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Realistic Responses or Unnecessary Stereotypes: State Policy and CBP Encounters in the 100 Mile Border Zone

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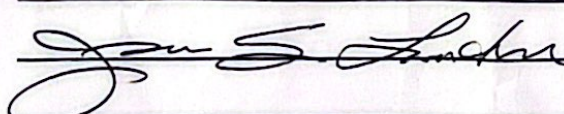
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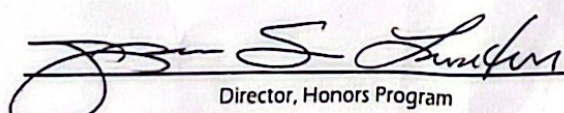
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**Realistic Responses or Unnecessary Stereotypes: State Policy and CBP Encounters in the
100 Mile Border Zone**

A Thesis

Presented to the Department of Political Science

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Makenna Marie Territo

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I. ABSTRACT

The field of immigration policy is categorized broadly as an untouchable federal policy issue with nonexistent bipartisan legislation, that is vital in addressing tensions in the current political climate. The lack of response at the federal level has large repercussions for individuals in communities along the border who want things done who take on issues at the local level. State level responses are then exacted in the form of legislation whether these policies are based on data or stereotypes. States have made history for their restrictive immigration policies along the Southern border as tensions skyrocket. In some cases, the affected communities have developed inflated responses to minimal increases or decreases in immigration numbers. The validity of these policies is called into question as decreasing numbers would not necessitate more restrictive policies. However, the data from this comparative case study demonstrates that immigration policy is impacted far more by the actual presence of immigrants in these areas than surges in immigration encounters in a region.

Therefore, it appears likely that states with decreased immigration may have overinflated their responses based on stereotypes as reflected in the policies they pass, in an effort to appease local constituencies. The immigration situation along the Southern border is tense and these feelings are exacerbated by lack of national policy responses. Thus, states respond to their constituencies as they have no other option, which leads them to a variety of policy outcomes that impact the conditions in the state, and as time continues without bipartisan compromises immigration policy continues its evolution.

II. BACKGROUND

US-Mexico immigration was recently described by the Brookings Institute as being one of the deciding factors of the 2024 election (Sanchez, 2024). Immigration concerns have been rising in the polls, and more immigrants have been encountered and apprehended at the US-Mexico border. This has resulted in increasing pressure on policy makers to create policy solutions for border states relief, and humane immigrant treatment upon arrival in the United States. The pressure on policy makers has resulted in conflict between states and the national government in bills and cases, as states create individual policies that encroach on national jurisdiction, aimed at resolving immigration issues through community based solutions. The policies that arise may be associated with the rise in encounters as a methodology to provide relief while the federal government stalls in creating bipartisan immigration legislation that hasn't existed since 1982 (Galston, 2024). My research seeks to address the question of, "How reported total border encounters and border surges and changes in the 100 mile border zone impact immigration policy and which elements factor into the type of policy created?" Through the exploration of this question I hope to discover that immigration policy is correlated more strongly with border surges, and thus illustrates that these policies are reactionary and not based on immigrant presence in general.

I will examine this by taking the reported Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) encounters for the fiscal year of 2023, and calculate their percent change and percentage of total encounters. This will then be compared against immigration policy passed in individual states and categorized as either restrictive or access building to prove correlation through an operationalization of policy data. Through examining the responses, it will determine whether immigration policies in border states are an attempt to respond to ineffective federal government

actions, or reflect that states are broadly against immigration as a whole. Overall, this relationship helps to demonstrate the role that immigrant presence has in the formation of policy and based on this information it can urge the federal government to act in a way to address these shortcomings and take the pressure off of states. The goal of this research is to remove the stigma around immigration policy, and encourage action that is based on actual state needs, rather than perceived risks based on stereotyping of immigrants.

The data on these encounters used for the purpose of this study have been collected by CBP during their routine border inspections within the 100 mile border zone, in particular along the Southwest Section of the border. CBP is the local law enforcement within the jurisdiction of the 100 mile border zone, which extends inward 100 miles from the nearest border point, and in part their role within this space is to report encounters and apprehensions of immigrants. They also play a role in ensuring security of the border as a law enforcement entity and are given the power to search and seize personal property and persons without a warrant (Cornell Law School). The method that CBP employs in the border zone for describing the types of immigration flowing inward is through the use of apprehensions and encounters. The Department of Homeland Security, which governs all matters related to national security and oversees CBP, defines an apprehension as, "The physical control or temporary detainment of a person who is not lawfully in the United States, which may or may not result in an arrest by CBP" (Barros, 2023). While encounters are the primary terminology and statistics CBP uses to track their data, they are much more complex, and they encompass both apprehensions and expulsions (Gramlich, 2024). In short, this is any action taken by CBP officials towards immigrants as they are processed at a port of entry.

The processing can result in an apprehension, an arrest that results in an immigration decision being rendered via the asylum process, or an expulsion from the United States back to a country of origin. To complicate matters further, any immigrant who has been expelled from the United States and attempts to re-enter and is apprehended a second time is counted once more as an encounter. Therefore, immigrants who may enter the United States multiple times can be counted as if they are separate individuals within a singular data set, despite being the same person at different points in time. Due to CBP's restrictive nature in regards to their data, encounters in this format are one of the few ways to quantify immigrants and therefore are the best possible way to understand what is occurring at the southern border despite their shortcomings. While this information is readily available in immigration research, there are lingering gaps as to how these federal level numbers are related to state policy and how these numbers impact the types of policy created.

III. LITERATURE REVIEW

CBP is broadly responsible for enforcing immigration policy on the border, and for the purposes of this paper the focus will be on CBP specifically as opposed to Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE). CBP mainly deals with immigration processing at or between ports of entry, or in other words a location to lawfully enter the United States such as airports, seaports, etc (Immigration Enforcement, 2024). ICE is similar to CBP in enforcement, however, they handle immigration proceedings in the interior of the country, and conduct the detention and removal process for migrants who cannot lawfully be in the United States. Due to this study's analysis of illegal entry *into* the country, encounters on the border, and its impacts on policy, CBP's data is better to analyze for the goals of this study. CBP actively examines those who are entering on the border and their data includes expulsions as opposed to ICE who record arrests within the

interior of the nation and the deportation process and leave out border expulsions. In essence, CBP's raw data generates a better total image of actual immigration data which is salient for the purpose of understanding how immigrants' presence as a whole is perceived and how state policy responds.

Advocacy groups reflect public opinion against CBP in border states, as they regard CBP as an unconstitutional entity that requires challenging the 4th amendment (Know, 2020). Despite some opposition to CBP, other Americans believe both CBP and ICE are underfunded and want to see border security increased (Center for Biological Diversity). These perspectives show deviations in public opinion on immigration but neither describe what drives these ideologies or resulting policies. The state and local opinions and policies are also left out of typical immigration policy analysis as national polling gains more media attention.

The goal of my research is to amplify local voices via state legislation, to determine how state representatives address influxes of immigrants or their general presence through policy. Migration Policy Institute or MPI which is a leading non-partisan research group on immigration states that, "Every year since 2006, all states combined have enacted at least 45 new immigration policies, according to data from the Immigrant Climate Index." (Jimenez, 2022). This reflects the salience of this research as states are enacting new policies but the motivations are yet to be explored. Many of these policies are also restrictive towards immigrants which, "deny immigrants (especially the unauthorized) rights and access to resources and institutions, and those that expand rights and access." (Jimenez, 2022). They also include access-expanding policies that, "provide services to individuals regardless of immigration status, or formally refuse cooperation with federal immigration law enforcement." (Jimenez, 2022). The differing policies on immigration and state responses grow out of control, which creates a patchwork of laws that

create different experiences for immigrants based on the port of entry they cross into. The differing framework of Restrictive vs. Access-Expanding policies of immigration policy are concepts I will analyze in my methods section. I will classify state responses and quantify the resulting numbers to operationalize the legislation and the motivation behind it. The change in border encounters over a one year period, will be compared with the type of immigration legislation passed in each state to result in correlation.

This research could provide context into behaviors of legislative bodies in response to their constituencies' needs. Politicians who work within immigration could utilize this research to know what drives their legislation and better predict a bill's outcome legislatively. Additionally, this research can motivate the government towards bipartisan immigration legislation, as efforts have waned with little progress made. This would not only pressure the federal government to act, but demonstrate that the state actions taken towards border encounters are in fact, part of federal jurisdiction. This is reiterated by The University of Denver Law and Policy Review noted that "over half of all Latinos in the United States fear that they, or someone close to them, may be deported. The MJP means that no local government is in a position to allay that fear." (Varsanyi, 2012). They describe that the patchwork nature of jurisdictions has the ability to hurt everyone involved and immigrants themselves. Thus, the patchwork impacts the immigrant community based on state and local policies and immigration numbers, and this research could aid immigrants in understanding the impact of these policies on their lives.

Differing opinions on immigration and the disorienting and divisive nature of this topic could worsen and is thus urgent to address. Based on available literature 72% of Americans in 2021 viewed immigrants as coming to the United States in search of jobs and to better their lives (Ekins and Kemp, 2021). Yet, at the same time, 42% of Americans feel unsafe as they believe

immigrants to be part of the rise in crime rates (Gallup, 2007). This is reflected in the differing types of bills in local legislatures and the pressure put on them to satisfy both groups and also get reelected. This results in contradictory policies that push and pull immigrants and law enforcement while policymakers attempt to accommodate changing expectations. In addition, there is an influx of immigration coming through the Northern Border, which aids in the patchwork of policy and scholars recommend that, "the Biden administration, and following administrations, must update policy for both to match modern trends and keep up with advanced smuggling networks." (Tyler, 2022). Due to northern states receiving less focus and funding for law enforcement it means that states are struggling to process the influx of immigrants, which results in more deportations and also high chances of smuggling and harmful activity. Thus, differences in immigration policies that respond to encounters can lead states to have uneven processing times with negative outcomes for all involved.

Despite the harmful impacts of the patchwork, some states have adopted policies that sponsor immigrants for their economic benefits to society to specialize to the states labor needs. The Center for Budget and Policy Priorities described this trend and stated that with increasing budgets at the state level parts of this funding should be allocated to aid in immigrant empowerment to help bring new jobs and economic prosperity to states (Figueroa, 2022). State policy responses to immigration aren't black and white and aren't always harmful in the patchwork of policy and they can provide an opportunity to accommodate individual states' needs. With the ability to harm or benefit a state, state legislation that is based on encounter data is increasingly important to recognize how states respond to community needs and yet view repercussions as well. For the purpose of this research, encounters performed by CBP will be used to reference changes in immigration numbers across the state. Encounters, despite their

usage of repeat migrants, are the best possible source of data on gauging how much immigration is occurring in a given state.

This is due to the fact that CBP only has data for the 2021 Fiscal Year on apprehensions and has Fiscal Year 2023 data on encounters making it the most up to date data source (US Border, 2023). In addition, encounters include all immigrants apprehended and also includes those who were an automatic expulsion from the border which apprehension data does not include. Despite its limitations in terms of accuracy, given the aims of this research and the holistic look at immigration it provides by state and policy responses, encounters are the best data set and vantage point to execute this goal. Additionally, the main areas of state policy that I will be examining include the encounters from specific border sectors of a given state. A border sector is defined by the Department of Homeland Security's Glossary as, "Any one of 20 geographic areas into which the United States is divided for the Department of Homeland Security's Border Patrol activities." Out of all 20 regions, my research will focus on the 10 U.S. border sectors in total which encompass Arizona, Texas, Montana, New York, North Dakota, and more. The research will not include Puerto Rico due to it being a U.S. territory and not a U.S. state, which means its legislative process differs from that of a state. The other two U.S. state sectors that are left out are the Michigan Detroit sector and the Louisiana New Orleans sector, and that is due to insufficient data regarding the Fiscal Year in 2022 and 2023.

Largely, this study will be a comparative case study which includes an "analysis and synthesis of the similarities, differences and patterns across two or more cases that share a common focus or goal in a way that produces knowledge that is easier to generalize about causal questions" (Goodrick, 2014). My research will analyze and synthesize information regarding individual border sectors, their percent change in encounters, and their legislative responses to

those data points. The goal of my research is to produce a corollary statement that associates legislative responses with the data from border patrol. This methodology is the best possible fit given the time and funding constraints that my research has given my undergraduate institution, and will utilize cases instead of interviews to generalize an overview of the topic.

IV. METHODS

Figure 1

Border Sectors within the States (sectors)	% Change in Encounters within sector (FY22-FY23)	Average % change of encounters in sector	% of total encounters in the United States (FY20-FY24)	# of Restrictive Immigration Bills (-)	# of Access-Building Immigration Bills (+)	Sum of Immigration Bills
NM*- 1	-46.8%	-46.8%	5.1%	2	10	8
TX- 4	-65.1%, -5.7%, -38.1%, -22.6%	-32.87%	47.7%	49	7	-42
CA- 2	-73.9% 76.1%	1.1%	14.3%	2	41	39
WA- 2	133.032% ¹ Averaged already	133.03%	1.1%	1	4	3
ME-1	15.88% ²	15.88%	0.5%	2	2	0
AZ- 2	167.2%, -73%	47.1%	18.7%	5	0	-5
ND-1	23.45% ³	23.45%	0.1%	3	1	-2
FL-1	400% ⁴	400%	4.3%	10	1	-9
NY-1	770.47% ⁵	770.47%	2.8%	3	33	30
MT-1	841.33% ⁶	841.33%	0.2%	2	0	-2
VT- 1	846% ⁷	846%	0.5%	0	5	5

¹Clarridge, C. (2024, March 27). *Washington sees human smuggling spike, feds say*. Axios Seattle.

<https://www.axios.com/local/seattle/2024/03/27/human-smuggling-northern-border-washington>

²News Center Maine Staff. (2024, March 1). *Border patrol agents arrest three people during alleged illegal border crossing into Maine*. News Center Maine.

<https://www.newscentermaine.com/article/news/crime/border-patrol-fort-fairfield-maine-canada/97-480b993f-28af-4589-909d-9f24a4f8182b#:~:text=CBP%20data%20indicate%20a%20recent,October%202020%20through%20January%202024>

³Rao, M. (2023, April 24). *Rescue of undocumented migrants shows rise in Minnesota, North Dakota border crossings*. Star Tribune.

<https://www.startribune.com/rescue-of-undocumented-migrants-shows-rise-in-minnesota-north-dakota-border-crossings/600269424/>

⁴Grant, T. (2023, January 4). *South Florida migrant encounters up 400%, border patrol says*. ABC News.

<https://abcnews.go.com/US/south-florida-migrant-encounters-400-border-patrol/story?id=96195919>

⁵Creenan, R. (2024, January 2). *Border agents deal with uptick in illegal Niagara River crossings*. Olean Times Herald.

https://www.oleantimesherald.com/news/border-agents-deal-with-uptick-in-illegal-niagara-river-crossings/article_63a7a232-a9b3-11ee-aba3-ff3a74f34360.html

⁶Heston, K. (2024, April 10). *Montana lawmakers call for tighter security on the northern border*. Daily Inter Lake.

<https://dailyinterlake.com/news/2024/apr/10/zinke-rosendale-call-for-more-security-on-the-northern-border/#:~:text=In%20Montana%2C%20border%20patrol%20agents,it%27s%20being%20done%20by%20design>

⁷Brissette, R. (2023, October 3). *Border patrol's Swanton sector apprehensions & encounters reach historic highs*. U.S. Customs and Border Protection. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/border-patrol-s-swanton-sector-apprehensions-encounters-reach-historic>

As this is a comparative case analysis, the total border sectors were compiled by state with the exception of Puerto Rico, and Michigan as they did not contain enough data for analysis. These numbers were compared against the number of bills identified in Column 1 of Figure 1. New Mexico's border sector contains part of Texas' border land but it was categorized as New Mexico as it is the majority of this sector. CBP has not yet compiled the data for FY23-FY24, thus the fiscal year of FY22-FY23 was selected as it the most up to date data for all CBP sectors. As the immigration policies are passed and changed frequently, up to date research is necessary to reflect ongoing or current trends. The CBP encounter data from FY22-FY23 was recorded in Column 2 and the average of all sectors was summarized in Column 3 of Figure 1. The positive percentages yield an increase in immigration encounters and the negative percentages yield a decrease in immigration encounters. The notable exception to this data is Washington's border sectors which were already averaged according to the state's data from Axios, a notable immigration research group. All of the data are from CBP's yearly encounter data compilation with the exception of data listed in the footnotes. This data serves as the independent variable for the purpose of this study as it is motivating the dependent variable of changing immigration policy on the state level. The data present in Column 4 of Figure 1, is data based on what percentage of the whole sectors encounter account for an additional independent variable that provides necessary context.

For columns 5, 6, and 7 they are dependent on legislative data that is classified as either access-building or restrictive immigration bills. The process for acquiring this type of data requires operationalization of bills into numerical values to be compared against the number of encounters per state in a corollary analysis or graphical representation of the data. The methodology for operationalization is based entirely on the phrasing of the content found within

the legislation, and the words that are identified in the materials. This data includes legislation passed into law, bills heard in committee but never passed, and resolutions. The numerical data represents the public opinions in the House and Senate circulated currently and result in formal action. In order to quantify these bills into numerical data, the restrictive policies have been assigned negative values for the number of bills identified as restrictive and positive values for the policies associated with access-building policies. These values are reflected in Columns 5 and 6 and they were assigned based on the language contained in the legislation to identify immigration related policy. The legislation was identified by searching for key terms such as immigration, status, migrant, border, and alien and categorized based on the definitions of either access-building and restrictive.

These search terms are both neutral and politicized to attempt to find the range of bills that are on all sides of the political spectrum. Migrant is considered a more access-building term for immigrants, alien is a term and topic used in restrictive immigration policies. The terms border and status are neutral touchpoints for identifying general immigration bills that address either border security or immigrant aid. The search terms are kept constant for each state legislature in order to keep controls on the analysis and homogeneity among extraneous factors. Once the terms are identified they are aligned with the Restrictive or Access-building criteria that is listed in Migration Policy Indexes categorization of legislation (Jimenez, 2022). In general, restrictive policies put barriers up for entry into the country and complicate the process. Whereas, access building policies increase resources or social services, and embark to make the immigration process easier. After categorization, column 7 reflects the sum of both positive and negative bills to quantify public opinion on immigration in the state in numerical values. The

data collected in Figure 1 was run through correlation statistics and the correlation coefficient and line of best fit was graphed via a scatter plot which is reflected in the Analysis section.

V. ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

Figure 2

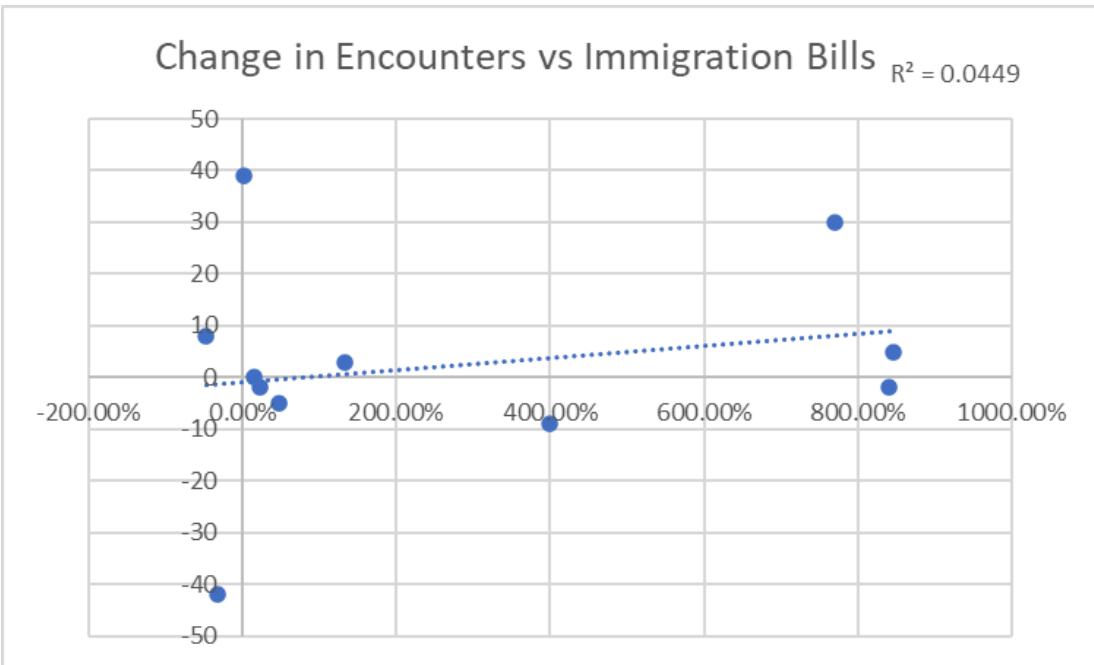
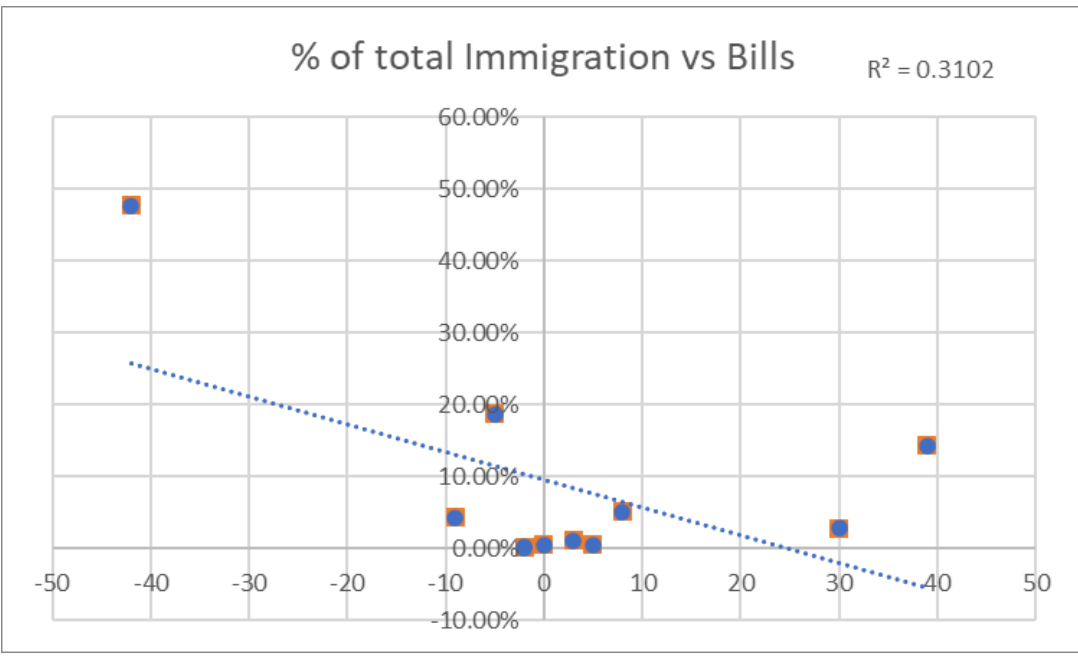


Figure 3



The raw data reflected in Figure 1 demonstrated trends and outliers that could impact the overall findings of the comparative analysis. Column 7 reflected a trend in Texas that despite their majority restrictive immigration policies, they had 7 access building resolutions that were passed to honor members of the community who were pro-immigrant activists. These resolutions honored community members that created access building programs to support immigrant rights, but also had over 40 immigration restriction bills that made the creation of access more difficult. This is a result of DEIB initiatives developing for immigrants and yet a conservative constituency that makes up the government and opposes expansion of immigrant support. This data point reflects the nuance of the political environment around immigration policies and the need to appease multiple groups in tandem. While this shows the diversity of public opinion, it also demonstrates the general attitude towards immigrants in the state of Texas.

Texas as a state was one of a few states that devoted resolutions to notable access-building community members, and it also was an outlier due to its extreme numerical value. This is reflected with Texas's high volume in immigration bills of over 50, where other states had less than 10 total immigration related bills. New York and California were also outliers in the data and exhibited similar trends to Texas as their immigration bills were over 30. The outliers are relevant as they are due to the population size of the state and larger constituencies and thus more legislative response. Moreover, these states also appear to prioritize immigration highly as one of the issues discussed in committee, and other states such as Montana, Maine, and Florida were more concerned with environmental content like climate and wild game in their bills. The content of the bills demonstrate which states prioritize restricting or encouraging immigration in general. For California and New York specifically, they are sanctuary cities where immigrants are able to safely build a home in a community without concern for their

authorized status as a citizen (LIRS, 2023). As a result, this could explain why the legislation data appears to favor access building policies due to their constituencies of unauthorized immigrants.

The presence of sanctuary cities in states could explain the number of restrictive immigration bills and the percentage increase in immigration encounters in Northern states. Immigrants cross in the north as a safer alternative to Southern states like Texas where they are met with restrictive policies and deterrence strategies (Demsas, 2023). Canada has less restrictive immigration policies that facilitate immigration via planes in Canada to the U.S. border, which could explain high numbers in column 3 of Figure 1. Despite the outliers present in the data the split in Column 7 was even between states with restrictive and access-building immigration which demonstrates disagreement on how to address immigration increases and decreases. In general, the raw data shows that states with decreased immigration in general trend towards stringent immigration policies. While this isn't universal, it raises the question of why these states pass restrictive immigration policies if they have decreases in encounters at the Southern border. This is the result of the limited time period used to view the data and the high amounts of legislation passed. Hundreds of bills are proposed and create daily changes and yet immigration encounters are recorded yearly and the differing timelines means the impact of the policies on encounters are hard to track on varying timescales.

This explains the decrease in immigration and restrictive policies juxtaposition, as the data of current decreasing encounters are examined against policies instituted before the FY22-FY23 which is utilized in this study. This could result in immigrants increasing in regions that have higher access building policies and avoiding restrictive regions. This illustrates effective restrictive immigration policy for this region as it is disincentivizing immigrants from

crossing the border in this region. While this appears effective on state level, when we zoom out to the federal level, the data with the increase in percentage of encounters demonstrates that the rest of the country is under pressure when policies are restrictive. So, while the state sees relief from the building pressure it is redirected to states that have purposefully lenient policies and results in an increase.

Within the context of Column 4 the data can be cross referenced and compared to demonstrate correlation as to where the majority of immigration encounters occur. Texas, Arizona, and California contain higher percentages of the total and contextualizes columns 1 and 2. Overall, decreases in Texas' immigration can be explained by the large number of encounters in total which means the decrease is miniscule in the larger total of immigrants as compared to other states. Therefore, percentages were treated as a second independent variable to compare immigration legislation against, as the type of immigration policy produced could be a result of immigrant surges represented by the increase and decrease in encounters. This is reflected in Figures 2 and 3 where a scatter plot was utilized to compare the relationships of increases and decreases vs. immigration policies and also % of total immigration encounters in the population vs. immigration policy as well. The correlation between these two different types of data may provide an explanation as to the policy changes and determine whether the correlation is related to surges in encounters or the overall presence of immigrants in general.

The scatter plots helped to demonstrate correlation and create an r-squared value that formulaically be turned into a correlation coefficient and utilized to determine the level of correlation among variables. They also showed the general shape of the data, that based on the trend line would visually represent correlation which is better suited for establishing the desired relationship than a box plot or other graphical representations of data. In addition to this, a

correlation coefficient was useful in representing the data as causation was not probable with a comparative case study and operational data. Without proving causation, more basic statistical models were used to construct the correlation and it signaled the use of a scatter plot as seen in Figures 2 and 3.

The graphs in Figures 2 and 3 reflect the level of correlation and trends of the data, and each confronts a different independent variable. Figure 2 compares the data in columns 3 and 7 and Figure 2 compares the data in columns 4 and 7 and then the two correlation coefficients were compared to yield discernable results. The correlation coefficient was calculated for Figures 2 and 3 by taking the square root of the r-squared value; these numbers in addition to the closeness of the trend line helped to determine correlation between data sets. The closer the correlation coefficient is to 1.0 the more correlated the two variables are with one another and that establishes the relationship between the data and conclusion that follows. When examining Figure 2 it appears that the trend line is far from the data points and when the correlation coefficient was calculated it was 0.2118 which is far from 1.0 and thus signifies that these two data sets are less correlated with one another. This could be the case because policy makers were not responding to surges in encounters but instead used stereotypes about immigrants to create their policies.

In the case of access building policies it could be created out of a fundamental belief that sanctuary cities are humane immigration policies. However, in any case no matter what is motivating policy makers to create this type of legislation, it is not strongly correlated with surges of encounters at the border. Figure 3 is different because the points are closer to the trendline, with the exception of a few outliers, and the correlation coefficient is 0.5569. While this was not strongly correlated with the data, it is more correlated than the coefficient in Figure

2's data sets. This means that restrictive immigration policies are more likely correlated to states with higher percentages of total immigration, and access building policies are strongly correlated with lower percentages of total immigration encounters. A possible explanation for the presentation of this data is that states respond to high numbers of immigrants located on the border as a threat to public safety and institute restrictive policies. Similarly, in states with access building policies they have less immigration encounters so aren't motivated to institute restrictive immigration policies. In any case, the overall conclusion that can be drawn is that restrictive and access building immigration bills are far more correlated with the prevalence of immigrants on the border rather than a surge in encounters in a state generally. While this conclusion is not generalizable, the data suggests that the outcome of immigration policy is determined by the share of border encounters a state has compared to the rest of the country.

VI. CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS

The conclusion of this comparative case study is that immigration policy is correlated stronger with the percent of the total encounters in a state than with encounter percent increases or decreases along the border. Despite this conclusion's determinations, there are numerous limitations that can explain the outcomes of the conclusion. One of the notable limitations that exists with this study is the limited amount of cases that could be utilized. This limitation is due to the time constraints of this study and volume of immigration policy that exists per legislative session. The other reason was due to a lack of funding that could be used to access better data for this study, which limited the available data that CBP collects. DHS and CBP have greater immigration encounter data at their disposal that could be obtained via a FOIA request but that

would require time and money that this study lacked. Thus, the available data for this study was utilized. One of the other major issues with the data sets obtained from CBP is that encounters don't reflect true numbers on the border as the encounters will double count migrants that cross the border repeatedly. As a result, the available numbers and resulting percentages are contingent upon data that is partially extrapolated to create a more extreme border situation that isn't entirely representative. This was corrected by utilizing the bills that were introduced in committee once and rejected and were reintroduced in another branch to be counted as two separate bills. However, it still could have impacted the outcome of this study and made the reality presented by CBP at the border partially inaccurate.

This study was also limited by outside political factors that could have impacted immigration policy leanings like overall state political affiliation. Many of the states examined had policies that were in line with their political leanings, and this could have been independent from border encounters present and could have swayed the study in a different direction. To limit considerations, I attempted to write the sections of this paper separate from my political leanings to maintain neutrality. However, the categorization of the bills relied on the criterion that was preselected, but is also based on my interpretation of the bills goals and meaning and could have been impacted by my unconscious biases. As mentioned in the Analysis section of the paper, states take large amounts of time to respond to policy issues as there is very little bipartisan compromise on immigration. A consideration that results is that due to the large volume of bills, tangible changes could not have occurred or resulted in the policies that were examined. Therefore, the impacts I examined could have been from years earlier numbers and not entirely based on current encounter data.

The implications of this research are far reaching as bipartisan immigration reform has yet to be addressed in our nation with tangible policy at the federal level. This resulted in states increasing legislation to respond to federal inaction which makes this work salient. The research provides needed answers and context to why these policies are being passed, and despite a weak correlation, the goal is to provide a stepping point for future research. In addition, future studies could explore state immigration policy which is not explored at length and inform stakeholders as to how to communicate and influence policy. Moreover, with more funding, the relationship between encounters in the border zone and personal safety and national security or partisan polarization and immigration policy could be explored. This study could also be replicated without the limitations and with greater funding to yield results that are a better indication of the correlation between datasets. If further research is conducted the stigma against immigrants could be decreased and create action to motivate national policy as a result of state induced pressure. Immigration's political climate contains tension and the panoptic goal is to direct the environment towards collaboration from citizens and government entities for a workable, equitable, and bipartisan immigration system.

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