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Speaker 1 00:00:07

Here we go. Can you hear me? Yeah. Great. Well, thanks for taking the time to chat. I appreciate it, sir.

Speaker 2 00:00:12

Sure.

Speaker 1 00:00:14

Um, So, uh,

Speaker 2 00:00:17

where are

Speaker 1 00:00:17

you Based, um, on the

Speaker 2 00:00:19

border, Texas,

Speaker 1 00:00:22

You know. Okay. Um. so for for my, um, my. the article I'm working on is is primarily a policy article. Um, but

Speaker 2 00:00:39

I think

Speaker 1 00:00:40

that policy is often abstracted from what it looks like. Like what's happening on the ground. Um. What What are what are you seeing? Like,

Speaker 2 00:00:51

What

Speaker 1 00:00:52

do you do? You visit the border frequently, Do you? Do you see what What's happening down there? So, what do you see? Um,

Speaker 2 00:01:01

do you mean give me, like, a time frame? You mean, like, right now?

Speaker 1 00:01:05

Yeah. Good question. Yeah, I think there's so

Speaker 2 00:01:08

we're

Speaker 1 00:01:09

hearing a lot of of rhetoric, Um, especially on the right these days about a crisis at the border. A humanitarian crisis and immigration crisis of border security crisis. Right now, um, and I think projections are that this will be the and the set of record for a number of encounters that, um, Border patrol agents have with, um, migrants coming to the border. Um, we've seen pictures and videos. Um, and there seems to be a lot of, um, handwringing over what the situation is like down there right now. And I I really regret that I don't have the the time with all my schedule right now to to make a visit to the border myself to see what it's like because I really would like to, um but that personal experience. I'm hoping to get a sense of of what things look like on the ground right now from some of the people I'm speaking with.

Speaker 2 00:02:05

Okay. Uh, sure. So, um, you know, there There's, um so our border communities and they, um they they stand right across from one another. Um and, um, you know, we're right on the border. So we're sister cities, and, uh, we come up against each other at the valley. Uh, you know, if you were to look, um, you know, from a plane, you wouldn't be able to kind of see where once you begin and the other end. Um, so we're right on the border. Um, right now and I just got to my house, and my house is about, you know, 56 minute drive from the border. So we're We're we're right on the board. Um, the the the. the borders been politicised for for many, many years. So, um, you know this idea, um, you know that there's a crisis on the border, um, or that, you know, there's an invasion back, you know, this goes back decades and decades, you

Speaker 1 00:03:22

know?

Speaker 2 00:03:24

I mean, at the beginning of the 20th century, the the Texas governor cold quick, talked about an invasion from Mexico. So this has been going on the use of the rhetoric of invasion, of the rhetoric of of of chaos on the border goes back quite some time. It's nothing new. Um, and so that's sort of the the large picture. Uh, the broad, the broader picture. Um, you know, you're not gonna find that most people in everyday life are affected by the reality of people coming across the border. Um, we we don't have, you know, there's no crime here. Uh, people are not affected in the most part, for the most part of your average citizen is not affected in daily life. Um, so to speak about the crisis. It's it's it's it's,

Speaker 1 00:04:15

you

Speaker 2 00:04:16

know, it's always something that that, um you know, we we believe, needs to be put in context. And we always ask questions about with that. Now, if you if you're looking at the immediate term, um, you know, a lot of people talk about, uh, you know, they invoked the word crisis because of the numbers that we're seeing right now,

Speaker 1 00:04:34

and it's

Speaker 2 00:04:34

important to put those in context as well.

Speaker 1 00:04:38

The

Speaker 2 00:04:38

numbers that you're seeing are not accurate numbers, inflated numbers. Um, because the reports and counters And so you know, even though the numbers are encounters are high.

Speaker 1 00:04:49

And

Speaker 2 00:04:49

perhaps we are seeing an increase in the amount of people were coming at the border. There's always, you know, for years and decades has been people who come to the border over the spring and summer time. You know, there's often an increasing arrivals, um, so that it's not. We're not saying anything different this year with respective immigration that we haven't seen in years past, but the the numbers are hard to intricate because of this policy Title 42 because Title 42 returns people, uh, you know, it expelled people directly to Mexico. Um, and, uh What happens is once people are are returned to Mexico, they often times try to cross and they may try to cross multiple times. And they may be returned under title 42 multiple times. So the numbers that the government releases are numbers of encounters. And if someone is crossing. twice 345 times and the the numbers are necessarily inflated, so would

Speaker 1 00:05:51

you Would you say that that's most people, then that they get turned back and they do try again and again. So that is that like, Is that a a, uh, an exception to the rule that

Speaker 2 00:06:03

people would try

Speaker 1 00:06:04

again and again? Or is that more of the rule

Speaker 2 00:06:07

right now? It's the rule. Yeah. I don't

Speaker 1 00:06:09

know.

Speaker 2 00:06:09

You know, I don't exactly what the breakdown is in terms of people who are able to access asylum at the border versus people who are expelled. Um, you know, they were approaching, you know, we're approaching. The government is slowly been opening the window, people who were able to get asylum. But there are There are many people you know at this point, there have been more than a million well over a million returns under 42. Um, since, um since it was put into place. So. the the numbers are very high, you know, it's at least half of people. At least we're approaching the border are being returned under title 42. And so if those people are are trying to enter the country multiple times, then you necessarily have an insulated, um, number that the government is putting out. So we're not seeing any we're not seeing, you know in years past. For example, you know, we would have mass releases into the community. Uh, we would have, um uh, you know, Border Patrol facilities would be under intense pressure. We're not seeing that at the moment. So what that tells me is that even if there is an increasing arrivals, um, it's not, it's not unsustainable. And it's and and the increase in the numbers are still largely results of Title 42. I've met people who have tried to cross the border half a dozen times.

Speaker 1 00:07:33

Um, it's

Speaker 2 00:07:34

not. It's not uncommon. Um, because people don't have another way to access. So the the the big you know, remaining Mexico is gone, and that's good and and remain

Speaker 1 00:07:46

Why is that good?

Speaker 2 00:07:48

Well, it should have never been put into place. You know, we don't believe it's consistent with our values. Um, we don't believe it's illegal. Um, and, uh, you know, the people who I needed protection to be able to access a system of a silent but remain in Mexico did was return people, um, to situations of intensive ability and feel that quite as we, uh, we provide humanitarian support to people who are into and the the the There were many horror stories. Um, you know, we've, um you know, we. with people who were unable to

Speaker 1 00:08:27

exercise

Speaker 2 00:08:28

medical care, Um, you know, and and also, you know, another. I mean, there are simply one enough services. I mean, it was it was a horror story because they weren't there, Weren't people didn't have the ability effectively, the access to in northern Mexico. They didn't have access to service human services. They were there for prolonged periods of time. It was a boon to the the organised crime because it provided, you know, it's served up on a silver platter of vulnerable population that that were prone to exploitation. You know, violence against immigrants was was very high. People were were victim to assault, extortion, um, to kidnapping, Um uh, to rapes, um, to all sorts of terrible violence. And And we witnessed that. And so

Speaker 1 00:09:18

the hands of the cartels, or

Speaker 2 00:09:20

at the hands of of everybody,

Speaker 1 00:09:22

the

Speaker 2 00:09:22

organised crime It's the hands of police hands of border officials. Um, it's at the hands of petty criminals. Everybody criminal crime, you know, and and organised crime does benefit from policies which tonight people access to the border because they they they you know, often times people feel fall victim to human smuggling where people will feel like they need to have recourse, um, to to less, um, you know, less safe mechanisms across the border, which might involve organised crime, which might involve people who are involved in smuggling and trafficking. So it all it does is fee policies like that feed, uh, organised crime and often times, Yes, the cartels do benefit from that because the cartels in Mexico a very diversified they're not only involved in, um, you know, and drug trafficking involved in smuggling and human trafficking and involved in in in the diversified. Um, you know, and so. it's good we're glad that's over. But in the reality is that Title 42 is still in place, Entitled 42 is just as if not more consequential because

Speaker 1 00:10:30

Title

Speaker 2 00:10:31

43 turned more people in the title 42 than we ever did on the remaining Mexico. And the thing about Title 42 is that there's no access at all to the A sound system. So once you removed, you don't have access. And the remaining Mexico, at least people had had a glimmer of hope that would they would be able to make their case to a judge. But under title 42 that's not the case.

Speaker 1 00:10:51

So

Speaker 2 00:10:52

it's Title 42 is consequential in in the numbers. It's consequential of limiting access to asylum. We also believe that, um, that it needs to be rolled back. Um. and, um, it's it's a forest. But it's a public health measure because, you know, I could cross the border right now and I could get coveted, and I could come back with symptoms. Um, and nobody's gonna check me. Um, nobody's gonna ask me if I have my my coveted vaccination card with me. No one's gonna ask me if I received the coveted tests. Um, it's It's simply that I have a passport and then able to cross over has nothing to do with public health. It's all about limiting. Um, it's all about limiting immigration of the border.

Speaker 1 00:11:35

So

Speaker 2 00:11:36

Title 42 is meant to be a public health measure, and it's being deployed as an immigration of fortunate tool. Um, and and that's not the way that we ought to be dealing with immigration. And it's not It's not, um, it's It's fundamentally inhumane because it does the same thing as remain in Mexico in the sense that it returns people back to the conditions of vulnerability and danger. Um, so the numbers, um, you know, I'm not seeing anything in my ordinary data, the experience and I'm on both sides of the border frequently working with migrants and refugees on both sides of the border. And I'm not seeing anything that that's out of the ordinary. I'm not seeing an unmanageable spike and arrivals. Um, I think the numbers are largely just conflated because of title 42. Um, we're glad again that we've gotten rid of remain in Mexico now. The next thing to do is is to to get rid of title 42 we shouldn't be in this place. Unfortunately, um, you know, this is everyone recognises broadly that this was put in place by the Trump administration again to dissuade my my grants and deter migration not as effective public health measure, but we now have policies in place that can keep us safe. And it can also, um, help us to uphold their obligations to sound secrets. Need protection.

Speaker 1 00:12:53

Uh, so. if if I may play devil's advocate, um, if we get rid of title 42 remaining, Mexico is gone. Um, what what's to

Speaker 2 00:13:08

how do

Speaker 1 00:13:08

we manage immigration? I mean, you're hearing a lot on on the left on the right right now about, um, president has an open borders policy. Um, what would what would you, uh, advocate for? Or, uh, what would you have Congress or the or the, um, the administration do to manage immigration and border security?

Speaker 2 00:13:35

Yeah, I just I just think that the the premise that that that that that we have open borders is is, is is untrue. You know, the the the policies the border under under the the first half of the administration is much more restrictive than it ever was under the first half of the Trump Administration.

Speaker 1 00:13:55

Well,

Speaker 2 00:13:55

because you didn't have that. The first half of the Trump administration, you didn't have title 42. You didn't have remained in Mexico. And so people were able to access that. We needed to do that right now your if your secret, the border, even if they have a very compelling case, you know that even if they're coming from, you know, a situation of political persecution and

Speaker 1 00:14:18

or

Speaker 2 00:14:19

fleeing violence. Uh, you know, it's the luck of the draw. They come to the border right now whether they're going to be have a chance, um, to making a sound.

Speaker 1 00:14:28

Um,

Speaker 2 00:14:29

so it's it's it's It's I think it's to say that we have an open borders policy. It's it's much more restricted than it was in the first two years of the Trump administration. The the The fact is that you know, the only way that we have, uh, the only the only way that we tried that we've addressed this situation at the border has been through increased enforcement. I just struggle the last three years or the last six years. But over the last several decades, all we do is increase the budget in Border patrol. Year after year after year, increase the border, the budget of ice increase the budget of those are figures that you can look at. All we do is build more and more wall, and the administration is is building additional border wall like Arizona.

Speaker 1 00:15:18

All

Speaker 2 00:15:19

we do, uh, is is deployed more tactics of of dissuasion and deterrence. We we we rarely, uh, go in the direction of implementing policies which are more humane. I mean, even in the even in the the enforcement priorities of this administration, you know, the the ones that have been

litigated. Um, because you know, people, people are accusing me the administration of being too lenient. The new DHS unfortunate priorities rise. Border crossers, recent border are prioritised for prosecution. And, um, and and so the the the the policies that the border have long been, uh, policy, you know, policies of crackdown, policy of deterrence and dissuasion of criminalisation trying to criminalise more and more people come through the border, uh, and militarisation building more walls and increasing unfortunate budgets. And

Speaker 1 00:16:15
yet, you

Speaker 2 00:16:15
know, you asked me the question was what ought to be done. The the reality is that even with all that, people still keep coming and continue to come. I mean, just last week, a mother, because of policies like Title 42 a mom, uh, you know, tried to cross the river here in, um, you know, 10 minutes from where I am right now and had a five year old daughter in her hands and the river, you know, the river took her daughter away. You know, she

Speaker 1 00:16:47
gonna

Speaker 2 00:16:48
cross the border wall, and people are gonna continue to come no matter how high we build these walls, no matter how many border Patrol agents we put at the border. So in terms of what we ought to do, we ought to put in place a system that car ties is, uh, offering asylum and protection to those who are most vulnerable. And we ought to be addressing the causes of migration so that we move the conversation upstream to something that's more effective and manageable over the long term and addressed the reasons that people are really coming. There's no there's no sense in in building wells higher and higher. People are going to continue to come. There's a boy at the end of July, you know who died and and it just west of here, and And, um, this is gonna be the the the the probably. the worst year on record in terms of border death. Last year was the was the worst year on record, and this year is already exceeded last year's numbers. Why

Speaker 1 00:17:46
are those numbers throwing up?

Speaker 2 00:17:48
Because with policies like Title, 42

Speaker 1 00:17:51
people

Speaker 2 00:17:52

will will try to they'll try to cross the river and like they have here, I mean, their bodies in the morgue right now, and, um, or they'll go out into the desert into more dangerous conditions and try to cross the desert where the child died July 22nd. And young boy died outside Dimick. Um, they'll expose themselves to those dangers. Um, no matter what we do, no matter how much how painful we make it to try to cross this border, so policies a pain in the terms, they're fundamentally unworkable. What we need to do is put in place something that works, and we can. I mean, we spend you know more on immigration enforcement than all other federal law enforcement in this country, and we can take those resources and reposition and in order to provide

Speaker 1 00:18:38
put

Speaker 2 00:18:39
in place in humanitarian system will welcome and and we are to it's part of our laws, you know, we have the we have. We have national laws that guarantee the rights, um and and well being and secrets and and the recipes, Um, so So we should be we should. should be We should be focusing on the humanitarian aspect of the situation at the border. Um, and and it's simply, unfortunately, politicians who who, um, you know, they drum up, uh, this situation of fear and and and this image of a crisis of the border and that you know, that that really upsets me because we've had, you know, back in 2019, we had someone who came here and chat, you know, until 22 people, um, you know, because of the belief that there was an invasion and and one thing that they all they do is drive xenophobia, you know? And they drive fear. Um, and and none of those things that are gonna solve the issues here. The border. Um, we we we just need to We need a paradigm shift. And unfortunately, our politics, um, they rarely deliver is what we actually need here on the border. Mhm.

Speaker 1 00:19:51
Mhm. Um, one moment, please. How how, um. how much of this do you think that's coming from the right right now about the fear of, um, the crisis on the border Quote unquote has to do with this, um, this trope you're hearing a lot these days of Of replacement. Um, you hear, there's a lot on Fox news. They're they're trying to replace, um, everyday Americans. Do you think these are all linked?

Speaker 2 00:20:25
No, no, definitely. I mean, I I do think, you know, unfortunately, the worst elements in our society has been perpetuating. Uh, you know, an idea of, uh uh fear, um, that we ought to be fearing those people who come to the border because there's somehow a threat to our way of life. Um, we're we're gonna be replaced. I mean, those those that's that's just fun. You know, I work with these people every day. These are people who are are fleeing danger. These are people who have hopes for their Children who have aspirations to their Children. These are people who want to come and contribute. These are people who want to put their gifts and the certain their talents that the. at the service of becoming good. Um is an immigrant community. You know, we

have long then, um I remember community. It's part of our DNA. I mean, at, you know, 82 83% of our communities, Mexican American, quarter of our population is foreign born, and we're in, like many border communities. Um, we're we're we're strong. We're diverse. We're redoing it. This is a beautiful community. This is a safe community. We're one of the safest communities in the United States, and and that is in spite of immigration. But it's because of immigrants because we know how to welcome immigrants. And this country, too, at its best, has been able to welcome immigrants and integrate.

Speaker 1 00:21:48

Sorry, my phone accidentally. Actually, there you were saying that one of the safest none of that is in spite of immigration is because of immigration.

Speaker 2 00:21:56

Yeah. Uh

Speaker 1 00:21:57

huh. Yeah. Pardon. Go ahead.

Speaker 2 00:21:59

And and so we know that there's nothing to see her. Um, this is this is fundamentally a moral challenge. This is not a political challenge. It's a moral challenge.

Speaker 1 00:22:08

What you mean by that?

Speaker 2 00:22:10

It's it's it's a call to solidarity. It's a call to, um. to to welcome the other and and and And we're better people when we welcome, when we welcome the other. At the end of the day, we're better people for we're transformed by by by the reality of immigration in a positive way. And then we know that we live that on a human level every day of the border, immigration is strengthened us and and there's a noble us and it's enriched us. And so there's nothing. There's nothing to fear. Those who are those who are are are you know who are pushing this trope of replacing theory. I mean, it's fundamentally racist. It's based on ungrounded fears, and it's dangerous. You know, people, people will die. Um, either because the policies that are put in place as a result of this you know, these political, these political, this political posturing like Title 42 made in Mexico. These are deadly policies are just killed. Two Children in the last couple of weeks here, not festival and and And And they they they killed throughout our country. I mean, you think about the, you know, the racially motivated shootings that we've had. Um, there's a pandemic of, of racially motivated killing throughout our country, not just here, but in other parts of the country as well. I mean, these things, these things are deadly. This is our This is our country that are worse than we believe that that that we can do so much better. You know, our country, we can we can pull from moral reserves that are much deeper than this politics of fear, Um, and speak to who we are and identity of the country with, which is a country that welcomes

and integrates, um, that promotes that protects into immigrants. And and and we're stronger country. And we're we're stronger, you know, Our communities are stronger because of it. We've lived that Mhm. Mhm.

Speaker 1 00:24:00

One moment, please. Um, what would you do? What would you have? What policies would you put in place? What? Um, if you if you if you could If you could rally congress, especially Congress to act on this because if the the laws of the border are largely sat in dictated by Congress. What would you have? Would you have them do?

Speaker 2 00:24:28

Yeah, I I think, uh, you know, we need to, um first of all, we need to restore asylum. Uh, there was so much damage that was done under the previous administration, and they moved the gold pulled so far that this administration still has not, um, gotten back to where we were before, too. And before in Mexico. Um, and so there's a lot of rebuilding that still needs to be done. We're in worse shape now. As I said, the border is more restrictive now in these first two years of than it was during the first two years, the Trump administration. So there's a lot of rebuilding. It still needs to happen. But fundamentally, we need to We need to restore asylum at the border, and then we need to We need to recognise, um, that this is a humanitarian situation. This is not, um this is not unmanageable crisis. Um, and we need to begin to repay our resources. so that we have, uh, you know, the ability to welcome people in a dignified, humane and a safe and orderly fashion. Um, and I and I know that we can do that. I mean, with all the resources that we have with all the border agents and the and the bloated budget that we have here at the border, we can reposition that in order to make sure that people who are genuinely needed protection or process and are welcomed with dignity

Speaker 1 00:25:47

Do we need to let everybody that comes to the border And how do you handle that? So if you know, uh, say okay, say the numbers are inflated, then arrive Heard. Uh, the kind of expectation for the number of encounters this year is two million. Say that is, um, as you say, inflated by title 42 encounters. And I don't know, say it's 750,000 people. Maybe 500,000 people are coming to the southern border seeking access. Do we let all those people in and and and, as you say, a safe, orderly and humane fashion? Or do we say, you

Speaker 2 00:26:26

know?

Speaker 1 00:26:26

Sorry. Um, but we can't We can't take you. We can take these, like, 10 people over here. Do you know what I mean? How do you? How do you How do you decide who gets in? Or do you just let them all in?

Speaker 2 00:26:38

I mean, we we we traditionally have. We have the traditional grounds for silent. Um, and I think that's a good place to start. So, um,

Speaker 1 00:26:45

so we let asylum seekers, but not those seeking economic, you know, economic benefits for them in their family.

Speaker 2 00:26:53

Well, I also think that we you know when When you look, um, when you look at at primarily where people are coming from right now, and that's Central America. Um, you know, we are involved in many of the drivers, um, that are are pushing people out of those countries.

Speaker 1 00:27:07

You mean America is,

Speaker 2 00:27:09

I mean, in in large part right now, um, you have. I mean, you have political instability, which is the result of decades long intervention in those countries. But you also have, um, you know, and I've worked in those countries, and I just got back from a couple of weeks ago, um, and and was with my intending communities. And I mean, one of the biggest drivers is in security, and the insecurity is the result of, um, the result of of of the growth of organised crime, which is attendant on our addiction to drugs. Um, and there are other ways in which were involved in the drivers. And so I don't think I think that that first of all, we have to recognise that in many ways, we are we are involved, um, in in many of the reasons that people are coming. And so we have to realise, again that this is a moral challenge. We have to recognise their own our own, Um, the fact that we're implicated and. and, uh, the the the reality is that on the other hand, in a very practical sense, I mean, you know, we're seeing that there's too few immigrants right now in the country that the workers shortages actually driving prices up at the time of of inflation. You know, we don't have, uh, enough workers to fill the open position, and that's causing, you know, ripple effects in agriculture and supply chains in the fields. Uh, you know, here locally in New Mexico and and Texas and interrupt country. So we're not facing. We're not facing a surplus of migration. We're actually facing, you know, we're looking at a couple of years now where we have too few immigrants to fill the jobs that are necessary to keep our economy going. But I think there's a balance it can be achieved. I think there's a balance in in reading our our ideals as a country. Um, that recognises, um, that we have a responsibility to people who are fleeing danger and security. And, uh, we can we can achieve we can achieve those ideals at the same time. Well, well, making sure that it's safe and orderly and keeping our country secure. Um, we we can do all those things. It's not easy that without its challenges, um, but But we've never tried to respect you. Haven't tried to decades. All we've tried to do is is secure the border and and that that's done. Nothing to stem the flow.

Speaker 1 00:29:26

Mhm. Mhm.

Speaker 2 00:29:29

Mhm.

Speaker 1 00:29:30

Hm. One moment. So I was speaking with, um, a mayor, the mayor of delivery, from, uh, from, um. excuse me, Um, a city. And he was, um, decrying the the lack of comprehensive immigration, um, reform that has, you know, uh, been a need in this country. He says for for decades

Speaker 2 00:30:01

Would

Speaker 1 00:30:02

you agree that there's a need for comprehensive, comprehensive immigration reform?

Speaker 2 00:30:06

Yeah, I think so. Um, definitely. We need to legalise, you know, the 11 who are living, uh, shadows in this country. Um, And if if part of immigration reform means putting into place the more humane and flexible system at the border um, then that's something we should support. Um, can I say something off records?

Speaker 1 00:30:28

Yes, please. Yeah.

Speaker 2 00:30:30

A lot of politicians use that line, but But I'm not convinced that just I mean, legalisation isn't going to solve anything here. Supporter. It's a throwaway line of a lot of politicians, but anyway,

Speaker 1 00:30:40

immigration reform.

Speaker 2 00:30:42

Yeah, it's a way of and not answering the question because immigration perform. Doesn't you know? It includes, you know, greater budgets for border enforcement, but it doesn't address the fundamental question of people are right into the border. And it doesn't change those things. And some of the proposals that I've seen and so it's I don't I don't wanna I don't wanna I just It gets me annoyed sometimes because the way politicians not answering the question, they just say, Well, if there was comprehensive immigration reform, which you know is is a Cypher for many things. Who knows what it means. But ultimately, you know what agrees we need to legalise, but. okay, you legalise this population. But what happened to the person of crosses the border tomorrow? You know what I mean?

Speaker 1 00:31:22

Yeah, Yeah. Mm. can actually

Speaker 2 00:31:26

quote you on that, because

Speaker 1 00:31:27

I think that's actually a valuable, um, reflection, uh, in comment on on this that, um

Speaker 2 00:31:36

yeah, yeah, yeah.

Speaker 1 00:31:40

Okay. I appreciate that. Um,

Speaker 2 00:31:43

because it seems

Speaker 1 00:31:44

like the, um, immigration policy. I'm thinking about this over the weekend. Like immigration policy seems to like it. It's a double edged sword. It cuts both ways like it affects it affects America, right? It affects society, but it also affects it and and it it feels directly with the lives of people at the border. Right? Like it. It's not just, um it's not. It's it's it's not

Speaker 2 00:32:11

very.

Speaker 1 00:32:12

It's not very black and white like. it's just there's a lot. There's a lot to balance here. I I realise it. They say it's like there's a there's a lot of play.

Speaker 2 00:32:22

Yeah, there's, You know, people don't realise how interconnected people aren't from the border they don't always realise connected. So, for example, a lot of people in this country don't know. that many people. And why does have a visa, um, to be able to come over there just because, um, you know, and and and And they can't travel anywhere else, but, yeah, travel beyond, but but our community. So if we didn't have that, people weren't able to cross. You know, if you come to the border, thousands and thousands of people every day, they're gonna cross that border back and forth. They're gonna come to work on both sides, are gonna come to school. They're people inquired to come to our our schools. You know, I'm I'm Catholic, and and, um, I work with a lot. A lot of work with the Catholic Church. A lot of our Catholic schools are kept alive by the kids who come over from, um

Speaker 1 00:33:18
the the

Speaker 2 00:33:19
the, um, the economy.

Speaker 1 00:33:22
You

Speaker 2 00:33:22
know, if you were to go on any given weekend to the mall here in you know, any of the malls, you'd see all the licence plate from people from quite in Mexico. You know, there there there are fundamental to our economy. when we had the border under Trump When Title 42 went into place and people were not able to cross, they were terrible economic impact on Board of Communities. Because of that, because we depends on most people that come over, we depend on on interstate commerce. We depend on commerce on both sides. Um, our our our communities are independent people, you know. Families live on both sides. People celebrate. Uh, you know, on both sides of the border, people go to church from both sides of the border. I mean, these are communities, and essentially So it's all along the border communities historically grown up side by side and are are are bound by the blood and friendship and religion and faith and and the economy. And. so the reality is that were much more interconnected than many Americans would think. And. and the the impacts of enforcement also disproportionately affect us. You know, when what? When I want to go outside of my past. So I've got to I've got to go through a checkpoint. You know, in my Fourth Amendment rights, violated Border Patrol agents who want to look inside my car and in my trunk and asked me where I'm going. I mean, we there's there's there's sort of, you know, some people have referred to the border Is the constitutional freezing, Um, people who live close to the border? Border Patrol agents can go in their yard and on their property without asking because, you know, violation of the Fourth Amendment rights. Because we permitted this constitutional free zone. Um, in in, you know, in in sort of difference to this, you know, you know, the god of national security and and securing the border. We've sacrificed our rights.

Speaker 1 00:35:16
And

Speaker 2 00:35:16
so whenever you have, you know, an increase in immigration enforcement on the border, it affects everybody. It's like border communities. It affects individuals on both sides in ways that that the the average American might not be mhm, Mhm.

Speaker 1 00:35:30
I still want to get down there and see what this is like. Uh

Speaker 2 00:35:35

oh.

Speaker 1 00:35:36

Well, I think those are I

Speaker 2 00:35:38

think those are all

Speaker 1 00:35:38

the questions I I have for now, Mr um. and I I should let you go of taking up a lot of your time. Um, can I contact you? If I have any additional questions, I'm gonna kind of, like, let a lot of this sit and and think about it. It's like, um, gear up to write my article. Um, I appreciate it. And I I've I've learned so much. Um, thank you so much for for sharing your insight. Uh, with me. Really, really valuable. Thank you. Yeah, thank you very much. We'll talk soon. Take care.