

Military, Law, and more ...

U.S. Sen. Marsha Blackburn urges DHS to combat migrant child trafficking by utilizing resources she has already secured in the One Big Beautiful Bill

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — On August 22, U.S. Senator Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.) sent a letter to U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Kristi Noem urging her to combat the despicable practice of trafficking migrant children by swiftly utilizing the resources Senator Blackburn secured in the One Big Beautiful Bill to give U.S. Customs and Border Patrol the authority to fingerprint unaccompanied migrant children under the age of 14. By refusing to secure the border, the Biden administration created a humanitarian crisis that left hundreds of thousands of migrant children vulner-

able to exploitation. Thankfully, President Trump has secured our borders by enforcing the rule of law, and Republicans have the opportunity to ensure that such a humanitarian crisis never occurs again.

One Big Beautiful Bill Includes Blackburn-Led Provision to Protect Unaccompanied Migrant Children from Trafficking

"I write regarding the Trump administration's admirable efforts to address the devastating humanitarian crisis at our southern border created by the Biden administration's far-left policies.

A key aspect of these efforts includes combatting the despicable practice of exploiting and trafficking migrant children. As part of the One Big Beautiful Bill, we have ensured a financial commitment to secure our border, deport criminal illegal aliens, and keep our communities safe. As an essential component of that commitment, this landmark legislation provides critical resources to prevent child trafficking and child recycling—specifically allocating funds for 'collecting fingerprints' and 'collecting DNA' in accordance with the Immigration and Nationality Act. Implementa-

tion of this critical provision will be a significant step forward in our fight to protect these innocent children—many of whom were trafficked into the United States during the Biden border crisis."

DNA Testing Migrant Children Protects Them from Exploitation by Verifying Familial Relationships

"Under President Biden's watch, the southern border descended into a humanitarian crisis and hundreds of thousands of innocent migrant children went missing. Migrants attempting to enter our country illegally often bring children with them under the guise of being that child's parent—solely for the purpose of gaining entry into the United States. Familial DNA testing and fingerprinting have served as proven, effective tools that Customs and Border Protection (CBP) can utilize to combat child trafficking, identify dangerous criminals, verify familial relationships, and protect these innocent children from exploitation. In addition to working diligently to secure our border and keep our nation safe, President Trump has long been a champion of using every tool at our disposal—in-

cluding DNA testing and fingerprinting—to protect migrant children and verify familial relationships."

Blackburn Urges DHS to Swiftly Ensure Migrant Children Are Protected by Using Funding to Fingerprint All Migrants Seeking to Enter the Country

"To that end, I urge you to utilize your discretion as Secretary of Homeland Security to ensure these migrant children are fully protected from harm and exploitation. The funds provided to you in the One Big Beautiful Bill have given you the ability to do just that, and I urge you to use those funds to: (1) continue to utilize DNA verification technology—including rapid DNA testing—to confirm familial relationships at the border; and (2) ensure that all migrants are fingerprinted upon seeking admission into the United States, including migrant children younger than 14 years of age. Both of these measures will go a long way towards protecting these innocent migrant children, many of whom have been trafficked and exploited for far too long."

TDOT announces no lane closures for Labor Day

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) will halt all lane closure activity on interstates and state routes for the Labor Day holiday travel period. Construction crews will stop all lane closure activity at noon on Friday, August 29, until 6:00 a.m. on Tuesday, September 2. This will provide maximum roadway capacity for motorists traveling during the Labor Day holiday.

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"The Labor Day holiday is always a busy travel time," said TDOT Commissioner Will Reid. "We want to ensure that the thousands of travelers using Tennessee's roadways during this period arrive at their destinations quickly and safely without being impeded by road construction delays. We also want to ensure the safety of our HELP Truck drivers who will be working. Please pay attention, move over, and slow down for all first responders. It's the law!"

TN Wars Commission announces Sept. 1 as opening of grant cycle

NASHVILLE — The Tennessee Wars Commission, the Tennessee Historical Commission division responsible for preserving the state's significant military history, has announced the September 1, 2025 opening of this year's grant cycle for the Tennessee Wars Commission Grant Fund. This year \$69,700 is available for grants. Last year, the Wars Commission awarded \$114,500 in grant funding for projects ranging from an archaeological survey to support for a documentary, as well as interpretive signage for several sites. Since 1994, this grant program has funded approximately one hundred twenty-eight different projects preserving and interpreting the military legacy of Tennessee and Tennesseans. "The Wars Commission Grant Fund provides a unique opportunity for Tennessee communities to enhance their war-related history through the preservation, interpretation, and archaeology of sites, structures, and battlefields related to the French and Indian War through the Civil War era, furthering our collective knowledge of these historical locations and events," said Wars Commission Program Director, Nina Scall.

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Scall. The Tennessee Wars Commission Grant Fund provides financial support to coordinate planning, preservation, protection, promotion, and interpretation of structures, buildings, sites, and battlefields related to Tennessee's military heritage. This grant can fund a wide variety of projects relating to the French and Indian War (1754-1763), the Revolutionary War (1776-1783), War of 1812 (1812-1815), Mexican-American War (1846-1848), and

the Civil War (1861-1865). Example projects include, but are not limited to, archaeological surveys and excavations, cemetery preservation, contraband camp preservation and interpretation, graphic displays and interpretive panels, historic markers, master plans and foundation documents, and living history and educational programs.

Any individual, museum, educational institution, private organization, or local government body can apply. Although there is no minimum matching requirement, applicant contributions will be a positive consideration. The deadline for submissions is November 21, 2025. The grant application process is digital. Create an account and complete the application at https://tdec.smartsimple.com/s_login.jsp.

For questions regarding the grant process or application procedure, contact Nina Scall, Program Director of the Tennessee Wars Commission via email at Nina.Scall@tn.gov. More information is available on the Tennessee Historical Commission website.

NRA files challenge to Florida's longstanding waiting period law

Fairfax, VA - On August 26, the National Rifle Association filed a challenge against Florida's unconstitutional waiting period law in federal court. Following the filing, John Commerford, Executive Director of NRA-ILA, released the following statement: "For nearly 35 years, law-abiding Floridians have had to endure unconstitutional laws that arbitrarily deny them access to legally purchased firearms," said John Commerford, Executive Director of NRA-ILA. "Thanks to the NRA's landmark Supreme Court case NYSRPA v. Bruen, illogical, nonsensical, and unconstitutional gun control laws like this are being thrown out in federal courts across the country. We are confident that our challenge today will be successful and serve as another critical step in rehabilitating Second Amendment rights in the Sunshine State."

BACKGROUND:

•Florida established a three-day waiting period for handgun purchases in 1990 through a constitutional amendment, which was later expanded to apply to all firearms in 2018 as part of a

broader gun control package.

•Waiting period laws have come under intense scrutiny by federal courts. This month, the Tenth Circuit held that New Mexico's 7-Day Waiting Period is unconstitutional in the NRA's challenge against the law.

•In March, a federal district court ruled that Maine's waiting period law likely violates the Second Amendment and issued a preliminary injunction to stop enforcement of the law. This challenge is currently before the First Circuit Court of Appeals.

•These rulings are based on the landmark NRA-backed Supreme Court case New York State Rifle & Pistol Association, Inc. v. Bruen, which held that gun control laws are unconstitutional unless they are consistent with our nation's historical tradition of firearm regulation.

Incorporated in 1871, the National Rifle Association is America's longest-standing civil rights organization. Together with our millions of members, we're proud defenders of history's patriots and diligent protectors of the Second Amendment.

Follow the NRA on Facebook, Instagram, and X (Formerly Twitter).

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While lane closure activity will be stopped, workers will still be on-site in many construction zones, and drivers are urged to obey posted speed limits. Drivers convicted of speeding in work zones where workers are present face a fine of \$250 to \$500, plus court fees and possibly increased insurance premiums.

Get the latest construction activity and live streaming SmartWay traffic cameras from your desktop or mobile device at www.TNSmartWay.com/Traffic. Travelers can also dial 511 for statewide travel information. As always, drivers are reminded to use all motorist information tools wisely and Know Before You Go! by checking travel conditions before leaving for your destination. Drivers should never tweet, text, or talk on a cell phone while behind the wheel.

The 'E' in DEI is for 'Equity, a Marxist term.
Research before you believe.

- A commentary from The Mid-South Tribune-

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