

Trump pushes back against border separation uproar

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump tried to cast doubt Friday on wrenching tales of migrant children separated from their families at the border, dismissing “phony stories of sadness and grief” while asserting the real victims of the nation’s immigration crisis are Americans killed by those who cross the border unlawfully.

Bombarded with criticism condemning the family-separation situation as a national moment of shame, Trump came back firing, sometimes twisting facts and changing his story but nonetheless highlighting the genuine grief of families on the other side of the equation.

“You hear the other side, you never hear this side,” said Trump, standing with a dozen of what he calls the “angel families” who lost loved ones at the hands of people in the country illegally. He focused on the fact that young migrants separated from parents are likely to be reunited, unlike the victims of murders.

“These are the American citizens permanently separated from their loved ones. The word ‘permanently’ being the word that you have to think about. Permanently — they’re not separated for a day or two days, these are permanently separated because they were killed by criminal illegal aliens.”

Amid mushrooming bipartisan concern over depictions of terrified migrant children separated from their parents, Trump on Wednesday had abruptly reversed course and signed an executive order to overturn the policy, although up to 2,000 children are still believed to be separated from their parents. But that

Trump sabotages GOP plans in Congress. Again.

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Just when House Republicans needed Donald Trump’s backing the most — on their big immigration overhaul — he dashed off a presidential tweet on Friday saying they should quit wasting their time on it.

It’s hardly the first time the president has abandoned his allies in a moment of need. Over and over, Trump has proven himself a saboteur, willing to walk away from promises and blow up a deal, undermining the GOP agenda in Congress.

“You just fear that tweet in the morning,” said Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen of Florida. The retiring Republican said members of Congress can’t help but think, “Oh no, how many policies will you undo by the day’s end? Because the day’s not over. Heck, it’s not even noon yet. How many times could he change his mind?”

On Capitol Hill on Friday, the mood was gloomy, particularly among the more centrist Republicans who have been pushing the party’s immigration compromise. That bill would provide \$25 billion for Trump’s border wall and set new limits on family visas in favor of merit-based entry — but also create a path to citizenship for young “Dreamers.” It seemed to be losing — rather than gaining — support ahead of rescheduled voting next week. Trump had publicly backed the bill earlier in the week.

“It’s a horrifically chilling signal,” said another retiring Republican, Rep. Mark Sanford of South Carolina, who recently lost his primary election after frequently criticizing Trump.

“What the president just signaled



AP Photo/Susan Walsh

President Donald Trump speaks during an event on the White House complex, Friday, June 22, 2018, with people who have lost family members from crime committed by undocumented immigrants.

rare moment of public capitulation was brief from the president, who laced his remarks at a rally in Minnesota that night with hard-line immigration rhetoric that continued Friday. In a tweet, the president raised questions about whether the migrants’ hardships really existed.

“We must maintain a Strong Southern Border,” the president tweeted. “We cannot allow our Country to be overrun by illegal immigrants as the Democrats tell their phony stories of sadness and grief, hoping it will help them in the elections. Obama and others had the

same pictures, and did nothing about it!”

Trump’s suggestion that the stories were erroneous was likely fueled by revelations Friday about one of the defining images to this point in the crisis, a 2-year-old Honduran girl crying as her mother was stopped by a Border Patrol agent. But the girl in the photograph, who ended up on the cover of Time Magazine this week, was not separated from her mother but detained with her, the child’s father told the Daily Mail. Time Magazine said it stood by the image because it captures “the stakes of this moment.”

Trump has long chafed at the media’s treatment, his fury only growing in the past week when he felt that he did not receive proper credit for his summit in Singapore with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. He told the Trinity Broadcasting Network, in an interview with former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee set to air Saturday, that he found the news coverage “almost treasonous.”

Some conservatives seized hold of the migrant photo faux pas to attack the media, and White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders tweeted, “It’s shameful that Dems and the media exploited this photo of a little girl to push their agenda.”

Other Trump allies have gone even further. Ann Coulter, a conservative pundit, said Sunday in an interview on Fox News that kids at the border were “actor children” who were “given scripts to read by liberals.”

Coulter then turned to the camera and said to Trump, “Don’t fall for it.”

A number of Democrats aggressively pushed back against Trump’s claims. Rep. Peter Welch of Vermont said Friday that Trump’s assertion was “bizarre” and that the border patrol processing center he visited in Texas in recent days was “nothing short of a prison.”



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PENDLETON LINEBACKER'S CLUB HALL OF FAME WEEKEND

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, June 29

Hall of Fame Reception
Pendleton Convention Center

5:00 - 6:45 p.m. • Cocktails Dinner & Auction (Dinner \$30)

6:45 p.m. • Introduction of Hall of Fame Inductees

9:30 p.m. • Close

Saturday, June 30

28th Annual Don Requa Memorial Golf Tournament
Wildhorse Golf Resort

7:30 - 8:30 a.m. • Registration

8:30 a.m. • Shotgun Start

1:00 p.m. • Awards

1:00 p.m. • Lunch (Golf \$65 per player)

Sunday, July 1

Backaroo Football Hall of Fame Breakfast
prepared by the Veterans of Foreign Wars

8:00 - 10:00 a.m. • Stillman Park (Breakfast \$8)

Pendleton Linebackers Hall of Fame 2018 Inductees

- David Stuvland • Lyle Phelps • Sam Haynes • Kyle Garrett
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- Tom Dearborn • Laura Moore • JD Lambert • Jerry Lilly • Cappie Smith
- Larry Applegate • Ronda Lusty Gibor • Larry French

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