

# Would you walk across mountains and deserts for a job?

A twenty-five mile walk across the desert in the summer heat would require five gallons of water, weighing forty pounds. Most of the men, women and children who attempt the trip will do it with just one or two gallon containers.

For the last ten years, the U.S. government has tried to stop illegal immigration by sealing off the border in urban areas. One by one, areas from San Diego to Brownsville have been fortified with 15 foot steel fences, thousands of additional Border Patrol agents, and sophisticated technology.

Those efforts haven't worked: in fact, government statistics show more illegal entries now than ten years ago. What they have done is push people crossing the border into more and more dangerous areas like the desert. More people have died.

Now the government is repeating the same failed blockade strategies in the Arizona desert, once again diverting migrant traffic to other areas of the border.

Since 1998, at least 2,000 migrants have died crossing the border: that's about one death a day. They risked their lives because our immigration system gave them no hope of finding a safe, legal way to enter the country.

Our laws need to keep pace with reality: the people risking their lives at the U.S.-Mexico border are desperate for jobs that will provide for their families, and once they are in the U.S. they make important contributions to our communities and our economy. Instead of creating an ever more deadly obstacle course at the border, we should be creating a sensible, efficient immigration system that provides a safe and legal way for migrants seeking work to enter the country. Our laws need to unite divided families, end worker exploitation and allow immigrants to become citizens.

Support the SOLVE Act.

**2000 migrants did and died.**

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*The Border Working Group is a coalition of faith-centered and human rights groups based in Washington, DC working in solidarity with migrants and those who live along the US-Mexico border. Through advocacy and education, we work for more compassionate policies that respect the human rights of migrants and acknowledge the vital role they play in our economy and society.*

*For more information, please visit us at [www.rtfcam.org](http://www.rtfcam.org).*



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