

# BOZEMAN DAILY CHRONICLE

## **Border not an emergency compared to other problems in U.S.**

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The president talks about a “national emergency” on the border between the U.S. and Mexico that can be eliminated by the building of a \$5.7 billion wall.

But what has he said about the nearly 40,000 gun-related deaths in the U.S. in 2017 and the more than 30,000 each year since 2012 (Center for Disease Control)? Or the 96 school shootings in 2018 alone (Time magazine)? And Republican Rep. Steven King of Iowa has stated that the Government Accountability Office recorded only 25,064 homicide arrests of criminal aliens since 1955. Furthermore, according to Alex Nowrasteh of the Libertarian Cato Institute, the arrest rate for illegal immigrants has been running 40 percent BELOW that of native-born Americans.

And what about the number of children in the U.S. in 2017, a staggering 5.9 million, who live in extreme poverty as defined by an annual income of less than half the poverty level or \$12,642 for a family of four or \$1,053/month, \$243/week or \$35/day. That is about 1 in 12 children (Annual Social and Economic Supplement of the U.S. Census Current Population Survey).

Aren't these real national emergencies? No posturing at the U.S.-Mexican border can address these horrific disgraces.