



## **Facts show no need for a wall**

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Joanne Evers said “If you love the U.S.A., we must build the wall” (“Why America needs the wall,” Jan. 5, page A8). Americans oppose a border wall by a 10-to-20 point margin. Joanne insults those opposed to the wall by claiming we don’t love the U.S.A. and owes us a public apology.

Joanne said we need the wall to stop terrorists, but Chris Wallace of Fox News Sunday said “the State Department says there is, quote — their words — ‘no credible evidence’ of any terrorist coming across the border from Mexico.”

Joanne Evers said “the wall will cost \$5 billion”; in fact, most estimates range from \$35-70 billion, plus land acquisition and maintenance costs. This is over \$300 per household; is Joanne going to raise your taxes \$300 to pay for this wall or just borrow and spend for it?

Joanne said it will cost \$155 billion a year to support the illegal aliens who will be on welfare. With a few exceptions (like military veterans and school lunches), even new legal immigrants already cannot access welfare programs during their first five years in the U.S., per a 1996 welfare reform law signed by President Bill Clinton.

Joanne said we need the wall to stop drugs, but the Coast Guard knows who is sending the drugs and where up to 90 percent are headed. But the Coast Guard has the resources to stop only between 11 and 20 percent of shipments in a given year.

Joanne said we need the wall to fight crime; however, senior immigration policy analyst Alex Nowrasteh wrote, “the criminal conviction rate for legal immigrants was about 85 percent below the native-born rate.” The Cato Institute study said “as a percentage of their respective populations, there were

56 percent fewer criminal convictions of illegal immigrants than of native-born Americans in Texas in 2015.”

Trump supported the budget without a border wall until talk radio attacked Trump over building the wall and he took America hostage until he gets the ransom. If this wall was so critical, why did he not get it funded when the GOP controlled the House of Representatives?

Democracy cannot function in a world where the truth is irrelevant, or even worse, where it is manufactured. In this post-factual era, facts no longer matter, but willingness to use fear and misleading statements is dangerous and subversive to our democracy.

Facts are stubborn things.