

The Sinkhole wall

Annie Jicka • 9 • editorial

Donald Trump's tweet "SECURE THE BORDER! BUILD A WALL!" on August 14, 2014, set the tone for his campaign and administration. Since that time, the idea of a wall has been embedded into the minds of countless Americans, and the President has not stopped his damaging obsession for the project.

What is Trump's reasoning for his wall? Well, he believes that this barrier will help stop illegal immigrants from coming into our country. The President has said that these people are drug traffickers and terrorists who will take everything away from us. However, the evidence behind the President's reasoning doesn't quite add up to me. For example, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration has said that most traffickers don't bring drugs by running across the border; instead, they transport it in cars at official checkpoints (Holpuch). Trump's idea of terrorists coming across the border can also be debunked. According to a State Department Report on terrorism in 2017, "At year's end, there was no credible evidence indicating that international terrorist groups have established bases in Mexico, worked with Mexican drug cartels, or sent operatives via Mexico into the United States" ("Country Reports on Terrorism").

With Trump's destructive

determination to fulfill the promise of a wall to his supporters, the President cried to Congress for funding. Instead of creating a wall, Trump's interactions with Congress only caused government shutdowns and more debate.

Did Trump think of the federal workers when he shut the government down for his precious wall? In a January 4th news conference, Trump told the media that he believed the federal workers would be fine with losing some paychecks for the sake of the wall. However, in a poll conducted by the Government Executive, 72% of federal employees were against the shutdown and only 21% supported it (Katz).

I feel like a wall won't be able to keep every illegal immigrant out. If someone really wants to come to America, he or she will be able to find a way around a big fence.

Why should I care about this? I'm just a fifteen-year-old girl who only thinks about how many followers I have on Instagram and how long my streaks are on Snapchat. Right? Well, no. I can see how this wall has affected hundreds of thousands of people and families across America. Yes, I know that the government has promised to repay the lost wages of their workers after the shutdown, but they owe 700 million dollars to the Department of Justice alone. According to *The New*

York Times, the average federal worker lost about \$5000 during the shutdown (Patel). How long will it take to repay these people if they're using all our money to build this useless wall?

Maybe I can see the President's point of view, but I feel like a wall won't be able to keep every illegal immigrant out. If someone really wants to come to America, he or she will be able to find a way around a big fence. Is it worth billions of dollars to build something that isn't a sure fix to the problem?

Our president is so far into this sinkhole of money and time that the only way out is to dig down deeper. Donald Trump declared a national emergency on Friday, February 15. The backlash is substantial as "16 states filed a lawsuit in a Northern California federal court against President Trump's declaration of a national emergency, calling the President's decision to use executive power to fund a border wall unconstitutional" (Paris). Along with this, the House of Representatives has approved a bill that would defund the national emergency.

So what is the magical resolution to this never-ending, money-sucking, and insufficient wall? I think that the wall was just a quick attempt to fix the complicated issue of immigration. Building a wall doesn't fix everything. It takes time and compromises to solve these issues. I believe that we should put our time and money into improving the present border patrol and helping our refugee system. Most of these immigrants are trying to flee from horrible situations. Yes, I know that all of these people are not innocent and sinless, and I can see where the fear of this unknown comes from. However, what right do we have

to turn those looking for safety away, when our ancestors were refugees just like they?

Works Cited

- "Country Reports on Terrorism 2017." United States Department of State Publication, Bureau of Counterterrorism. September 2018, p.p. 205, <https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/283100.pdf>.
- Holpuch, Amanda. "Six Keys to Know About Trump's Border Wall Speech." *The Guardian*, Guardian News and Media, 9 Jan. 2019, www.theguardian.com/us-news/2019/jan/08/trump-fact-check-speech-immigration-border-security.
- Katz, Eric. "New Poll: Nearly Three-Quarters of Federal Workers Oppose Shutdown, Majority Oppose Wall." *Government Executive*, 15 Jan. 2019, www.govexec.com/pay-benefits/2019/01/poll-nearly-three-quarters-federal-workers-oppose-shutdown-majority-oppose-wall/154183/.
- Patel, Jugal K. "A Typical Federal Worker Has Missed \$5,000 in Pay From the Shutdown So Far." *The New York Times*, The New York Times, 16 January 2019, www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/01/16/us/politics/federal-shutdown-salaries.html?auth=login-email.
- Paris, Francesca. "16 States Sue Over Trump National Emergency Declaration." *NPR*, NPR, 19 Feb. 2019, lines 1-3, www.npr.org/2019/02/18/695821740/16-states-sue-over-trumps-national-emergency-declaration.