously very powerful as always. And I mean, you do bring up one good point. You know, irrespective of the recklessness and the illegality and what the cartels are -- but just in terms of people coming to Florida, just think of all the blue state refugees we have. I mean this is a big deal. You have people coming to Miami, it's a free country. It's not like we can stop that, but you have a lot of people that are fleeing failed state governments in this country. They're fleeing lockdown policies. They're fleeing high crime, to be able to come to a law-and-order state and a state that respects their freedoms. And so when you're leading the country and net in migration, there are some benefits to that, but there's also challenges that come with that. And I don't think anyone should think otherwise. Okay, Carmen, thanks so much for hosting us. And the floor is yours.

Carmen Valdivia (29:01):

Thank you. Thank you for calling us here. (Inaudible) I'm here with members of the (inaudible)... We're here speaking personally, not through the organization. As we said it's a nonprofit, so they stay away from politics. But in a personal sense, we can say whether we feel -- and that's what we're here to say. Now, to compare with what is happening now, I was four years old when I came with my sister without my parents. And we had the Catholic church waiting here for us. And we had Monsignor (inaudible). And Monsignor took that time to study child refugees before us, especially the Hungarian refugees and what had gone wrong with those kids. And he made sure to set up a system where we would be well taken care of from so the things that had happened before did not happen to us, which is the opposite of what happening now.

Carmen Valdivia (30:12):

Cause instead of starting over and trying to learn from that, they're doing the opposite. And so these children are going through terrible ordeals because, by the time they make to the United States, they have gone through -- I mean, girls are getting raped and you see a 10 year old with a baby through no fault of her own. And so, to compare it, it's incredible because we had -- we came into the hands of the church. We had documents, which is very important. You know, people say undocumented, they think that doesn't mean anything. But it means a lot, because our passport said who we were and more importantly, who our parents were. And so, none of us got lost. We had powers of attorneys from our parents, anything that had to do with us, our parents would be consulted in Cuba. And they made sure

that we kept that religion because 95% of us were Catholic, but we also had 396 Jewish Pedro Pan and we have about 700 Protestant.

Carmen Valdivia (31:15):

And so, each of us were put in a group that would take care of our faith. So, because that's what our parents wanted -- we basically left Cuba because we would have to become Marxists and we were people of faith. And so, it's so different. And so to put children in the front line, which is what they're doing now and using them so that they can get their political agenda through, it's inconceivable that these people are doing this. And so we thank you for you know what you're doing to the state. I was telling the Lieutenant that one day we're going to have to secede if things keep going the way they are. Because when you experience communism, you see what is happening and the steps that we are going through. And we see it, we don't see socialism, we see communism coming. And so we see things that the rest of the people don't see, but the state doesn't let them. And so we're very grateful.

Governor Ron DeSantis (32:12):

Thank you so much. We appreciate it, thanks for hosting us. And don't worry, we're on a mission to make sure we keep Florida free. All right. Jerry, do you want to go introduce yourself and talk about some of the work you all have done?

Jerry Haag (32:30):

You bet. I'm Jerry Haag, I'm the CEO of One More Child and Governor DeSantis, we're grateful for you and for Casey, the first lady, and how child friendly you have been and how you've promoted the needs and the causes of those that are vulnerable throughout our state. And also, the protection of these children, all these conversations have to begin and end with what is best for the child. That's where we have to be. And we have to make those decisions. Today regarding children, we have a failed foreign policy. That's creating a domestic disaster for children as they're incentivized to become victims and make this trek all the way to the United States. I've seen firsthand the 10 cities along the borders and the facilities there. I've seen firsthand, the children that are traumatized on those border areas as they've made that trek.

Jerry Haag (33:21):

In addition to that, we work closely with Attorney General Moody for victims of child sex trafficking. I've seen the faces of children that have been trafficked. As an example, I'll tell you about Sandra. It's not her real name, 15 years old. Sandra was being trafficked for sex. She was from another country. Our staff traveled with Sandra to the deposition to try to bring her perpetrators to justice. That entire court deposition was done in the language of her home country. We failed Sandra by not being able to protect her while she was in the United States from another country. What we've done is, we're incentivizing children to become victimized by allowing our borders to remain open for unaccompanied minors in this way. Just imagine it this way. If you have a 10-year-old daughter, and we talked about 75% roughly our age are 15 and up, but 25% --tens of thousands -- of these children are under the age of 15.

Jerry Haag (34:27):

So if you can imagine your 10 year old daughter allowing her to travel with someone you've paid, that you don't know, and you don't trust. And to hitchhike from New York to Miami, it's over a thousand miles, that's similar to the journey, but in much more difficult way of traveling from Honduras to the United States. So we can no longer incentivize children to be able to make that journey unaccompanied,

where they're victimized, they're abused and they're becoming trafficked. And as we consider that, one of the things that we can do in such a powerful way is help children within their home countries. One More Child in the last two years has provided over 1.8 million meals in the country of Guatemala, 77% of all the children that are coming to the United States as unaccompanied minors are coming from Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras, the triangle countries.

Jerry Haag (35:18):

If we can help children there, before they make that trek. And so today Christie and I will be flying out to Guatemala and tomorrow at the national palace of Guatemala with the president we will be co-hosting a national anti-child sex trafficking initiative. I know President Giammattei, I've seen his heart and he deeply cares for the children and the families within his country. But we have got to make sure that we can provide aid for the children in those countries to be able to make sure that we can keep them safe, where they are, and then to secondly, promote trade, promote commerce, and promote being able to have great child welfare policies within those countries. What we can't do is -- we're really pretending by making ourselves feel better, that we're helping children. When we cannot ensure their safety -- Americans have big hearts, and I love that about Americans, we want to have -- but in order to help, we have to help in a way that's truly going to help these children.

Jerry Haag (36:23):

And what that means is we have to ensure there's transparency from the office of refugee resettlement. We have to ensure that national guidelines and policies are followed, and they're not simply suspended when things become difficult like during COVID, of being able to totally bypass social distancing and occupancy requirements, because they're children from another country. It begins and ends with us making decisions about what is best for the children. And we have that responsibility children with the United States, among other countries to ensuring that they are safe, they're cared for. And even beyond that; that's a low bar, right? But just like the people we have in the room today, not only are they safe and they're cared for, but they have the opportunity to thrive.

Governor Ron DeSantis (37:14):

Thank you. And they mentioned some of this stuff with COVID. They actually will impose more stringent policies on Americans than people coming across the border illegally. It's just unbelievable, but I guess what would you expect? You have a lot of these politicians, they want all these kids to be force-masked in school, which we don't allow in Florida, and then they'll take pictures of all these poor kids suffering, and they're just beaming and smiling with no mask on. I mean, it's just unbelievable what you're seeing across -- but that's the thing, I mean these policies are just about control. They want to do certain things to control Americans, but then if it doesn't suit them, they let people come in -- no requirements of vax, no requirements of any of this other stuff. It just shows you that this is all political.

Governor Ron DeSantis (38:07):

So, we we've talked about -- this is not servicing a lot of these people. A lot of these people are victims. And they're being incentivized to become victims effectively by reckless federal policies. We've talked about how it doesn't follow the rule of law. We've talked about how this is much different than say, Operation Pedro Pan. But even putting all that aside, the people from coming all over the world coming here and, and, and the idea is, have we solved all of our problems that our youth need? I mean, have we done that? I seem to think we got a lot of problems that we want to help Americans with. And so Jack Brewer, I know you've dedicated your life to helping youth. And so can you just talk about what are

some of the needs of youth that you're dealing with? I mean, do we have all those problems solved yet, or do we still need to help America?

Jack Brewer (38:55):

Well, we're doing it a lot better here in Florida, Governor, because of you. I want to say that first and foremost, cause it's an honor to be here for God to anoint me to have a voice right now during this spiritual battle that we all see and feel and know that we are in. And I think you make a great point when you look at our country and I do work all over the world. I feed 5,000 kids a day in Haiti and Africa. So, when I saw those Haitians at the border, it broke my heart because I knew those were my kids too. But poverty is not persecution and lawlessness is not godly. So just like my brother Mr. Haag said, you just said, we have to help people where they are, to incentivize the few that are able-bodied enough, to be able to get to the border and get across the border -- and use millions and hundreds of millions and even billions of dollars to do.

Jack Brewer (39:50):

So we could go into those countries and actually establish programs, and give people opportunity and a chance, that's what the word of God told us to do. That's what Christ told us to do. Preach the gospel to every nation, not sit in your own nation and create this bubble. We do that. And Florida is a catalyst for that. A catalyst for opportunity, no matter if you're talking about the Caribbean countries, the central American countries. But right here in this country, we have an issue that we better all start to recognize. And that's called fatherlessness. We have more fatherless homes per capita in the United States of America than anywhere in the world. I face it every day, right here in Broward County, where I live, I take on these kids. They have no fatherly influence. These cell phones are raising them. This TikTok is just warping their mind. I got little girls just last week, 10, 11 years old, sending naked pictures to each other. I got boys selling drugs that are 11 and 12 years old in our schools.

Jack Brewer (40:59):

Parents don't know what's happening because they don't understand. And the dads are not in their lives. And so Mr. Governor, I applaud you for taking care of the kids here, because if we don't do something, we're going to lose our country. We're going to lose the country that we know that we have right now. Our reading and proficiency levels mirror third world countries right now in a lot of our inner city areas, it is sick. 71 percent of every kid that drops out of high school is fatherless. Think about that. You're 20 times more likely to go to prison if you're fatherless. I teach in the prisons every week and I'm teaching a bunch of fatherless men who came from fatherless homes who now have fatherless kids. So let's think about that. And let's pay attention to these issues and understand that feeling good about your charity is not enough.

Jack Brewer (41:55):

You have to be smart. You have to plan. You have to understand how we deliver our aid, whether it's foreign or domestic. And so together, we can do a lot, but we got to serve one another as brothers and sisters. And we talk about these kids coming over here. We have to first start as Americans serving each other, forgetting about the skin color, not letting them divide us because of this color and that color. That conversation needs to end. We need to remove the color box from all of our government agencies. Governor, I wish you'd do that. We're Floridians, we're Americans. We don't care if you're black, white, green, purple, or brown, we're going to mark down that we're Americans. We're going to have each other's back. And we're going to continue to pray over each other in this great land that God gave us.

Jack Brewer ([42:41](#)):

And if you don't mind, I'm going to say a real quick prayer for this governor, his entire office, because right now what he's fighting, he's fighting forces from all over this country -- in the world right now. And we all know that. And we see that what this is about. It's about spirituality. So if you don't mind bowing, your heads really quickly. Heavenly father, I just ask for your hands of protection over Governor DeSantis, his family and all the warfare that comes at him. God, we know what he's facing. We know that he's about righteousness to God. He's rooted in you, father God, he believes in you. Through your strength, he'll continue to lead, not just Florida, but this nation. And continue to be an example of the light. Florida is the light for so many across the world to God. And we thank you for that in Jesus name. Amen.

Governor Ron DeSantis ([43:37](#)):

Thanks, Jack. I just want you to know what you said, we're on it. I mean, one of the reasons we're opposing CRT in schools, we want all the kids treated as individuals. We want them judged on their content of their character, on their talents. We don't want, them separated into racial groups and pitted against each other. Every single kid is a Floridian and American and that's what we want to make sure. And we've got to stop dividing people and we've got to stop teaching our kids to hate our country. And so that's our mission and we're going to make sure we get that done this legislative session.

Governor Ron DeSantis ([44:14](#)):

Well, I want to thank everyone for coming and -- look, at the end of the day, Biden's border policies mean more human trafficking, more sex trafficking and more drug trafficking. If you did the policies that the Trump administration had and the policies that Florida was supporting, we would have less human trafficking, less sex trafficking, and of course less drug trafficking. And so that would be better for the victims that are coming through with the cartels. It would also be better for the victims in our own country who are having to deal with drugs in their communities like we've never seen. And unfortunately, victims like we saw in Jacksonville, of people who have been trafficked and then have committed crimes in the United States. And so let's get this right. It's important to follow the rule of law. It's important to make sure that we have orderly process and the Constitution's being followed. And it's important that we do everything we can to protect the people of the state of Florida, and we're going to continue to do that. So I appreciate everyone being here. And we're happy to happy to take a few questions.

Journo ([45:21](#)):

Governor, hi just wanted to ask, cause we've asked the Florida Department of Law Enforcement to tell us that there have been criminal charges filed related to the claims that you've identified that are coming to the state. I understand that FDLE has not been able to identify the immigration status of the people on this plane. Can you just talk to -- when you talk about mass crimes admitted by the people coming into the state, what are you referring to?

Governor Ron DeSantis ([45:47](#)):

So, there's a couple different things. So you have the transport in and what penalties would attach to say, a contractor who's facilitating illegal migration. We are working with the legislature right now to be able to implement in statute, policies that would effectively bar them from being able to do business with the state of Florida or local jurisdictions, as well as charging restitution for everybody they're bringing in. Because when you bring somebody in, there's all kinds of cost, education, healthcare,

unfortunately, criminal justice, all these different things that go into it. One of my predecessors Governor Charles, he sent the federal government a bill when they were dumping people illegally into Florida back in the nineties. And so we're looking to kind of mimic that. And so we're going to need that to do now. What they have done is there have been people being brought in vans who get stopped.

Governor Ron DeSantis (46:45):

They are charging the drivers with being involved in human smuggling. Now the people that are illegal, those are folks that once we have the funding, we will reroute to Delaware, these other places. But in terms of a contractor who's hired by the federal government to fly someone in at two in the morning, we, of course, are fighting to be able to have laws in place that will be able to deter that. And that's just the nature of what we're doing. The people that are coming at two in the morning, I can tell you they're not here lawfully. You saw what happened in Jacksonville. You've seen in some of these other instances, that's just the reality of the situation.

Governor Ron DeSantis (47:28):

And first of all, if someone comes legally, the federal government's not flying them all over the country, that's not how it works. I mean, if you come over on a visa, you go where you can, but you've got to pay your own way and all that. They actually get treated better in many respects than people who are coming legally, which is really which is really incredible. But I think what we're trying to do in the legislature's going to be very important. I think we've got good support for it. And if you do that, if the contractors are on the hook for the restitution, which they should be on the hook for, because they're imposing costs on us I think it's going to deter it. I think they're going to look and they're going to say, okay, it's better to do California, it'd be better to do New York, better to do those other places, because honestly, with they have sanctuary policies in place, they view it as positive. And understand, what New York does is now they're saying I guess not just illegal aliens, but any foreigner can vote in New York City. Are you kidding me? That's crazy. And so, we're not going to let that happen in Florida.

Journo (48:30):

If I can ask on a different topic...

Governor Ron DeSantis (48:32):

Does anyone else have anything on this? Do you want -- I'll get back to you but go ahead.

Journo (48:37):

(Inaudible question about immigration policy)

Governor Ron DeSantis (48:40):

Sure, absolutely. I think what we're working on is anybody who's facilitating this could potentially face the restitution and they could potentially face -- now a profit generating enterprise is easier to hold accountable on the business side because they want access to Florida's market NGOs. It's a little bit different, but at a minimum, they would be liable potentially for the restitution. And they should be. And I think that that's totally appropriate. We are watching different things, I know you had asked about, there was an issue with some folks in Maitland. Well, it turns out those are folks that had H2A visas. And so they were brought in through the normal course. So a contractor would not be liable if they're bringing people in who have, who have visas. But if you're bringing people from the border who

are here illegally and you're facilitating that into Florida, you're imposing a lot of costs on all on our communities. And so we want to make sure that we're sending you the bill for that.

Speaker 9 (49:36):

Did your, did your administration verify they were legal immigrants?

Governor Ron DeSantis (49:38):

We verified there were H2A holders. Yep. Okay, go ahead.

Speaker 9 (49:48):

On the divide between Pence and Trump right now...

Governor Ron DeSantis (49:51):

I've had a great relationship working for four – actually, I was governor for two years with the Trump administration. I can tell you that we got a hell of a lot more done when Donald Trump was president than now. In fact, I could call the president, he would want to help us out. Now, whatever I want to do, they will do the opposite. So it's almost like I tell people, okay, if you want something, me to do something, I'll just take the opposite position and then maybe they'll end up doing it.

Jounro (50:30):

(inaudible) The city of I've lived in 60 years and I was the first one to endorse you before you ran for governor and...

Governor Ron DeSantis (50:47):

Oh, thank you.

Journo (50:54):

(inaudible) It's about HB 1557 where it talks about how I guess school district will be encouraged to be prohibited discussing sexual orientation or gender identity in the classroom. Second prong, our colleague at Local 10 did an investigation where she found that here in Miami Dade, several senior citizens that were lifetime Democrats told her that some third-party folks showed up. And the next thing they knew they got new voter registration cards with Republican on there, even though they didn't grant permission, Miami-Dade County, state attorneys just launched an investigation. We'd also love your thoughts on that...

Governor Ron DeSantis (51:38):

On that, we're pursuing the strongest election integrity measures. We've already done the strongest in the country with banning ballot harvesting, banning Zucker Bucks, making sure that you have identification if you're requesting an absentee ballot. But we're also trying to do this legislative session is say we're going to make ballot harvesting even more penalized because I think it's become a cottage industry and it really undermines the integrity of the process. But I think, in terms of what we're doing with this election integrity unit, where we're going to have a specified group of investigators and law enforcement that will go after those types of election shenanigans. And now yes, some local jurisdictions will do it. The problem is, you got a lot of irons in the fire. So some don't really pay a lot of

attention to the election infractions -- but anything trying to violate election law is something that I think needs to be taken seriously.

Governor Ron DeSantis (52:36):

So, if we have this investigative unit, if someone's ballot harvesting, you have people that know the law backwards and forwards, they can do. We're going to try to have it all referred to the statewide prosecutor under AG Moody's office. so it doesn't even matter which jurisdiction -- and many of these groups span county boundaries and all this other stuff. So, I think it's really, really significant in terms of what we're trying to do, and that would apply across the board. I mean, it doesn't matter which group is doing it. If they're changing to Republican and that's illicit, they need to be held accountable, if they're doing the opposite, they need to be held accountable. We also want to make sure we have clean voter rolls. With Florida, you have most people come, but you know, it's a transient type of thing.

Governor Ron DeSantis (53:21):

And we do find people that vote in two different states. And so, we want to make sure those rolls are clear. We certainly do not want non-citizens on the voting rolets, but we've seen that happen where they're trying to do that. And so our constitution says very clearly that we are not going -- you're not allowed to vote in state or federal elections in Florida if you're not a US citizen. And that should just be a basic thing. And it's part of our state constitution, but you see what's happening in New York. I guarantee you, they're probably doing that in San Francisco, letting foreigners vote, and it's going to end up going in these blue jurisdictions. And then they're going to try to take that nationwide. And so Florida, we're not going to let that happen. Just think of how ridiculous it is.

Governor Ron DeSantis (54:05):

It's a slap in the face to citizens to have your vote diluted by somebody that's not even a citizen of your country, much less of your state. It's unacceptable. And so we're not going to allow that to happen. In terms of the schools, we've seen instances of students being told by different folks in school, "Oh, don't worry, don't pick your gender yet, do all this other stuff." They won't tell the parents about these discussions that are happening. That is entirely inappropriate. And we need, schools need to be teaching kids to read, to write, they need teach them science, history. We need more civics, understanding the US constitution and what makes our country unique, all that basic stuff. To get into situations where you're not having the parent, you're hiding things from the parent.

Governor Ron DeSantis (54:53):

You're injecting these concepts about choosing your gender -- that is just inappropriate for our schools. And so I don't support that going on. I don't think it's going on in large numbers, but I'll tell you, since this debate has started, people have reported to me that this has happened in areas that you would not expect it to happen. And so, we want to make sure that our schools are really focusing on the basics. We don't want them to be engines to be putting things like CRT that we've talked about. Things that are divisive and are not accurate, of course, when you start are talking about some of the stuff that they're teaching with it -- and making sure we're really focusing on the basics. But the larger issue with all of this is parents must have a seat at the table when it comes to what's going on in their schools.

Governor Ron DeSantis (55:40):

And unfortunately you have different people -- you have unions that same unions that sued me to try to close our schools in 2020. They don't want to have parents have access to the curriculum. In some

respects, you have politicians saying parents have no role in the education of their kids, give me a break. And so in Florida, we're really working on transparency legislation. We want parents to be able to have access to what's going on in the classroom. And certainly, it is inappropriate to be hiding these things from parents. Not only do they deserve a seat at the table, but I don't think you can have an effective school system unless they have a seat at the table. So thank you everybody.

From: Pushaw, Christina [Christina.Pushaw@eog.myflorida.com]
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Subject: Gov. DeSantis hosts roundtable to discuss how Biden Border Crisis harms children
Attachments: Pedro Pan Oped to Herald 2-4-22_.docx; Feb 7 Miami Dade transcript.docx

Hi, hope your week is off to a good start!

I wanted to make sure you had all the information about the roundtable Governor DeSantis hosted to discuss the Biden Border Crisis and child trafficking, in Miami this morning.

Here's a link to the press release: <https://www.flgov.com/2022/02/07/governor-ron-desantis-faith-leaders-and-pedro-pans-biden-border-crisis-is-harming-children/>

I also want to share another example of **corporate media deliberately misrepresenting the facts**, in order to push a destructive open-borders agenda. Last week, the Miami Herald drew an egregious false equivalency between Operation Pedro Pan (the controlled evacuation of Cuban children as refugees from the Communist regime in the 1960s) and the current Biden Administration human smuggling operation amid the free-for-all at our southern border.

<https://www.miamiherald.com/news/politics-government/state-politics/naked-politics/article257982263.html>

The Miami Herald headline misleads readers by claiming that “Cubans who arrived through ‘Operation Pedro Pan’ oppose DeSantis’ immigration orders,” as though a few people were speaking for an entire group. The fact that the Herald neglected to mention, is that the organization of Cuban-Americans who arrived in “Operation Pedro Pan” does not take political positions. But many of the individuals in that group fully support Governor DeSantis and his immigration policies.

In fact, more than 40 “Pedro Pans” signed a letter to the Miami Herald calling out their false and manipulative reporting. Unsurprisingly, the Herald hasn’t published this letter yet, but you can find it attached with all the signatories. Two “Pedro Pans,” Max Alvarez and Carmen Valdivia, spoke at the roundtable today to share their experiences and express support for the governor’s immigration policies – you can find the full transcript attached.

Please feel free to use any of the video clips below, courtesy Office of Governor Ron DeSantis. You can also see a video of the full roundtable on Rumble. Please let me know if you have any questions.

CLIPS: Biden Border Crisis / Child Trafficking Roundtable in Miami

- *Full Roundtable:* <https://rumble.com/vubgja-gov.-desantis-holds-roundtable-on-bidens-border-crisis.html>
- Biden’s Border Policy Is a Failure: <https://we.tl/t-vrsjre4oeR>
- Why Gov. DeSantis Opposes CRT: <https://we.tl/t-B5HKHKLXWB>
- Parents Deserve a Seat at the Table: <https://we.tl/t-dE3MF42UNr>
- Maskless Politicians Forcing Kids to Wear Masks: <https://we.tl/t-VWGL2rsBT8>

Kind regards,

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With reference to the article *Cubans who arrived through Operation Pedro Pan oppose DeSantis' immigration orders* published by the Miami Herald on February 3rd, 2022, we would like to address some inaccuracies found therein.

Operation Pedro Pan Group, Inc. is a non-profit organization and thus refrains from involvement in political matters. However, the above-referenced article mentions political operatives that are not Pedro Pans and do not speak for us. If there were former Pedro Pans involved, their names were omitted from the article. Moreover, others have decided to become vociferous on the matter to the point of writing letters to Pedro Pans instigating us to act. Therefore, the undersigned former Pedro Pans can no longer stay silent. Those of us associated with OPPG are speaking personally and not through the organization.

The entire Pedro Pan element has been introduced into this issue under false pretenses, as it has nothing to do with Operation Pedro Pan. The facilities that would be losing their licenses under Governor DeSantis' proposal were never used for Pedro Pans, as some have been trying to imply. While the licenses may go back to the time of our exodus, there are no facilities housing unaccompanied children today that were used for Pedro Pan children. Some of those were sold by the Catholic Church; others had been temporarily rented and went back to their owners when they were no longer needed.

No one is more aware of the vulnerability of children than a former unaccompanied child and no one feels more for the plight of present-day unaccompanied children than we do. It is for this reason that we find that facilitating the dangerous trips that these children take in the hands of unscrupulous coyotes is unconscionable. It is even more alarming to find that they are being secretly flown, in the dead of night, and that no record of their names is given to the State.

Children should never be handled in this irresponsible manner. Transporting these minors in secrecy exposes them to dangerous sex trafficking and other evils from which they should be protected. During Operation Pedro Pan, we came directly into the hands of the Catholic Church. We had passports and documents identifying who we were and, even more importantly, who our parents were. Under the guidance of Monsignor Bryan O. Walsh, our spiritual father, we were extremely well protected. We know that the children that fall under the umbrella of Catholic Charities are more than well taken care of, but do we know how many are not that fortunate and end up in the wrong hands?

Because we consider the safety and wellbeing of unaccompanied minors to be of the utmost importance, we fully support Governor DeSantis' efforts in combatting this reckless manipulation of human beings. His initiative minimizes the involvement of cartels and traffickers in the lives of these innocent children.

Sincerely,

Pedro Pan Maximo Alvarez

Pedro Pan Miriam Castro

Pedro Pan Carmen Valdivia

Pedro Pan Melvin Noriega

Pedro Pan Carmencita Romanach

Pedro Pan Maria De La Milera

Pedro Pan Juan Pujol

Pedro Pan Javier Llorens

Pedro Pan Eddie Dulon

Pedro Pan Orestes Wrves

Pedro Pan Jorge Finlay

Pedro Pan Justo Martinez

Pedro Pan Ramon Flores

Pedro Pan Libia M. Mendez

Pedro Pan Emma Quevedo

Pedro Pan Nancy Cruz

Pedro Pan Olivia Nuñez Gonzalez

Pedro Pan Frank Rego

Pedro Pan Alicia Rego

Pedro Pan Bethsy Parajon

Pedro Pan Rolando Parajon

Pedro Pan Sara Cruz

Pedro Pan Mercedes Cesari

Pedro Pan Caridad Cesari

Pedro Pan Evelio Prieto

Pedro Pan Nancy Quevedo

Pedro Pan Silvia Portu

Pedro Pan Caridad Echeverria

Pedro Pan Frank Echeverria

Pedro Pan Georgina Andraca

Pedro Pan Juan Jose Rodriguez

Pedro Pan Jorge Pardo

Pedro Pan Roger Gonzalez

Pedro Pan Juan Gozalez

Pedro Pan Carlos Barquin

Pedro Pan Jorge Adan

Pedro Pan Rogelio de la Rosa

Pedro Pan Santiago Eljaiek

Pedro Pan Fausto Campuzano

Pedro Pan Manuel Miguel

Pedro Pan Teresa Gonzalez Angulo

Pedro Pan Lourdes Mendez

Governor Ron DeSantis (00:00):

Sit down, sit down. All right. It's good to be down in Miami again. We're happy to be joined by our great attorney general, our great lieutenant governor. We also have Dr. Jerry Haag, CEO of One More Child, Jack Brewer, founder of the Jack Brewer Foundation, Max Alvarez, President of Sunshine Gas, Carmen Valdivia, executive director at the American Museum of Cuban Diaspora, and senior pastor Frank Lopez from Iglesia Doral Jesus Worship Center. So I want to thank everybody for coming. You know, we're discussing today, and really getting great perspective, on the disastrous border policies of the Biden administration. And then Florida's position -- that we don't want to be facilitating what are very harmful policies. Not only in terms of the rule of law, not only in terms of what drug cartels may be introducing into our country, but also of the treatment of people who are basically being trafficked as part of what is effectively the largest human smuggling operation in American history -- illegal operation.

Governor Ron DeSantis (01:12):

And so our perspective is that that those are bad policies. You know, if you look at the absolute explosion of illegal migrants across the Southern border, it's unlike anything we've ever seen. Just go back to 2020, it was a much different situation. And we in the state of Florida actually sent support last summer to help Texas and to help interdict. The problem is, you interdict and then you give them to the feds, and then the feds will do things like fly people in the middle of the night at two in the morning and drop them off. They will provide bus, all this other stuff, and then put into different communities. There's no papers. No one knows who the hell any a lot of these people are. So, it's chaos. But the thing that really stuck out to me where two things, one -- I don't think most people understand this.

Governor Ron DeSantis (02:06):

This is not Mexicans coming across by and large. These are people from all over the world. I mean, when we were there, we saw people from Africa, the Middle East, South America, you name it. The APB has basically gone out to say, "Why would you want to go through three years of an immigration process, it takes us years to vet." So, we want to bring a doctor in from like Nigeria -- it takes like three years, or maybe even more. Why would you want to go through that? Just come across the border illegally. And you're basically home free. And so, the total breadth of people that we're coming from so many different places around the world. There's actually countries that are closer to Florida, that are closer to us, but they're going all the way through this roundabout.

Governor Ron DeSantis (02:53):

The other thing that really stuck out was when our folks were interdicting people, they would be asking, "Where would you like to go?" And a lot of them said Florida. Now, that's true. I mean, you look at where people from failed states in the United States want to go, they want to come to Florida. And I guess people that are fleeing bad places -- not that they're anything that -- and we'll talk a little bit more about Pedro Pan and the communists and everything. They're not qualified as refugees because they just want to be in America for whatever reason. But it was a huge amount. So people -- when we sent the folks to help, they were like, "Well, this is a Texas problem. This is a border problem.

Governor Ron DeSantis (03:30):

What does that have to do with Florida?" It does have to do with Florida. Unfortunately, I wish it had nothing to do -- but it does. And so that was what we were able to now. And we have some folks here -- we're going to discuss some of this stuff -- I just think there's a lot of bad analogies that get made in modern political discourse. But to equate what's going on with the Southern border with mass

trafficking of humans, illegal entry, drugs, all this other stuff -- with operation Pedro Pan quite frankly, is disgusting. It's wrong. It is not even close to the same thing. We had people that were coming because they were fleeing a communist dictatorship that was persecuting them. Those are not illegal immigrants. These are people that were sanctioned to come by the United States government. And I've talked with Max and some of these other people and said, "If Cuba was free in the 1960s, we would have never accepted communist refugees into this country."

Governor Ron DeSantis (04:29):

We were doing it because it was the right thing to do, but it was also consistent with our national interest in fighting communism, and the same reason we had a lot of, obviously, involvement in Cuba over the years. It's the same reason why people fleeing the communist regime in Vietnam were welcomed in the United States. We had of course a lot of involvement there. And so to equate those things with what we're seeing there is just frankly wrong. And it's not something that I think most people that have any sense of what's going on -- would think that's something that's good. If you look at the amount of people, you'll hear things about unaccompanied alien children, and that's different than refugees. People that qualify as refugees, these are basically illegal entrants. It's important to point out though, when they talk about "children," most of these people are what would be considered in most parts of the world, military age males, 15 to 17.

Governor Ron DeSantis (05:26):

That's who's typically coming across. I think it's CBS News who reported 75% of everybody, I think in 2021, was 15 to 17 -- and the overwhelming majority of those were males. So that's what it is. So, I think it's sometimes portrayed that these are like, some babies dropped over the border, or something like that. That's just not what's happening. But regardless of that, it's not a good policy to want to incentivize unaccompanied minors to be taking these types of voyages, because there's a huge problem with what human smugglers are doing. Human traffickers, sex traffickers, drug cartels. And I can tell you, this is the golden age for the cartel since Biden became president. They are eating our lunch every single day with what's going on down there, and the sheer increase in what you're seeing is really unbelievable.

Governor Ron DeSantis (06:23):

So just in 2021, you're looking at about 2 million people coming illegally across the Southern border and, and they're not showing any inclination to want to change their policies in a really radical direction. If you look at the amount of fentanyl, and I know Ashley will probably want to talk about this. You know, there's been fentanyl coming across the border -- there's been enough to kill like 275 million Americans. And if you look in 2021, fentanyl was the leading cause of death for Americans between the age of 18 and 45. And so those policies are poisoning this country. You also look at the methamphetamines that are coming across the border. There used to be a lot of that produced in the United States, not as much anymore, most of it is coming across the Southern border.

Governor Ron DeSantis (07:17):

And so, you deal with that here in south Florida. I can tell you -- you go to other parts of Florida, the percentage of folks who get involved, unfortunately in meth is way too high, particularly in some of our rural counties, that's the number one scourge that they're fighting. So that's coming across the border in record time. And so our view in is -- and then I also think about, "If these policies are so great, why are you hiding them at two o'clock in the morning? How come you're not being honest? Why aren't you giving the state a heads up about who you're bringing in to the state, how come you're not blaring this

from the rafters so that everybody knows how great you're doing?" And I think it's because people understand that what's being done is a violation of federal law.

Governor Ron DeSantis (08:07):

Clearly from a policy perspective, it's having hugely negative consequences. But it's also a failure of the president to fulfill his constitutional oath that the laws be faithfully executed. He is not taking care to do so and the result is what we're seeing. But I also think to myself, Florida's been very clear, we're not a sanctuary state for illegal immigration. We've made that clear in our laws. We made that clear in our policies. You have other states who have done differently, California, New York, some of those places. And yet they're sending more illegal immigrants to Florida than they are even to California, which is twice our size. And so if this policy is "so great," and you have all these sanctuary states that are always virtue signaling mostly against Trump from four years ago, why not then just redirect there?

Governor Ron DeSantis (08:59):

I can tell you we're getting money from the legislature because we will be redirecting to Delaware and California and these other sanctuary states, that's going to happen in Florida. But until then we're in a situation where they do this without providing notification, always under the radar, clandestine, and doing it in a way to try to escape any type of public scrutiny. So I'm really glad that we have a great panel here today. We'll have the lieutenant governor, attorney general, then we'll go around the horn and you guys can speak your piece.

Lt. Governor Jeanette Nunez (09:36):

Good morning. Thank you, governor, for being here and, and of course, to Carmen for hosting us here at the museum. And this exhibit tells the stories of so many of the 14,000 Cuban refugee children that made that fight, that their parents made the difficult decision. And while neither of my parents came through Operation Pedro Pan, I would like to share just a brief story of how my parents came to ultimately change the trajectory of their lives, and mine as well. My father -- 25 at the time -- had a cousin that worked at the embassy, who continuously told him, "Get your visa. The United States and, and Cuba are going to break diplomatic relations." My father, he went to the embassy, he got his visa. He encouraged my mom to do the same. She had just had my oldest sister and they had their first child.

Lt. Governor Jeanette Nunez (10:22):

And so my mom procrastinated, as you can imagine, and did not get her visa. And then of course the relations were broken. My mom often jokes that because she rarely listened to my father, she would always get into trouble. And this is just another example of how that ended up happening. But what I'll tell you is that they had to make the difficult decision. And so, my father came ahead in search of democracy, liberty, and freedom, and left behind his wife and infant child. Very difficult to leave behind your family, not knowing when, or if you'll be reunited. And so, for those that are here, that experienced that as children, I can only imagine the difficult nature of having to not only experience it from your perspective, but also from your parents' perspective. And that's why I feel so strongly. It is incumbent upon all of us to educate those that would like to, as the governor said, conflate one operation that was fully vetted, organized and legal, with complete and utter chaos at the border.

Lt. Governor Jeanette Nunez (11:20):

And what you're seeing with the disastrous policies at the border -- they are bringing over 2 million migrants from all over the world, not just Central America, all over the world -- that are crossing our

border. And those numbers in December were up to almost 179,000. Month over month, those numbers increased. And so the presence of reckless policies have incentivized this mass influx, which brings as the governor mentioned, drug trafficking, human trafficking. And I want to thank our attorney general for being here. This is an issue that she and I have worked on quite a bit, and her leadership on that issue is extremely important. And we appreciate you being here as well. And so, for us, again, I think these acts of human trafficking, human smuggling, drug smuggling, they're plain evil. And for the federal government to shirk its responsibility and ignore the laws that this country was founded upon. I believe very strongly that Florida is leading the way under Governor DeSantis' leadership to push back and to make sure that we protect our citizenry, make sure that we are protecting our children. They like to use children as a pawn in this game, but I can tell you from our perspective, we are protecting children from this heinous scourge that is human trafficking. And so if I could governor say few words in Spanish.

Governor Ron DeSantis (14:45):

Okay, thanks so much. Our attorney general, thank you so much for coming.

Attorney General Ashley Moody (14:50):

Thank you, governor, for your tremendous leadership. Lieutenant governor, thank you so much. What is important about today is that you have an administration, the governor and others here that are saying, "Please pay attention to what's going on right now." It's not just being felt here in Miami. It's all over Florida. We are a pro-immigration state. In fact, our state is so prosperous and successful because of the folks sitting around this table, please do not let anyone say otherwise. Florida welcomes legal immigrants who have made this state what it is, but we are anti-trafficking. We are anti-crime. We are anti-chaos. We are anti-cartel. Make no mistake about it. And let no one tell you that what's being done now is similar to what has been done in the past that has made Miami what it is today, in terms of immigration. I will go back just one short year.

Attorney General Ashley Moody (15:53):

When Biden first got in office, he immediately stopped doing what presidents have historically done in the past, which is follow public safety and immigration laws, both Democrat and Republican. They immediately started telling our sheriffs across the state: "If there are those here illegally and they're committing crimes, we are not taking them for rotation. Release them back into the communities." This administration, we sued. We then started seeing folks being spread all over the nation that had crossed the border illegally, not vetted, being done in secret. The information has not been shared with the administration. We demanded to know who was coming in the state. After we saw someone murdered by someone that was brought in, after we saw cops shot at, by people that were here illegally, we need to know how the process is taking place, who was being brought in, how is the vetting being done?

Attorney General Ashley Moody (16:48):

No answers. We had to sue our own government, the federal government, to get information about their policies and who they are bring bringing into the state of Florida. Now they may be sharing information with other states, but they're not sharing that information with Florida. And then we started learning that not only are there open borders, open chaos, anything goes at the Southern border. They are building new programs, totally outside of federal immigration laws, that allow for those who have crossed here illegally to be released. And then the United States government is helping bring over, not just children don't fall for that -- up to 21 years old, people that identify as caretakers, you

name it. Your taxpayer dollars have now become a travel agency to help them with illegal immigration programs. We don't know who they're bringing here, because they're not telling us. So we have repeatedly had to sue our own government because of not just open borders, but because of illegal programs they are building today.

Attorney General Ashley Moody ([18:06](#)):

The numbers of those folks that they have brought in and released are astronomical. Florida is already feeling the effects. Do not let anyone convey to you that this is just for humanitarian purposes. They are doing this completely in violation of public safety immigration laws. Biden is ignoring every law that has been put in place by congresses leading up to today. He has ignored historically what both parties have done in office and he is endangering American lives. We will continue to push back. I am so proud to stand with a governor who is not afraid to speak out. He does not see a news story or take criticism and back away from what needs to be said to protect Floridians. And we won't back down. And Governor DeSantis, thank you so much for bringing folks together.

Governor Ron DeSantis ([19:13](#)):

And thanks to the AG, we worked together, and she led the way on suing the Biden administration over their catch and release policies that are in violation of the law. And we've already gotten them to change some of the policies. So what they had been doing is basically giving people a sheet of paper. If they come across illegally and they say, "Hey, here's this 800 number, just call and set up your own procedure, whatever." I mean, can you imagine if that's how laws were enforced? Like somebody robs your house, and the prosecutor says, "Hey, just call, schedule your burglary trial, whatever you want. Go ahead." No, of course people aren't going to do that. And there was no sanction for not showing up. So, we called them on it. So now they've had to change to -- if someone doesn't show up, they've waived any rights and that they are deportable at that instant.

Governor Ron DeSantis ([19:59](#)):

And so, we've already made headway -- we're working on doing even more. And so I want to thank her for what she's been doing to really help really fight for safe communities. And she pointed out, you had this guy that murdered a fellow in Jacksonville. This person said they were "minor." It was a 24-year-old man. Comes in illegally, dumped by Biden into Jacksonville, and then he committed this murder. And so that's bringing problems into our state, but it shouldn't be there. So I appreciate that very much. Okay. Max Alvarez -- just a great, great member of this community. Very, very strong in understanding the dangers of totalitarianism and communism and the star of the 2020 convention. So go ahead. Make sure the mic is a little closer...

Maximo Alvarez ([20:53](#)):

Well, number one, thank you very much for coming down and meeting with us. We also want to thank you as well, attorney general, for the work that you're doing. And we want to assure you that we're behind you. There was an article in the paper. If I remember February 3rd -- at my age, I get confused with the dates. But anyway, this article tried to tell people that our group was against the policies that you're trying to implement in order to make sure that our people are safe. And naturally when I read that -- I'm a little emotional, the first time I want to do things that I'm not supposed to do, you have to understand. But I was also very sad simply because if you can see in this museum, what this country what the Catholic charities, what our spiritual father did for all of us.

Maximo Alvarez (22:00):

When we came over here, we thought it was literally temporary until the communist government of Cuba would be finished. As you know, in Central and south America, we change governments like you change hats. So, I remember my parents thinking, the kids are going to go out because want to make sure that we don't lose any school's time. So really I was on my way to Spain. I wasn't even coming over here. It just so happens -- and I try not to get emotional -- but the same day that I leave Cuba in my way to Spain, through Miami, my brother passed away in Spain. So kind of sad, but at the same time, how fortunate that I end up in this great country of ours. Now, let me assure you, they know exactly who I was. I had a passport, I had a visa. As a matter of fact, I had a visa to go into the seminary, the (inaudible) brothers in Spain.

Maximo Alvarez (23:04):

They know who my parents were. And I'm so fortunate to end up in the program that Monsignor Walsh was leading later on. We find out that he was responsible for more than 14,000 kids. And you know, it sounds sad, but at the same time, look how fortunate we were. I, as a kid, didn't really know what was happen until later on. But imagine the courage of mom and dad to send a kid somewhere. And I was very fortunate to stay here because the program -- whenever you came here within days or weeks, sometimes months -- you were assigned to a foster home or some other place. But Monsignor kept a home St. (inaudible) Hall. Biscayne Boulevard on 21st. And since they didn't know whether I was going to go back to Cuba or going to Spain, they kept in the program where I stayed about four years until my parents finally...

Maximo Alvarez (24:08):

Now let me tell you what is really sad. That they use this program to try to convince people that this is similar to what is happening today. Not even close! This is the way, and you keep using the word socialism, it's communism. This is the way communists work. Remember, the ends justify the means. So they use whatever they can use. They pretend to be whoever they're not to make sure that they get whatever they want. And here's the problem, because we are a Judeo-Christian society, a Judeo-Christian country. We not only forgive, but we are the most generous people in the world. We are not allowed to kill. We're not allowed to steal. We're not allowed to lie. Then we have to forgive. Communist people don't. If you don't agree with you, then they'll kill you! You have no doubt about that. Everybody who's came from any communist country will understand that.

Maximo Alvarez (25:14):

So now they're trying to use -- illegally, by the way -- because the federal power organization is a nonprofit organization, and we are politically color blind. We are really keeping the mission of the Monsignor, which is to take care of children. This is not what is happening right now. What is happening right now is that using children, some of them like we did, like we were, as merchandise! That's what it is. And these cartels and these drug people, they're using these kids as merchandise for personal gain. And believe me, when we came, we came directly into the hands of the church, in my case to the hands of Monsignor Brian Walsh. And we were like family. I'll tell you right now, Monsignor was my dad.

Maximo Alvarez (26:16):

So don't dare, ever compare what is happening now. Because what they are trying to do is to destroy you because you are fighting for us. You're fighting for the state. You're fighting for the children that are coming over here unattended. And that's what they're trying to do. So make sure everybody in this

group understands -- maybe the media does not -- but everybody here understands that. Okay. And let me assure you, what they're trying to do is destroy this country. This is nothing about Republicans or Democrats. This is about the land. And my father always said it. He knew because he had lost Spain and then he lost Cuba and he'd tell me, "Don't lose this place." So thank you, governors. Thank you for what you're doing. And we're going to die supporting you and anybody who fights to save the only land in the world.

Maximo Alvarez (27:16):

Everybody wants to come over here. Nobody wants to leave. Nobody wants to go to California. Everybody wants to come here, all these people that say "if such and such gets elected. I'm going to leave." They haven't left -- nobody in Hollywood left. And I remember listening to all of "if this guy gets elected. We're going to leave." Nobody left. So again, thank you. By the way, we are so proud, not only of our governor, but so very proud of our Lieutenant Governor. So proud of our attorney general. We are in such great hands in the state of Florida. We have a great speaker of the house... I yield my time.

Governor Ron DeSantis (28:07):

Thank you so much. And obviously very powerful as always. And I mean, you do bring up one good point. You know, irrespective of the recklessness and the illegality and what the cartels are -- but just in terms of people coming to Florida, just think of all the blue state refugees we have. I mean this is a big deal. You have people coming to Miami, it's a free country. It's not like we can stop that, but you have a lot of people that are fleeing failed state governments in this country. They're fleeing lockdown policies. They're fleeing high crime, to be able to come to a law-and-order state and a state that respects their freedoms. And so when you're leading the country and net in migration, there are some benefits to that, but there's also challenges that come with that. And I don't think anyone should think otherwise. Okay, Carmen, thanks so much for hosting us. And the floor is yours.

Carmen Valdivia (29:01):

Thank you. Thank you for calling us here. (Inaudible) I'm here with members of the (inaudible)... We're here speaking personally, not through the organization. As we said it's a nonprofit, so they stay away from politics. But in a personal sense, we can say whether we feel -- and that's what we're here to say. Now, to compare with what is happening now, I was four years old when I came with my sister without my parents. And we had the Catholic church waiting here for us. And we had Monsignor (inaudible). And Monsignor took that time to study child refugees before us, especially the Hungarian refugees and what had gone wrong with those kids. And he made sure to set up a system where we would be well taken care of from so the things that had happened before did not happen to us, which is the opposite of what happening now.

Carmen Valdivia (30:12):

Cause instead of starting over and trying to learn from that, they're doing the opposite. And so these children are going through terrible ordeals because, by the time they make to the United States, they have gone through -- I mean, girls are getting raped and you see a 10 year old with a baby through no fault of her own. And so, to compare it, it's incredible because we had -- we came into the hands of the church. We had documents, which is very important. You know, people say undocumented, they think that doesn't mean anything. But it means a lot, because our passport said who we were and more importantly, who our parents were. And so, none of us got lost. We had powers of attorneys from our parents, anything that had to do with us, our parents would be consulted in Cuba. And they made sure

that we kept that religion because 95% of us were Catholic, but we also had 396 Jewish Pedro Pan and we have about 700 Protestant.

Carmen Valdivia ([31:15](#)):

And so, each of us were put in a group that would take care of our faith. So, because that's what our parents wanted -- we basically left Cuba because we would have to become Marxists and we were people of faith. And so, it's so different. And so to put children in the front line, which is what they're doing now and using them so that they can get their political agenda through, it's inconceivable that these people are doing this. And so we thank you for you know what you're doing to the state. I was telling the Lieutenant that one day we're going to have to secede if things keep going the way they are. Because when you experience communism, you see what is happening and the steps that we are going through. And we see it, we don't see socialism, we see communism coming. And so we see things that the rest of the people don't see, but the state doesn't let them. And so we're very grateful.

Governor Ron DeSantis ([32:12](#)):

Thank you so much. We appreciate it, thanks for hosting us. And don't worry, we're on a mission to make sure we keep Florida free. All right. Jerry, do you want to go introduce yourself and talk about some of the work you all have done?

Jerry Haag ([32:30](#)):

You bet. I'm Jerry Haag, I'm the CEO of One More Child and Governor DeSantis, we're grateful for you and for Casey, the first lady, and how child friendly you have been and how you've promoted the needs and the causes of those that are vulnerable throughout our state. And also, the protection of these children, all these conversations have to begin and end with what is best for the child. That's where we have to be. And we have to make those decisions. Today regarding children, we have a failed foreign policy. That's creating a domestic disaster for children as they're incentivized to become victims and make this trek all the way to the United States. I've seen firsthand the 10 cities along the borders and the facilities there. I've seen firsthand, the children that are traumatized on those border areas as they've made that trek.

Jerry Haag ([33:21](#)):

In addition to that, we work closely with Attorney General Moody for victims of child sex trafficking. I've seen the faces of children that have been trafficked. As an example, I'll tell you about Sandra. It's not her real name, 15 years old. Sandra was being trafficked for sex. She was from another country. Our staff traveled with Sandra to the deposition to try to bring her perpetrators to justice. That entire court deposition was done in the language of her home country. We failed Sandra by not being able to protect her while she was in the United States from another country. What we've done is, we're incentivizing children to become victimized by allowing our borders to remain open for unaccompanied minors in this way. Just imagine it this way. If you have a 10-year-old daughter, and we talked about 75% roughly our age are 15 and up, but 25% --tens of thousands -- of these children are under the age of 15.

Jerry Haag ([34:27](#)):

So if you can imagine your 10 year old daughter allowing her to travel with someone you've paid, that you don't know, and you don't trust. And to hitchhike from New York to Miami, it's over a thousand miles, that's similar to the journey, but in much more difficult way of traveling from Honduras to the United States. So we can no longer incentivize children to be able to make that journey unaccompanied,

where they're victimized, they're abused and they're becoming trafficked. And as we consider that, one of the things that we can do in such a powerful way is help children within their home countries. One More Child in the last two years has provided over 1.8 million meals in the country of Guatemala, 77% of all the children that are coming to the United States as unaccompanied minors are coming from Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras, the triangle countries.

Jerry Haag (35:18):

If we can help children there, before they make that trek. And so today Christie and I will be flying out to Guatemala and tomorrow at the national palace of Guatemala with the president we will be co-hosting a national anti-child sex trafficking initiative. I know President Giammattei, I've seen his heart and he deeply cares for the children and the families within his country. But we have got to make sure that we can provide aid for the children in those countries to be able to make sure that we can keep them safe, where they are, and then to secondly, promote trade, promote commerce, and promote being able to have great child welfare policies within those countries. What we can't do is -- we're really pretending by making ourselves feel better, that we're helping children. When we cannot ensure their safety -- Americans have big hearts, and I love that about Americans, we want to have -- but in order to help, we have to help in a way that's truly going to help these children.

Jerry Haag (36:23):

And what that means is we have to ensure there's transparency from the office of refugee resettlement. We have to ensure that national guidelines and policies are followed, and they're not simply suspended when things become difficult like during COVID, of being able to totally bypass social distancing and occupancy requirements, because they're children from another country. It begins and ends with us making decisions about what is best for the children. And we have that responsibility children with the United States, among other countries to ensuring that they are safe, they're cared for. And even beyond that; that's a low bar, right? But just like the people we have in the room today, not only are they safe and they're cared for, but they have the opportunity to thrive.

Governor Ron DeSantis (37:14):

Thank you. And they mentioned some of this stuff with COVID. They actually will impose more stringent policies on Americans than people coming across the border illegally. It's just unbelievable, but I guess what would you expect? You have a lot of these politicians, they want all these kids to be force-masked in school, which we don't allow in Florida, and then they'll take pictures of all these poor kids suffering, and they're just beaming and smiling with no mask on. I mean, it's just unbelievable what you're seeing across -- but that's the thing, I mean these policies are just about control. They want to do certain things to control Americans, but then if it doesn't suit them, they let people come in -- no requirements of vax, no requirements of any of this other stuff. It just shows you that this is all political.

Governor Ron DeSantis (38:07):

So, we we've talked about -- this is not servicing a lot of these people. A lot of these people are victims. And they're being incentivized to become victims effectively by reckless federal policies. We've talked about how it doesn't follow the rule of law. We've talked about how this is much different than say, Operation Pedro Pan. But even putting all that aside, the people from coming all over the world coming here and, and, and the idea is, have we solved all of our problems that our youth need? I mean, have we done that? I seem to think we got a lot of problems that we want to help Americans with. And so Jack Brewer, I know you've dedicated your life to helping youth. And so can you just talk about what are

some of the needs of youth that you're dealing with? I mean, do we have all those problems solved yet, or do we still need to help America?

Jack Brewer (38:55):

Well, we're doing it a lot better here in Florida, Governor, because of you. I want to say that first and foremost, cause it's an honor to be here for God to anoint me to have a voice right now during this spiritual battle that we all see and feel and know that we are in. And I think you make a great point when you look at our country and I do work all over the world. I feed 5,000 kids a day in Haiti and Africa. So, when I saw those Haitians at the border, it broke my heart because I knew those were my kids too. But poverty is not persecution and lawlessness is not godly. So just like my brother Mr. Haag said, you just said, we have to help people where they are, to incentivize the few that are able-bodied enough, to be able to get to the border and get across the border -- and use millions and hundreds of millions and even billions of dollars to do.

Jack Brewer (39:50):

So we could go into those countries and actually establish programs, and give people opportunity and a chance, that's what the word of God told us to do. That's what Christ told us to do. Preach the gospel to every nation, not sit in your own nation and create this bubble. We do that. And Florida is a catalyst for that. A catalyst for opportunity, no matter if you're talking about the Caribbean countries, the central American countries. But right here in this country, we have an issue that we better all start to recognize. And that's called fatherlessness. We have more fatherless homes per capita in the United States of America than anywhere in the world. I face it every day, right here in Broward County, where I live, I take on these kids. They have no fatherly influence. These cell phones are raising them. This TikTok is just warping their mind. I got little girls just last week, 10, 11 years old, sending naked pictures to each other. I got boys selling drugs that are 11 and 12 years old in our schools.

Jack Brewer (40:59):

Parents don't know what's happening because they don't understand. And the dads are not in their lives. And so Mr. Governor, I applaud you for taking care of the kids here, because if we don't do something, we're going to lose our country. We're going to lose the country that we know that we have right now. Our reading and proficiency levels mirror third world countries right now in a lot of our inner city areas, it is sick. 71 percent of every kid that drops out of high school is fatherless. Think about that. You're 20 times more likely to go to prison if you're fatherless. I teach in the prisons every week and I'm teaching a bunch of fatherless men who came from fatherless homes who now have fatherless kids. So let's think about that. And let's pay attention to these issues and understand that feeling good about your charity is not enough.

Jack Brewer (41:55):

You have to be smart. You have to plan. You have to understand how we deliver our aid, whether it's foreign or domestic. And so together, we can do a lot, but we got to serve one another as brothers and sisters. And we talk about these kids coming over here. We have to first start as Americans serving each other, forgetting about the skin color, not letting them divide us because of this color and that color. That conversation needs to end. We need to remove the color box from all of our government agencies. Governor, I wish you'd do that. We're Floridians, we're Americans. We don't care if you're black, white, green, purple, or brown, we're going to mark down that we're Americans. We're going to have each other's back. And we're going to continue to pray over each other in this great land that God gave us.

Jack Brewer ([42:41](#)):

And if you don't mind, I'm going to say a real quick prayer for this governor, his entire office, because right now what he's fighting, he's fighting forces from all over this country -- in the world right now. And we all know that. And we see that what this is about. It's about spirituality. So if you don't mind bowing, your heads really quickly. Heavenly father, I just ask for your hands of protection over Governor DeSantis, his family and all the warfare that comes at him. God, we know what he's facing. We know that he's about righteousness to God. He's rooted in you, father God, he believes in you. Through your strength, he'll continue to lead, not just Florida, but this nation. And continue to be an example of the light. Florida is the light for so many across the world to God. And we thank you for that in Jesus name. Amen.

Governor Ron DeSantis ([43:37](#)):

Thanks, Jack. I just want you to know what you said, we're on it. I mean, one of the reasons we're opposing CRT in schools, we want all the kids treated as individuals. We want them judged on their content of their character, on their talents. We don't want, them separated into racial groups and pitted against each other. Every single kid is a Floridian and American and that's what we want to make sure. And we've got to stop dividing people and we've got to stop teaching our kids to hate our country. And so that's our mission and we're going to make sure we get that done this legislative session.

Governor Ron DeSantis ([44:14](#)):

Well, I want to thank everyone for coming and -- look, at the end of the day, Biden's border policies mean more human trafficking, more sex trafficking and more drug trafficking. If you did the policies that the Trump administration had and the policies that Florida was supporting, we would have less human trafficking, less sex trafficking, and of course less drug trafficking. And so that would be better for the victims that are coming through with the cartels. It would also be better for the victims in our own country who are having to deal with drugs in their communities like we've never seen. And unfortunately, victims like we saw in Jacksonville, of people who have been trafficked and then have committed crimes in the United States. And so let's get this right. It's important to follow the rule of law. It's important to make sure that we have orderly process and the Constitution's being followed. And it's important that we do everything we can to protect the people of the state of Florida, and we're going to continue to do that. So I appreciate everyone being here. And we're happy to happy to take a few questions.

Journo ([45:21](#)):

Governor, hi just wanted to ask, cause we've asked the Florida Department of Law Enforcement to tell us that there have been criminal charges filed related to the claims that you've identified that are coming to the state. I understand that FDLE has not been able to identify the immigration status of the people on this plane. Can you just talk to -- when you talk about mass crimes admitted by the people coming into the state, what are you referring to?

Governor Ron DeSantis ([45:47](#)):

So, there's a couple different things. So you have the transport in and what penalties would attach to say, a contractor who's facilitating illegal migration. We are working with the legislature right now to be able to implement in statute, policies that would effectively bar them from being able to do business with the state of Florida or local jurisdictions, as well as charging restitution for everybody they're bringing in. Because when you bring somebody in, there's all kinds of cost, education, healthcare,

unfortunately, criminal justice, all these different things that go into it. One of my predecessors Governor Charles, he sent the federal government a bill when they were dumping people illegally into Florida back in the nineties. And so we're looking to kind of mimic that. And so we're going to need that to do now. What they have done is there have been people being brought in vans who get stopped.

Governor Ron DeSantis (46:45):

They are charging the drivers with being involved in human smuggling. Now the people that are illegal, those are folks that once we have the funding, we will reroute to Delaware, these other places. But in terms of a contractor who's hired by the federal government to fly someone in at two in the morning, we, of course, are fighting to be able to have laws in place that will be able to deter that. And that's just the nature of what we're doing. The people that are coming at two in the morning, I can tell you they're not here lawfully. You saw what happened in Jacksonville. You've seen in some of these other instances, that's just the reality of the situation.

Governor Ron DeSantis (47:28):

And first of all, if someone comes legally, the federal government's not flying them all over the country, that's not how it works. I mean, if you come over on a visa, you go where you can, but you've got to pay your own way and all that. They actually get treated better in many respects than people who are coming legally, which is really which is really incredible. But I think what we're trying to do in the legislature's going to be very important. I think we've got good support for it. And if you do that, if the contractors are on the hook for the restitution, which they should be on the hook for, because they're imposing costs on us I think it's going to deter it. I think they're going to look and they're going to say, okay, it's better to do California, it'd be better to do New York, better to do those other places, because honestly, with they have sanctuary policies in place, they view it as positive. And understand, what New York does is now they're saying I guess not just illegal aliens, but any foreigner can vote in New York City. Are you kidding me? That's crazy. And so, we're not going to let that happen in Florida.

Journo (48:30):

If I can ask on a different topic...

Governor Ron DeSantis (48:32):

Does anyone else have anything on this? Do you want -- I'll get back to you but go ahead.

Journo (48:37):

(Inaudible question about immigration policy)

Governor Ron DeSantis (48:40):

Sure, absolutely. I think what we're working on is anybody who's facilitating this could potentially face the restitution and they could potentially face -- now a profit generating enterprise is easier to hold accountable on the business side because they want access to Florida's market NGOs. It's a little bit different, but at a minimum, they would be liable potentially for the restitution. And they should be. And I think that that's totally appropriate. We are watching different things, I know you had asked about, there was an issue with some folks in Maitland. Well, it turns out those are folks that had H2A visas. And so they were brought in through the normal course. So a contractor would not be liable if they're bringing people in who have, who have visas. But if you're bringing people from the border who

are here illegally and you're facilitating that into Florida, you're imposing a lot of costs on all on our communities. And so we want to make sure that we're sending you the bill for that.

Speaker 9 (49:36):

Did your, did your administration verify they were legal immigrants?

Governor Ron DeSantis (49:38):

We verified there were H2A holders. Yep. Okay, go ahead.

Speaker 9 (49:48):

On the divide between Pence and Trump right now...

Governor Ron DeSantis (49:51):

I've had a great relationship working for four – actually, I was governor for two years with the Trump administration. I can tell you that we got a hell of a lot more done when Donald Trump was president than now. In fact, I could call the president, he would want to help us out. Now, whatever I want to do, they will do the opposite. So it's almost like I tell people, okay, if you want something, me to do something, I'll just take the opposite position and then maybe they'll end up doing it.

Jounro (50:30):

(inaudible) The city of I've lived in 60 years and I was the first one to endorse you before you ran for governor and...

Governor Ron DeSantis (50:47):

Oh, thank you.

Journo (50:54):

(inaudible) It's about HB 1557 where it talks about how I guess school district will be encouraged to be prohibited discussing sexual orientation or gender identity in the classroom. Second prong, our colleague at Local 10 did an investigation where she found that here in Miami Dade, several senior citizens that were lifetime Democrats told her that some third-party folks showed up. And the next thing they knew they got new voter registration cards with Republican on there, even though they didn't grant permission, Miami-Dade County, state attorneys just launched an investigation. We'd also love your thoughts on that...

Governor Ron DeSantis (51:38):

On that, we're pursuing the strongest election integrity measures. We've already done the strongest in the country with banning ballot harvesting, banning Zucker Bucks, making sure that you have identification if you're requesting an absentee ballot. But we're also trying to do this legislative session is say we're going to make ballot harvesting even more penalized because I think it's become a cottage industry and it really undermines the integrity of the process. But I think, in terms of what we're doing with this election integrity unit, where we're going to have a specified group of investigators and law enforcement that will go after those types of election shenanigans. And now yes, some local jurisdictions will do it. The problem is, you got a lot of irons in the fire. So some don't really pay a lot of

attention to the election infractions -- but anything trying to violate election law is something that I think needs to be taken seriously.

Governor Ron DeSantis (52:36):

So, if we have this investigative unit, if someone's ballot harvesting, you have people that know the law backwards and forwards, they can do. We're going to try to have it all referred to the statewide prosecutor under AG Moody's office. so it doesn't even matter which jurisdiction -- and many of these groups span county boundaries and all this other stuff. So, I think it's really, really significant in terms of what we're trying to do, and that would apply across the board. I mean, it doesn't matter which group is doing it. If they're changing to Republican and that's illicit, they need to be held accountable, if they're doing the opposite, they need to be held accountable. We also want to make sure we have clean voter rolls. With Florida, you have most people come, but you know, it's a transient type of thing.

Governor Ron DeSantis (53:21):

And we do find people that vote in two different states. And so, we want to make sure those rolls are clear. We certainly do not want non-citizens on the voting rolls, but we've seen that happen where they're trying to do that. And so our constitution says very clearly that we are not going -- you're not allowed to vote in state or federal elections in Florida if you're not a US citizen. And that should just be a basic thing. And it's part of our state constitution, but you see what's happening in New York. I guarantee you, they're probably doing that in San Francisco, letting foreigners vote, and it's going to end up going in these blue jurisdictions. And then they're going to try to take that nationwide. And so Florida, we're not going to let that happen. Just think of how ridiculous it is.

Governor Ron DeSantis (54:05):

It's a slap in the face to citizens to have your vote diluted by somebody that's not even a citizen of your country, much less of your state. It's unacceptable. And so we're not going to allow that to happen. In terms of the schools, we've seen instances of students being told by different folks in school, "Oh, don't worry, don't pick your gender yet, do all this other stuff." They won't tell the parents about these discussions that are happening. That is entirely inappropriate. And we need, schools need to be teaching kids to read, to write, they need teach them science, history. We need more civics, understanding the US constitution and what makes our country unique, all that basic stuff. To get into situations where you're not having the parent, you're hiding things from the parent.

Governor Ron DeSantis (54:53):

You're injecting these concepts about choosing your gender -- that is just inappropriate for our schools. And so I don't support that going on. I don't think it's going on in large numbers, but I'll tell you, since this debate has started, people have reported to me that this has happened in areas that you would not expect it to happen. And so, we want to make sure that our schools are really focusing on the basics. We don't want them to be engines to be putting things like CRT that we've talked about. Things that are divisive and are not accurate, of course, when you start are talking about some of the stuff that they're teaching with it -- and making sure we're really focusing on the basics. But the larger issue with all of this is parents must have a seat at the table when it comes to what's going on in their schools.

Governor Ron DeSantis (55:40):

And unfortunately you have different people -- you have unions that same unions that sued me to try to close our schools in 2020. They don't want to have parents have access to the curriculum. In some

respects, you have politicians saying parents have no role in the education of their kids, give me a break. And so in Florida, we're really working on transparency legislation. We want parents to be able to have access to what's going on in the classroom. And certainly, it is inappropriate to be hiding these things from parents. Not only do they deserve a seat at the table, but I don't think you can have an effective school system unless they have a seat at the table. So thank you everybody.

From: Pushaw, Christina [Christina.Pushaw@eog.myflorida.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 8, 2022 5:05 PM
To: 'Olohan, MaryMargaret' [MaryMargaret.Olohan@heritage.org]
Subject: RE: CPAC

Hi Mary Margaret,

Thanks for checking in on this! It looks like the governor is speaking at CPAC and it would be organized by his political team, not by us at the state office. I would suggest reaching out to generra@rondesantis.com and dave@rondesantis.com to see if they would be able to coordinate an interview!

Kind regards,

Christina Pushaw
Press Secretary
Executive Office of the Governor
850-717-9238
Christina.Pushaw@eog.myflorida.com

From: Olohan, MaryMargaret <MaryMargaret.Olohan@heritage.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 8, 2022 4:54 PM
To: Pushaw, Christina <Christina.Pushaw@eog.myflorida.com>
Subject: CPAC

Hi Christina,

Hope you are well. Does Governor DeSantis have any availability for interviews at CPAC? We will have both video and audio interviews going at The Daily Signal booth and I would absolutely love to chat with him.

Thanks so much -- Mary Margaret

Mary Margaret Olohan
Reporter, The Daily Signal
☎ 540-270-2904
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The Heritage Foundation
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From: Pushaw, Christina [Christina.Pushaw@eog.myflorida.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 12:04 PM
To: Fenske, Taryn M. [Taryn.M.Fenske@eog.myflorida.com]
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Subject: EMBARGO 3pm EST: Gov. DeSantis Announces Latest Florida Tourism Numbers
Attachments: 2.15 Florida Tourism.pdf

Hi, hope you're well!

Ahead of the governor's press conference at 3:00pm EST today, I wanted to share some information with you, to help you cover this announcement if you're interested. Please see the fact sheet attached, which has a **3pm embargo**.

The numbers for 2021 are in: Thanks to Governor DeSantis keeping Florida free, **last year saw the highest level of domestic tourism in the history of our state!**

117.7 million domestic visitors from all over the country flocked to Florida in 2021. In both Q3 and Q4 of 2021, tourism in Florida exceeded the same quarters of 2019 – pre-pandemic levels. So, Florida is one of the few places in the world where more people are visiting now than before the pandemic. Compared to 2019 Q4, domestic tourism in 2021 Q4 was 7% higher.

Many of the tourists in Florida come from states with mandates and restrictions, to enjoy the freedoms and sense of normalcy that Florida has become renowned for, under Gov. DeSantis' leadership. In fact, some of the most prominent pro-lockdown politicians and pundits, despite their constant criticism of Governor DeSantis' commonsense policies, have enjoyed their mask-free vacations in Florida over the past two years. For example:

- Lindy Li, Pennsylvania, political commentator and DNC Regional Chair <https://flconservativevoice.com/killing-fields-of-florida-dnc-lindy-li-vacations-in-fl-maskless/>
- Gretchen Whitmer, Governor of Michigan <https://www.fox17online.com/news/politics/what-we-know-about-gov-whitmers-controversial-florida-trip>
- Jim Kenney, Philadelphia Mayor <https://twitter.com/johncardillo/status/1397303106610868224?s=20&t=znNTmCtVcRo0GZFB72GJ4w>
- Phil Murphy, New Jersey Governor <https://www.nj.com/politics/2021/11/murphy-leaves-nj-to-celebrate-thanksgiving-with-family-in-florida.html>
- Don Lemon, CNN Activist <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/don-lemon-goes-maskless-on-florida-trip>
- Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, NYC, Congresswoman <https://www.miamiherald.com/miami-com/miami-com-news/article257037502.html>
- Ned Lamont, Connecticut Governor <https://twitter.com/capitolwatch/status/1476986856311033862?s=20&t=znNTmCtVcRo0GZFB72GJ4w> (A few months earlier, Lamont had touted Connecticut's harsh COVID restrictions by proudly stating, "We are not Florida." In July 2021, Lamont advised Connecticut residents to "skip Florida" for vacation due to COVID-19. Yet he spent Christmas vacation here.)
- Eric Swalwell, California, Congressman <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-10372009/Eric-Swalwell-seen-maskless-Miami-blaming-GOP-prolonging-pandemic.html>

Please let me know if you have any questions, and I hope you can tune in to the Governor's press conference today at 3pm EST. It will be on The Florida Channel as usual, and keep an eye out for a live stream on the governor's official Facebook and Twitter (GovRonDeSantis). If you cannot watch the live stream, the recording will be available on Rumble afterwards: <https://rumble.com/c/GovRonDeSantis>

Kind regards,

Christina Pushaw

Press Secretary

Executive Office of the Governor

850-717-9238

Christina.Pushaw@eog.myflorida.com



VACATION TO FREEDOM

117.7 MILLION

DOMESTIC VISITORS FLOCKED TO FLORIDA IN 2021

HIGHEST LEVEL OF DOMESTIC VISITATION
IN THE HISTORY OF FLORIDA

30.9 MILLION VISITORS

CAME IN Q4 2021, MAKING IT THE SECOND CONSECUTIVE
QUARTER WITH HIGHER VISITATION THAN 2019



INTERNATIONAL

1.5 MILLION OVERSEAS
TRAVELERS CAME, AN INCREASE
OF 43% COMPARED TO Q3 2021.

COLOMBIA IS FLORIDA'S
#1 INTERNATIONAL ORIGIN
MARKET WITH 709,000 VISITORS,
THE MOST EVER.



DOMESTIC

DOMESTIC VISITATION IS UP
7.0% COMPARED TO Q4 2019.

HOTEL REVENUES FOR THE
YEAR REACHED \$17.3 BILLION,
THE HIGHEST EVER.

From: /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=EEDE9520A10C4186AD2834A2A11B1A1E-PUSHAW, CHR

Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2022 2:51 PM

To: Fenske, Taryn M. [Taryn.M.Fenske@eog.myflorida.com]

CC: Redfern, Jeremy T [Jeremy.Redfern@flhealth.gov]; Khoury, Weesam [weesam.khoury@flhealth.gov]; Williams, Jared [Jared.Williams@eog.myflorida.com]
BCC: 'Susan Ferrechio' [sferrechio@washingtontimes.com]; 'yanky@rebelnews.com' [yanky@rebelnews.com]; 'Ben Johnson' [bjohnson@dailywire.com]; 'dbongino@gmail.com' [dbongino@gmail.com]; 'Jerry Dunleavy' [jdunleavy@washingtonexaminer.com]; 'bedford@thefederalist.com' [bedford@thefederalist.com]; 'hbleau@breitbart.com' [hbleau@breitbart.com]; 'ian.m.cheong@gmail.com' [ian.m.cheong@gmail.com]; 'scottmorefield@gmail.com' [scottmorefield@gmail.com]; 'Paul Sacca' [psacca@blazemedia.com]; 'Dylan Housman' [dylan@dailycaller.com]; 'peter.hasson@fox.com' [peter.hasson@fox.com]; 'Shawn Fleetwood' [dolphinsfan321@gmail.com]; 'Stefan Kleinhenz' [Stefan.Kleinhenz@oann.com]; 'Leonardo Feldman' [LeonardoF@newsmax.com]; 'Rutz, David' [david.rutz@fox.com]; 'brian.flood@fox.com' [brian.flood@fox.com]; 'anitzberg@blazemedia.com' [anitzberg@blazemedia.com]; 'Wulfsohn, Joseph' [joseph.wulfsohn@fox.com]; 'brendon@flconservativevoice.com' [brendon@flconservativevoice.com]; 'ericldaugherty@protonmail.com' [ericldaugherty@protonmail.com]; 'guy@guybenson.org' [guy@guybenson.org]; 'Brad Slager' [bradslager@gmail.com]; 'Paula Bolyard' [paulab@pjmedia.com]; 'Kaelan Deese' [kdeese@washingtonexaminer.com]; 'Chasmar, Jessica' [Jessica.Chasmar@FOX.COM]; 'katie.pavlich@townhall.com' [katie.pavlich@townhall.com]; 'Grossman, Hannah' [Hannah.Grossman@FOX.COM]; 'Olohan, MaryMargaret' [MaryMargaret.Olohan@heritage.org]; 'grace.saldana@rsbn.tv' [grace.saldana@rsbn.tv]; 'Caden DeLisa' [cadendelisa@thecapitolist.com]; 'Goncalves, Mario' [Mario.Goncalves@FOX.COM]; 'karenmurphy@thecapitolist.com' [karenmurphy@thecapitolist.com]; 'Leach, Matt' [matt.leach@FOX.COM]; 'Blitzer, Ronn' [Ronn.Blitzer@FOX.COM]; 'Giancarlo Sopo' [gsopo@dailywire.com]; 'Emmanuel.rincon@elamerican.com' [Emmanuel.rincon@elamerican.com]; 'sharktank411@gmail.com' [sharktank411@gmail.com]; 'brian@tampafp.com' [brian@tampafp.com]; Alachua Chronicle Jennifer [jennifer@alachuachronicle.com]; 'mboyle' [mboyle@breitbart.com]; '_Press' [_Press@eog.myflorida.com]; Nanette Holt [nanette.holt@epochtimes.us]; jann.falkenstern@epochtimes.us

Subject: Governor DeSantis and Surgeon General Ladapo Buck CDC with New Official State Guidance

Attachments: Buck-the-CDC-Handout.pdf

Good afternoon,

I wanted to make sure you saw today that Governor Ron DeSantis and State Surgeon General Joseph Ladapo – who was officially **confirmed** by the Senate yesterday! – just announced significant changes to Florida’s official COVID-19 guidance, including:

- Pushing back on unscientific corporate masking

- Reducing isolation for all Floridians including those in schools and daycares,
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 - Right to try treatments: We recognize the status quo protocols do not work for everyone.
 - In Florida, doctors will have the flexibility to treat patients with off label prescriptions if they determine it may help the patient, and the patient provides informed consent.

For more information about Florida's new guidance, click [here](#). Please see our handout attached.

Here's the announcement video just released. Feel free to use any of this, courtesy of the Governor's Office.

Download Link: <https://we.tl/t-GmQIZ01V38>

Rumble: <https://rumble.com/vvs2f7-buck-the-cdc.html>

And here's the link to the press release: <https://www.flgov.com/2022/02/24/governor-ron-desantis-and-surgeon-general-dr-joe-ladapo-buck-cdc-with-new-official-state-guidance/>

Have a great rest of your day, and let me know if you have any questions!

Kind regards,

Christina Pushaw

Press Secretary

Executive Office of the Governor

850-717-9238

Christina.Pushaw@eog.myflorida.com

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UPDATED DAYCARE GUIDANCE AND SCHOOL RULE LIMIT ISOLATION TO 5 DAYS.

REDUCE ISOLATION

NEW GUIDANCE RECOMMENDS LIMITING ISOLATION FOR FLORIDIANS WITH COVID TO 5 DAYS.

From: Pushaw, Christina [Christina.Pushaw@eog.myflorida.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2022 2:51 PM
To: Fenske, Taryn M. [Taryn.M.Fenske@eog.myflorida.com]
CC: Redfern, Jeremy T [Jeremy.Redfern@flhealth.gov]; Khoury, Weesam [weesam.khoury@flhealth.gov]; Williams, Jared [Jared.Williams@eog.myflorida.com]
BCC: 'Susan Ferrechio' [sferrechio@washingtontimes.com]; 'yanky@rebelnews.com' [yanky@rebelnews.com]; 'Ben Johnson' [bjohnson@dailywire.com]; 'dbongino@gmail.com' [dbongino@gmail.com]; 'Jerry Dunleavy' [jdunleavy@washingtosexaminer.com]; 'bedford@thefederalist.com' [bedford@thefederalist.com]; 'hbleau@breitbart.com' [hbleau@breitbart.com]; 'ian.m.cheong@gmail.com' [ian.m.cheong@gmail.com]; 'scottmorefield@gmail.com' [scottmorefield@gmail.com]; 'Paul Sacca' [psacca@blazemedia.com]; 'Dylan Housman' [dylan@dailycaller.com]; 'peter.hasson@fox.com' [peter.hasson@fox.com]; 'Shawn Fleetwood' [dolphinsfan321@gmail.com]; 'Stefan Kleinhenz' [Stefan.Kleinhenz@oann.com]; 'Leonardo Feldman' [LeonardoF@newsmax.com]; 'Rutz, David' [david.rutz@fox.com]; 'brian.flood@fox.com' [brian.flood@fox.com]; 'anitzberg@blazemedia.com' [anitzberg@blazemedia.com]; 'Wulfsohn, Joseph' [joseph.wulfsohn@fox.com]; 'brendon@flconservativevoice.com' [brendon@flconservativevoice.com]; 'ericldaugherty@protonmail.com' [ericldaugherty@protonmail.com]; 'guy@guybenson.org' [guy@guybenson.org]; 'Brad Slager' [bradslager@gmail.com]; 'Paula Bolyard' [paulab@pjmedia.com]; 'Kaelan Deese' [kdeese@washingtosexaminer.com]; 'Chasmar, Jessica' [Jessica.Chasmar@FOX.COM]; 'katie.pavlich@townhall.com' [katie.pavlich@townhall.com]; 'Grossman, Hannah' [Hannah.Grossman@FOX.COM]; 'Olohan, MaryMargaret' [MaryMargaret.Olohan@heritage.org]; 'grace.saldana@rsbn.tv' [grace.saldana@rsbn.tv]; 'Caden DeLisa' [cadendelisa@thecapitolist.com]; 'Goncalves, Mario' [Mario.Goncalves@FOX.COM]; 'karenmurphy@thecapitolist.com' [karenmurphy@thecapitolist.com]; 'Leach, Matt' [matt.leach@FOX.COM]; 'Blitzer, Ronn' [Ronn.Blitzer@FOX.COM]; 'Giancarlo Sopo' [gsopo@dailywire.com]; 'Emmanuel.rincon@elamerican.com' [Emmanuel.rincon@elamerican.com]; 'sharktank411@gmail.com' [sharktank411@gmail.com]; 'brian@tampafp.com' [brian@tampafp.com]; Alachua Chronicle Jennifer [jennifer@alachuachronicle.com]; 'mboyle' [mboyle@breitbart.com]; '_Press' [_Press@eog.myflorida.com]; Nanette Holt [nanette.holt@epochtimes.us]; jann.falkenstern@epochtimes.us
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Press Secretary

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From: Uthmeier, James [James.Uthmeier@eog.myflorida.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 20, 2022 1:16 PM
To: Tonya Shellnutt [tshellnutt@adflegal.org]; Kopelousos, Stephanie [Stephanie.Kopelousos@eog.myflorida.com]
CC: Schrader, Taylor [Taylor.Schrader@eog.myflorida.com]
Subject: Re: Coming to Tallahassee

Hi Tonya, we can definitely arrange for a meeting next week. I might not be available on Wednesday, but some of the team will definitely be around. Please let us know some good times and we can set something up.

Hope all is well!

James

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Tonya Shellnutt <tshellnutt@adflegal.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 20, 2022 11:30 AM
To: Uthmeier, James <James.Uthmeier@eog.myflorida.com>
Subject: Coming to Tallahassee

James-I hope you are doing well. Matt Sharp and I are coming to Tallahassee and would like to meet with you and possibly Stephanie about the newest Biden Administration's HHS rule 1557. ADF is deeply concerned about the consequential impact to our children and medical community. We were hoping you could meet next Wednesday sometime. Please let me know your availability. Thank you and God Bless you for ALL you do!



Tonya Shellnutt
State Government Relations Director
+1 480 444 0020 (Office)
+1 480 388 8140 (Direct Dial)
+1 803-899-0080 (Mobile)
480-444-0028 (Fax)
tshellnutt@adflegal.org
ADFlegal.org

From: /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=EEDE9520A10C4186AD2834A2A11B1A1E-PUSHAW, CHR

Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 11:45 AM

To: Fenske, Taryn M. [Taryn.M.Fenske@eog.myflorida.com]

CC: Mahon, Jason [Jason.Mahon@eog.myflorida.com]

BCC: 'Susan Ferrechio' [sferrechio@washingtontimes.com]; 'jann.falkenstern@epochtimes.us' [jann.falkenstern@epochtimes.us]; 'yanky@rebelnews.com' [yanky@rebelnews.com]; 'Ben Johnson' [bjohnson@dailywire.com]; 'dbongino@gmail.com' [dbongino@gmail.com]; 'Jerry Dunleavy' [jdunleavy@washingtonexaminer.com]; 'bedford@thefederalist.com' [bedford@thefederalist.com]; 'hbleau@breitbart.com' [hbleau@breitbart.com]; 'ian.m.cheong@gmail.com' [ian.m.cheong@gmail.com]; 'scottmorefield@gmail.com' [scottmorefield@gmail.com]; 'Paul Sacca' [psacca@blazemedia.com]; 'Dylan Housman' [dylan@dailycaller.com]; 'peter.hasson@fox.com' [peter.hasson@fox.com]; 'Shawn Fleetwood' [dolphinsfan321@gmail.com]; 'Stefan Kleinhenz' [Stefan.Kleinhenz@oann.com]; 'Leonardo Feldman' [LeonardoF@newsmax.com]; 'Rutz, David' [david.rutz@fox.com]; 'brian.flood@fox.com' [brian.flood@fox.com]; 'anitzberg@blazemedia.com' [anitzberg@blazemedia.com]; 'Wulfsohn, Joseph' [joseph.wulfsohn@fox.com]; 'brendon@flconservativevoice.com' [brendon@flconservativevoice.com]; 'ericldaugherty@protonmail.com' [ericldaugherty@protonmail.com]; 'guy@guybenson.org' [guy@guybenson.org]; 'Brad Slager' [bradslager@gmail.com]; 'Paula Bolyard' [paulab@pjmedia.com]; 'Kaelan Deese' [kdeese@washingtonexaminer.com]; 'Chasmar, Jessica' [Jessica.Chasmar@FOX.COM]; 'katie.pavlich@townhall.com' [katie.pavlich@townhall.com]; 'Grossman, Hannah' [Hannah.Grossman@FOX.COM]; 'Olohan, MaryMargaret' [MaryMargaret.Olohan@heritage.org]; 'grace.saldana@rsbn.tv' [grace.saldana@rsbn.tv]; 'Caden DeLisa' [cadendelisa@thecapitolist.com]; 'Goncalves, Mario' [Mario.Goncalves@FOX.COM]; 'karenmurphy@thecapitolist.com' [karenmurphy@thecapitolist.com]; 'Leach, Matt' [matt.leach@FOX.COM]; 'Blitzer, Ronn' [Ronn.Blitzer@FOX.COM]; 'Giancarlo Sopo' [gsopo@dailywire.com]; 'Emmanuel.rincon@elamerican.com' [Emmanuel.rincon@elamerican.com]; sharktank411@gmail.com; Nanette Holt [nanette.holt@epochtimes.us]; n holt [nanetteholt@gmail.com]; 'brian@tampafp.com' [brian@tampafp.com]; Alachua Chronicle Jennifer [jennifer@alachuachronicle.com]; mboyle [mboyle@breitbart.com]

Subject: EMBARGO 3pm EST: Gov. DeSantis Announces Latest Florida Tourism Numbers

Attachments: 2.15 Florida Tourism.pdf

Hi, hope you're well!

Ahead of the governor's press conference at 3:00pm EST today, I wanted to share some information with you, to help you cover this announcement if you're interested. Please see the fact sheet attached, which has a **3pm embargo**.

The numbers for 2021 are in: Thanks to Governor DeSantis keeping Florida free, **last year saw the highest level of domestic tourism in the history of our state!**

117.7 million domestic visitors from all over the country flocked to Florida in 2021. In both Q3 and Q4 of 2021, tourism in Florida exceeded the same quarters of 2019 – pre-pandemic levels. So, Florida is one of

the few places in the world where more people are visiting now than before the pandemic. Compared to 2019 Q4, domestic tourism in 2021 Q4 was 7% higher.

Many of the tourists in Florida come from states with mandates and restrictions, to enjoy the freedoms and sense of normalcy that Florida has become renowned for, under Gov. DeSantis' leadership. In fact, some of the most prominent pro-lockdown politicians and pundits, despite their constant criticism of Governor DeSantis' commonsense policies, have enjoyed their mask-free vacations in Florida over the past two years. For example:

- Lindy Li, Pennsylvania, political commentator and DNC Regional Chair <https://flconservativevoice.com/killing-fields-of-florida-dnc-lindy-li-vacations-in-fl-maskless/>
- Gretchen Whitmer, Governor of Michigan <https://www.fox17online.com/news/politics/what-we-know-about-gov-whitmers-controversial-florida-trip>
- Jim Kenney, Philadelphia Mayor <https://twitter.com/johncardillo/status/1397303106610868224?s=20&t=znNTmCtVcRo0GZFB72GJ4w>
- Phil Murphy, New Jersey Governor <https://www.nj.com/politics/2021/11/murphy-leaves-nj-to-celebrate-thanksgiving-with-family-in-florida.html>
- Don Lemon, CNN Activist <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/don-lemon-goes-maskless-on-florida-trip>
- Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, NYC, Congresswoman <https://www.miamiherald.com/miami-com/miami-com-news/article257037502.html>
- Ned Lamont, Connecticut Governor <https://twitter.com/capitolwatch/status/1476986856311033862?s=20&t=znNTmCtVcRo0GZFB72GJ4w> (A few months earlier, Lamont had touted Connecticut's harsh COVID restrictions by proudly stating, "We are not Florida." In July 2021, Lamont advised Connecticut residents to "skip Florida" for vacation due to COVID-19. Yet he spent Christmas vacation here.)
- Eric Swalwell, California, Congressman <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-10372009/Eric-Swalwell-seen-maskless-Miami-blaming-GOP-prolonging-pandemic.html>

Please let me know if you have any questions, and I hope you can tune in to the Governor's press conference today at 3pm EST. It will be on The Florida Channel as usual, and keep an eye out for a live stream on the governor's official Facebook and Twitter (GovRonDeSantis). If you cannot watch the live stream, the recording will be available on Rumble afterwards: <https://rumble.com/c/GovRonDeSantis>

Kind regards,

Christina Pushaw

Press Secretary

Executive Office of the Governor

850-717-9238

Christina.Pushaw@eog.myflorida.com



VACATION TO FREEDOM

117.7 MILLION

DOMESTIC VISITORS FLOCKED TO FLORIDA IN 2021

HIGHEST LEVEL OF DOMESTIC VISITATION
IN THE HISTORY OF FLORIDA

30.9 MILLION VISITORS

CAME IN Q4 2021, MAKING IT THE SECOND CONSECUTIVE
QUARTER WITH HIGHER VISITATION THAN 2019



INTERNATIONAL

1.5 MILLION OVERSEAS
TRAVELERS CAME, AN INCREASE
OF 43% COMPARED TO Q3 2021.

COLOMBIA IS FLORIDA'S
#1 INTERNATIONAL ORIGIN
MARKET WITH 709,000 VISITORS,
THE MOST EVER.



DOMESTIC

DOMESTIC VISITATION IS UP
7.0% COMPARED TO Q4 2019.

HOTEL REVENUES FOR THE
YEAR REACHED \$17.3 BILLION,
THE HIGHEST EVER.

From: Olohan, MaryMargaret [MaryMargaret.Olohan@heritage.org]
Sent: Thursday, January 6, 2022 10:09 AM
To: Olohan, Mary Margaret (DailySignal) [MaryMargaret.Olohan@dailysignal.com]; Pushaw, Christina [Christina.Pushaw@eog.myflorida.com]
Subject: Re: PRESS INQUIRY

Following up on this, I'd love to get a story up on this!

Mary Margaret Olohan
Reporter, The Daily Signal
☎ 540-270-2904
☎ 202-608-6051
The Heritage Foundation
214 Massachusetts Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20002
heritage.org

From: Olohan, Mary Margaret (DailySignal) <MaryMargaret.Olohan@dailysignal.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 5, 2022 9:10 AM
To: Pushaw, Christina <Christina.Pushaw@eog.myflorida.com>
Subject: PRESS INQUIRY

Good morning Christina,

Would love for the governor to weigh in on Mayor Bowser's vaccine mandate. Here's some new guidance released yesterday:

<https://abra.dc.gov/page/reopening-dc-guidance>

Here's the initial news: <https://wtop.com/dc/2021/12/bowser-proof-of-vaccination-to-be-required-at-dc-restaurants-bars/>

One bar owner tells me that there is a tipline set up for DC neighbors to report violations on businesses.

What does the governor think of all this?

Thanks so much -- Mary Margaret

From: Eric Finley [efinley@adflegal.org]
Sent: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 2:44 PM
To: Pushaw, Christina [Christina.Pushaw@eog.myflorida.com]
Subject: Invitation to ADF Summit on Religious Liberty 2022

Christina,

I would like to invite you to participate as one of a select number of communicator attendees at Alliance Defending Freedom's 2022 Summit on Religious Liberty July 18-23 in Greensboro, Georgia.

The ADF Summit on Religious Liberty is an annual event that brings together media communicators, public intellectuals and cultural commentators, state attorneys general and other key public sector attorneys, partners and senior associates in top law firms, Supreme Court advocates, and business and church leaders to develop legal and cultural strategies to ensure religious freedom, free speech, and other key freedoms flourish throughout the United States and world. The Communicator Track consists of a select group of communicators who discuss some of these issues in greater detail in roundtable discussions as to how we all can do a better job communicating in media and the culture on these issues. You would be a member of this select group, and it would be our distinct honor to have you participate.

ADF will cover the cost of registration, lodging, and scheduled meals for attendees and their spouses. Do you think you might be able to attend?

Looking forward to hearing from you! 😊



BY INVITATION ONLY

Our nation was founded upon the fundamental principles that all men are created equal, that we are endowed by our Creator with inalienable rights, and that a just government is based on the consent of the governed. But we are confronting ever-growing efforts to delegitimize our founding and remake our society around radically different ideals. History shows, however, that every step our nation has taken toward true freedom and equality has been made by living up to our founding ideals, not tearing them down.

The ADF Summit on Religious Liberty is an annual, private gathering of leaders in law, public policy, media, business, education, and the church who want to stand together to live up to our founding ideals and safeguard religious liberty for the next generation.

Our next Summit is coming up, and you are cordially invited to attend. ADF will cover the cost of registration, lodging, and scheduled meals for attendees and

their spouses. Invitations are non-transferable, and we ask that you keep the event location confidential.

DATE

July 18-23, 2022

LOCATION

The Ritz-Carlton Reynolds, Lake Oconee ([hotel website](#))
1 Lake Oconee Trail
Greensboro, GA 30642

RSVP

Please e-mail Eric Finley at efinley@adfllegal.org to confirm your attendance or to get more information about the event.

We hope you will join us!



AS A PRIVATE, INVITATION-ONLY EVENT, WE ASK THAT
YOU KEEP THE LOCATION CONFIDENTIAL AND NOT
FORWARD THIS INVITATION TO OTHERS.



Eric Finley
Sr. Director of Media Communications
+1 480 444 0020 (Office)
480-444-0025 (Fax)
efinley@adflegal.org
ADFlegal.org

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From: Eric Finley [efinley@adflegal.org]
Sent: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 4:55 PM
To: Pushaw, Christina [Christina.Pushaw@eog.myflorida.com]
Subject: RE: Invitation to ADF Summit on Religious Liberty 2022

Of course! You have some time yet. Would the end of the month be an acceptable amount of time? If not, I can probably give you more time than that. Just let me know what works for you.

From: Pushaw, Christina <Christina.Pushaw@eog.myflorida.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 2:52 PM
To: Eric Finley <efinley@adflegal.org>
Subject: RE: Invitation to ADF Summit on Religious Liberty 2022

EXTERNAL

Hi Eric, thanks so much for the invitation. It is a great honor. As a state employee, I would need to seek authorization to participate. Please let me know what the deadline would be to confirm attendance. Thanks again!

Christina Pushaw
Press Secretary
Executive Office of the Governor
850-717-9238
Christina.Pushaw@eog.myflorida.com

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Greensboro, GA 30642

RSVP

Please e-mail Eric Finley at efinley@adflegal.org to confirm your attendance or to get more information about the event.

We hope you will join us!



AS A PRIVATE, INVITATION-ONLY EVENT, WE ASK THAT
YOU KEEP THE LOCATION CONFIDENTIAL AND NOT
FORWARD THIS INVITATION TO OTHERS.



Eric Finley
Sr. Director of Media Communications
+1 480 444 0020 (Office)
480-444-0025 (Fax)
efinley@adflegal.org
ADflegal.org

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From: Eric Finley [efinley@adflegal.org]
Sent: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 11:04 AM
To: Pushaw, Christina [Christina.Pushaw@eog.myflorida.com]
Subject: RE: Invitation to ADF Summit on Religious Liberty 2022

Sounds good. Thank you! 😊

From: Pushaw, Christina <Christina.Pushaw@eog.myflorida.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 8:54 AM
To: Eric Finley <efinley@adflegal.org>
Subject: RE: Invitation to ADF Summit on Religious Liberty 2022

EXTERNAL

Yes, end of the month is fine – will let you know ASAP. Thanks again.

From: Eric Finley <efinley@adflegal.org>
Sent: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 4:55 PM
To: Pushaw, Christina <Christina.Pushaw@eog.myflorida.com>
Subject: RE: Invitation to ADF Summit on Religious Liberty 2022

Of course! You have some time yet. Would the end of the month be an acceptable amount of time? If not, I can probably give you more time than that. Just let me know what works for you.

From: Pushaw, Christina <Christina.Pushaw@eog.myflorida.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 2:52 PM
To: Eric Finley <efinley@adflegal.org>
Subject: RE: Invitation to ADF Summit on Religious Liberty 2022

EXTERNAL

Hi Eric, thanks so much for the invitation. It is a great honor. As a state employee, I would need to seek authorization to participate. Please let me know what the deadline would be to confirm attendance. Thanks again!

Christina Pushaw
Press Secretary
Executive Office of the Governor
850-717-9238
Christina.Pushaw@eog.myflorida.com

From: Eric Finley <efinley@adflegal.org>
Sent: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 2:44 PM
To: Pushaw, Christina <Christina.Pushaw@eog.myflorida.com>
Subject: Invitation to ADF Summit on Religious Liberty 2022

Christina,

I would like to invite you to participate as one of a select number of communicator attendees at Alliance Defending Freedom's 2022 Summit on Religious Liberty July 18-23 in Greensboro, Georgia.

The ADF Summit on Religious Liberty is an annual event that brings together media communicators, public intellectuals and cultural commentators, state attorneys general and other key public sector attorneys, partners and senior associates in top law firms, Supreme Court advocates, and business and church leaders to develop legal and cultural strategies to ensure religious freedom, free speech, and other key freedoms flourish throughout the United States and world. The Communicator Track consists of a select group of communicators who discuss some of these issues in greater detail in roundtable discussions as to how we all can do a better job communicating in media and the culture on these issues. You would be a member of this select group, and it would be our distinct honor to have you participate.

ADF will cover the cost of registration, lodging, and scheduled meals for attendees and their spouses. Do you think you might be able to attend?

Looking forward to hearing from you! 😊



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Our next Summit is coming up, and you are cordially invited to attend. ADF will cover the cost of registration, lodging, and scheduled meals for attendees and

their spouses. Invitations are non-transferable, and we ask that you keep the event location confidential.

DATES

July 18-23, 2022

LOCATION

The Ritz-Carlton Reynolds, Lake Oconee ([hotel website](#))
1 Lake Oconee Trail
Greensboro, GA 30642

RSVP

Please e-mail Eric Finley at efinley@adflegal.org to confirm your attendance or to get more information about the event.

We hope you will join us!



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From: Tonya Shellnutt [tshellnutt@adflegal.org]
Sent: Friday, January 21, 2022 6:08 PM
To: Uthmeier, James [James.Uthmeier@eog.myflorida.com]
Subject: Senior Counsel visit

Good evening James. I wanted to reach out as our Senior Counsel, Matt Sharp will be in Tallahassee with me next Tuesday testifying on our HELP Act that is being heard in committee. Additionally, Louis Brown will also be in town and I wanted to see if you had availability to meet with us. I could reach out to Taylor and work directly with her, but wanted to make sure that you were ok with that. Please let me know your thoughts. We appreciate you so much. Blessings.



Tonya Shellnutt
State Government Relations Director
+1 480 444 0020 (Office)
+1 480 388 8140 (Direct Dial)
+1 803-899-0080 (Mobile)
480-444-0028 (Fax)
tshellnutt@adflegal.org
ADFlegal.org

From: Tonya Shellnutt [tshellnutt@adflegal.org]
Sent: Friday, January 21, 2022 8:37 PM
To: Schrader, Taylor [Taylor.Schrader@eog.myflorida.com]; Uthmeier, James [James.Uthmeier@eog.myflorida.com]
Subject: RE: Senior Counsel visit

Thank you James! Taylor-It would just be one meeting. Preferably around 3:30 or right after the committee hearing at 11:30. However, we will make whatever work. It will be myself, ADF Senior Counsel, Matt Sharp, and Christ Medicus, Louis Brown.

From: Schrader, Taylor <Taylor.Schrader@eog.myflorida.com>
Sent: Friday, January 21, 2022 8:06 PM
To: Uthmeier, James <James.Uthmeier@eog.myflorida.com>; Tonya Shellnutt <tshellnutt@adflegal.org>
Subject: Re: Senior Counsel visit

EXTERNAL

Hi Tonya, absolutely! To confirm, would this be two separate meetings?

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From: Uthmeier, James <James.Uthmeier@eog.myflorida.com>
Sent: Friday, January 21, 2022 7:19:46 PM
To: Tonya Shellnutt <tshellnutt@adflegal.org>
Cc: Schrader, Taylor <Taylor.Schrader@eog.myflorida.com>; Fisher, Dylan <Dylan.Fisher@LASPBS.STATE.FL.US>
Subject: Re: Senior Counsel visit

For you guys always. Taylor will follow up with a good time.

Look forward to seeing you soon.

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Tonya Shellnutt <tshellnutt@adflegal.org>
Sent: Friday, January 21, 2022 6:08 PM
To: Uthmeier, James
Subject: Senior Counsel visit

Good evening James. I wanted to reach out as our Senior Counsel, Matt Sharp will be in Tallahassee with me next Tuesday testifying on our HELP Act that is being heard in committee. Additionally, Louis Brown will also be in town and I wanted to see if you had availability to meet with us. I could reach out to Taylor and work directly with her, but wanted to make sure that you were ok with that. Please let me know your thoughts. We appreciate you so much. Blessings.



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From: Carmack, Dustin [Dustin.Carmack@heritage.org]
Sent: Wednesday, January 26, 2022 7:29 PM
To: Pushaw, Christina [Christina.Pushaw@eog.myflorida.com]
Subject: FYI

<https://www.dailysignal.com/2022/01/26/floridas-governor-makes-smart-proposal-to-go-after-election-crimes-so-corrupt-media-attacks-him/>

Dustin Carmack
Research Fellow in Technology Policy
Davis Institute for National Security and Foreign Policy
The Heritage Foundation
214 Massachusetts Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20002
202-608-6276
[heritage.org](https://www.heritage.org)

From: Eric Finley [efinley@adflegal.org]
Sent: Friday, February 4, 2022 5:25 PM
To: Pushaw, Christina [Christina.Pushaw@eog.myflorida.com]
Subject: Automatic reply: Invitation to ADF Summit on Religious Liberty 2022

I am out of the office until Monday, Feb. 7 and will respond as soon as I am able. If your matter is urgent, please contact one of the following ADF team members:

- For matters related to the ADF Journalism Academy or ADF Summit on Religious Liberty, contact Ashley Wijbrandts at awijbrandts@adflegal.org.
- For matters related to opinion commentary, contact Chris Potts at cpotts@adflegal.org, unless I have personally provided you with a different contact person.
- For all other matters, contact Angeline Riesterer at ariesterer@adflegal.org.

Thank you!



Eric Finley
Sr. Director of Media Communications
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From: Eric Finley [efinley@adflegal.org]
Sent: Friday, February 4, 2022 5:35 PM
To: Pushaw, Christina [Christina.Pushaw@eog.myflorida.com]
CC: Ashley Wijbrandts [awijbrandts@adflegal.org]
Subject: Re: Invitation to ADF Summit on Religious Liberty 2022

Fantastic, Christina. We look forward very much to having you there! I am copying Ashley Wijbrandts, who will send you the registration information as soon as it is available. Have a great weekend. :-)

On Feb 4, 2022, at 3:24 PM, Pushaw, Christina <Christina.Pushaw@eog.myflorida.com> wrote:

EXTERNAL

Hi Eric, I will be able to attend. Please feel free to send me more information at christinapushaw@gmail.com, and let me know what you would need from me. I look forward to participating in the Summit.

Kind regards,

Christina Pushaw
Press Secretary
Executive Office of the Governor
850-717-9238
Christina.Pushaw@eog.myflorida.com

From: Eric Finley <efinley@adflegal.org>
Sent: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 4:55 PM
To: Pushaw, Christina <Christina.Pushaw@eog.myflorida.com>
Subject: RE: Invitation to ADF Summit on Religious Liberty 2022

Of course! You have some time yet. Would the end of the month be an acceptable amount of time? If not, I can probably give you more time than that. Just let me know what works for you.

From: Pushaw, Christina <Christina.Pushaw@eog.myflorida.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 2:52 PM
To: Eric Finley <efinley@adflegal.org>
Subject: RE: Invitation to ADF Summit on Religious Liberty 2022

EXTERNAL

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Press Secretary
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Christina.Pushaw@eog.myflorida.com

From: Eric Finley <efinley@adflegal.org>
Sent: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 2:44 PM
To: Pushaw, Christina <Christina.Pushaw@eog.myflorida.com>
Subject: Invitation to ADF Summit on Religious Liberty 2022

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The ADF Summit on Religious Liberty is an annual event that brings together media communicators, public intellectuals and cultural commentators, state attorneys general and other key public sector attorneys, partners and senior associates in top law firms, Supreme Court advocates, and business and church leaders to develop legal and cultural strategies to ensure religious freedom, free speech, and other key freedoms flourish throughout the United States and world. The Communicator Track consists of a select group of communicators who discuss some of these issues in greater detail in roundtable discussions as to how we all can do a better job communicating in media and the culture on these issues. You would be a member of this select group, and it would be our distinct honor to have you participate.

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Looking forward to hearing from you! 😊



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their spouses. Invitations are non-transferable, and we ask that you keep the event location confidential.

DATES

July 18-23, 2022

LOCATION

The Ritz-Carlton Reynolds, Lake Oconee ([hotel website](#))
1 Lake Oconee Trail
Greensboro, GA 30642

RSVP

Please e-mail Eric Finley at efinley@adflegal.org to confirm your attendance or to get more information about the event.

We hope you will join us!



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<image001.png>

Eric Finley
Sr. Director of Media Communications
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480-444-0025 (Fax)
efinley@adflegal.org
ADFlegal.org

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From: Holly Meade [holly@LC.org]
Sent: Tuesday, February 8, 2022 4:12 PM
To: Fenske, Taryn M. [Taryn.M.Fenske@eog.myflorida.com]
CC: Khoury, Weesam [weesam.khoury@flhealth.gov]
Subject: Dr. Joseph Ladapo

Hi Taryn and Weesam,

Liberty Counsel is a national non-profit litigation, education, and public policy organization with an emphasis on First Amendment liberties, and a particular focus on religious freedom and the sanctity of human life. We are based in Orlando with offices in Virginia and Washington, D.C.

Liberty Counsel has a weekly TV program, Freedom Alive, that airs on 21 TV stations in FL; 5-6 in TX, NM, and OK, 1 in Wisconsin, and the NRB TV Network seen by 40 million people on cable, DirectTV, Roku, Apple TV, Amazon fireTV, and Glorystar, and these global affiliates throughout the US and in Beijing, China, Melbourne, Australia; Nairobi, Kenya; Kiel, Germany; London, UK, and Oslo, Norway. We are also on NRB TV (145 million viewers). **Of course, we partner with TV 45 here in Orlando so this would be widely seen throughout the state of Florida.**

We would like to have Dr. Joseph Ladapo as our guest to be interviewed by Mat Staver. We could preferably tape in studio here in Orlando or via technology. Our next openings for taping would be March 3, March 24 or April 14.

Thank you!

Holly Meade
Vice President of Media
Liberty Counsel
PO Box 540774
Orlando, FL 32854
(407) 875-1776 phone
(407) 875-0770 fax
LC.org
Offices in DC, FL, and VA

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From: Olohan, MaryMargaret [MaryMargaret.Olohan@heritage.org]
Sent: Tuesday, February 8, 2022 4:54 PM
To: Pushaw, Christina [Christina.Pushaw@eog.myflorida.com]
Subject: CPAC

Hi Christina,

Hope you are well. Does Governor DeSantis have any availability for interviews at CPAC? We will have both video and audio interviews going at The Daily Signal booth and I would absolutely love to chat with him.

Thanks so much -- Mary Margaret

Mary Margaret Olohan
Reporter, The Daily Signal
📠 540-270-2904
📞 202-608-6051
The Heritage Foundation
214 Massachusetts Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20002
heritage.org

From: Olohan, MaryMargaret [MaryMargaret.Olohan@heritage.org]
Sent: Tuesday, February 8, 2022 5:08 PM
To: Pushaw, Christina [Christina.Pushaw@eog.myflorida.com]
Subject: Re: CPAC

Fantastic, I will check with them. Thank you!

Mary Margaret Olohan
Reporter, The Daily Signal
☎ 540-270-2904
📞 202-608-6051
The Heritage Foundation
214 Massachusetts Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20002
heritage.org

From: Pushaw, Christina <Christina.Pushaw@eog.myflorida.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 8, 2022 5:05 PM
To: Olohan, MaryMargaret <MaryMargaret.Olohan@heritage.org>
Subject: RE: CPAC

Hi Mary Margaret,

Thanks for checking in on this! It looks like the governor is speaking at CPAC and it would be organized by his political team, not by us at the state office. I would suggest reaching out to generra@rondesantis.com and dave@rondesantis.com to see if they would be able to coordinate an interview!

Kind regards,

Christina Pushaw
Press Secretary
Executive Office of the Governor
850-717-9238
Christina.Pushaw@eog.myflorida.com

From: Olohan, MaryMargaret <MaryMargaret.Olohan@heritage.org>
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To: Pushaw, Christina <Christina.Pushaw@eog.myflorida.com>
Subject: CPAC

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Thanks so much -- Mary Margaret

Mary Margaret Olohan

Reporter, The Daily Signal

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From: Holly Meade [holly@LC.org]
Sent: Friday, March 4, 2022 11:01 AM
To: Fenske, Taryn M. [Taryn.M.Fenske@eog.myflorida.com]; Khoury, Weesam [weesam.khoury@flhealth.gov]
Subject: Dr. Joseph Ladapo Interview on Liberty Counsel's TV program

Hi Taryn and Weesam,

Liberty Counsel is a national non-profit litigation, education, and public policy organization with an emphasis on First Amendment liberties, and a particular focus on religious freedom and the sanctity of human life. We are based in Orlando with offices in Virginia and Washington, D.C.

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We have interviewed Dr. Peter McCullough, Dr. Robert Malone, Dr. Lee Merritt, Dr. Simon Gold and Dr. Zev Zelenko. <https://lc.org/freedomalive>

We would like to have Dr. Joseph Ladapo as our guest to be interviewed by Liberty Counsel Founder and Chairman Mat Staver. We could preferably tape in studio here in Orlando if Dr. Ladapo can come in person, or via technology.

Our next openings for taping would be March 31 or April 14.

Please let me know at your earliest convenience.

Thank you!

Holly Meade
Vice President of Media
Liberty Counsel
PO Box 540774
Orlando, FL 32854
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(407) 875-0770 fax
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From: Tonya Shellnutt [tshellnutt@adflegal.org]
Sent: Wednesday, April 20, 2022 11:30 AM
To: Uthmeier, James [James.Uthmeier@eog.myflorida.com]
Subject: Coming to Tallahassee

James-I hope you are doing well. Matt Sharp and I are coming to Tallahassee and would like to meet with you and possibly Stephanie about the newest Biden Administration's HHS rule 1557. ADF is deeply concerned about the consequential impact to our children and medical community. We were hoping you could meet next Wednesday sometime. Please let me know your availability. Thank you and God Bless you for ALL you do!



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tshellnutt@adflegal.org
ADFlegal.org

From: Tonya Shellnutt [tshellnutt@adflegal.org]
Sent: Wednesday, April 20, 2022 1:21 PM
To: Uthmeier, James [James.Uthmeier@eog.myflorida.com]; Kopelousos, Stephanie [Stephanie.Kopelousos@eog.myflorida.com]
CC: Schrader, Taylor [Taylor.Schrader@eog.myflorida.com]
Subject: RE: Coming to Tallahassee

We can accommodate your schedule. This visit is solely to meet with you all, so please let me know what works for everyone. Thanks.

From: Uthmeier, James <James.Uthmeier@eog.myflorida.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 20, 2022 1:16 PM
To: Tonya Shellnutt <tshellnutt@adflegal.org>; Kopelousos, Stephanie <Stephanie.Kopelousos@eog.myflorida.com>
Cc: Schrader, Taylor <Taylor.Schrader@eog.myflorida.com>
Subject: Re: Coming to Tallahassee

EXTERNAL

Hi Tonya, we can definitely arrange for a meeting next week. I might not be available on Wednesday, but some of the team will definitely be around. Please let us know some good times and we can set something up.

Hope all is well!

James

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From: Tonya Shellnutt <tshellnutt@adflegal.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 20, 2022 11:30 AM
To: Uthmeier, James <James.Uthmeier@eog.myflorida.com>
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From: Tonya Shellnutt [tshellnutt@adflegal.org]
Sent: Wednesday, April 20, 2022 3:24 PM
To: Schrader, Taylor [Taylor.Schrader@eog.myflorida.com]
CC: Uthmeier, James [James.Uthmeier@eog.myflorida.com]; Kopelousos, Stephanie [Stephanie.Kopelousos@eog.myflorida.com]
Subject: Re: Coming to Tallahassee

Yes Tuesday is great!!

On Apr 20, 2022, at 3:20 PM, Schrader, Taylor <Taylor.Schrader@eog.myflorida.com> wrote:

EXTERNAL

Hi Tonya! How does Tuesday look for you?

From: Tonya Shellnutt <tshellnutt@adflegal.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 20, 2022 1:21 PM
To: Uthmeier, James <James.Uthmeier@eog.myflorida.com>; Kopelousos, Stephanie <Stephanie.Kopelousos@eog.myflorida.com>
Cc: Schrader, Taylor <Taylor.Schrader@eog.myflorida.com>
Subject: RE: Coming to Tallahassee

We can accommodate your schedule. This visit is solely to meet with you all, so please let me know what works for everyone. Thanks.

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Sent: Wednesday, April 20, 2022 1:16 PM
To: Tonya Shellnutt <tshellnutt@adflegal.org>; Kopelousos, Stephanie <Stephanie.Kopelousos@eog.myflorida.com>
Cc: Schrader, Taylor <Taylor.Schrader@eog.myflorida.com>
Subject: Re: Coming to Tallahassee

EXTERNAL

Hi Tonya, we can definitely arrange for a meeting next week. I might not be available on Wednesday, but some of the team will definitely be around. Please let us know some good times and we can set something up.

Hope all is well!

James

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From: Tonya Shellnutt <tshellnutt@adflegal.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 20, 2022 11:30 AM
To: Uthmeier, James <James.Uthmeier@eog.myflorida.com>
Subject: Coming to Tallahassee

James-I hope you are doing well. Matt Sharp and I are coming to Tallahassee and would like to meet with you and possibly Stephanie about the newest Biden Administration's HHS rule 1557. ADF is deeply concerned about the consequential impact to our children and medical community. We were hoping you could meet next Wednesday sometime. Please let me know your availability. Thank you and God Bless you for ALL you do!



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