



GOP border talking points riddled with falsehoods: Letters to the editor

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In a recent letter, the Erie County Republican Party chairman deemed it necessary to introduce the usual bogeymen into the border debate.

No good exaggeration would fail to mention MS-13, a gang that actually originated in Los Angeles and spread outward to other nations. A simple fact-check demonstrates that most illegal drugs enter the U.S. through legal points of entry, not vast open spaces without a wall.

He implies that Democrats are for open borders, yet later claims that, “In 2013, all 54 Senate Democrats voted to pass legislation that provided \$46 billion to build a physical barrier on the border.” He can’t have it both ways. How can Democrats be for open borders if they voted for a \$46 billion wall?

A multitude of conservative websites reiterate the Republican open-border myth, but those same sites cannot quote a single Democrat actually asserting support for it. Ironically, support for open borders seems to be limited not to Democrats, but to ultraconservative institutions such as the Niskanen Center and the Cato Institute.

Furthermore, the claim that Democrats supported \$46 billion for the wall is, and I am being kind here, a blatantly false statement. Perhaps it was stated on Fox or in the Washington Examiner, or it’s merely a Republican talking point. Nevertheless, it is utter nonsense.

The Congressional Budget Office’s analysis of the Senate immigration bill, S. 744 of 2013, shows that the Democrats supported only \$7.5 billion for deployment and maintenance of fencing or walls. The remaining billions were for real, effective border security — agents, drug court judges, technology, etc. And, of course, the House Republican majority refused to vote on it.

The letter is a ruse, revealing a bankrupt policy that is only reinforced by false numbers and specious assumptions that are incompatible with real governing. The type of nongovernance that Americans now witness on a daily basis.