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[00:00:01] **Speaker 1** Because that will take us through the different wormholes that all of them bring up that we need to change law. If for one incident that happened, that's a fraction of the percentage of what reality is. We're not changing law. There's enough laws in the book to take care of what's going on. But if we let small groups push our agenda because they're the ones that are pushing the media, we go backwards in time. And that those are things that I just think we can improve on. But the support is extremely important right now when we're losing members. You reach a time to retire and people are leaving. There's no department in our nation right now that can tell you that they're fully staffed. It's time that people leave for the private sector once you have the experience. And we need that leadership here. We need leadership to stand up for law enforcement, to keep people like myself who are retired and came back. We need that leadership here to support our front line. The job that they do is very difficult now. Anywhere in our nation. We're going to have a traffic stop where somebody is going to now think that you're the bad guy. The bad guy is now the victim and the police is the villain. We have to change that agenda, you know, change that perception. Thank you.

[00:01:19] **Speaker 2** Thank you.

[00:01:20] **Speaker 3** Chief. If I may, Rebecca, I think it's, you know, there is a real cost. To the defund the police movement to assume the worst of police reflects in much of the national media and in the American left. And. And chief among them is. Police officers are leaving the force in record numbers. It's increased by 20% nationwide. My uncle was a police officer in Chicago for 25 years and our families have always been proud of that. And I talked to law enforcement officers around the country all the time, Rebecca, and it grieves me how many officers have said to me they've had a career in law enforcement, but they actually can't tell their their children to pursue a service in law enforcement in the environment we're in today. It's another reason why we have to have leadership like Rebecca Kleefisch. We have to have people that are affirming law enforcement, standing with law enforcement, waiting for the facts so that we can retain and recruit the next generation of courageous leaders.

[00:02:29] **Speaker 2** I wonder how many of you all are short right now? Either jail dispatch or patrol? How many are hiring? I think that speaks volumes. And do you find that you're seeing more retirements and that inflationary wages are pushing you and things are more challenging? Go ahead.

[00:02:53] **Speaker 4** Yes, very much so. We have people leaving law enforcement to enter into the civilian world. That has nothing to do with what they went to school for. And they're leaving for wages that are the same or more. And there's no way to keep them there. Don't want the risk of being persecuted for doing their job. They're less concerned about being hurt than they are persecuted.

[00:03:17] **Speaker 2** So it's more about the attitudes that they're facing, the tone at the top, and also the pushback that they are getting just for wearing the badge as much as anything else, the forced overtime or, you know, the ethics.

[00:03:31] **Speaker 4** Exactly. The condemnation that occurs immediately after an event which was you've all spoke to, and then the silence days, months and even years later with no assistance whatsoever to address. If there are training issues, let's address them. But let's do it through funded training with some direction. There's no leadership that's being portrayed.

[00:03:56] **Speaker 2** Thank you very much, Sheriff. I appreciate that. How many of you are seeing increases in overdoses show of hands. Across the entire state. What's driving it, Sheriff?

[00:04:09] **Speaker 5** Coming from. Fentanyl is coming across the border. We all know that. And there's nothing that we at our level can do to stop that from happening. Fentanyl is in everything. It's not just in heroin anymore. It's not just in cocaine. It's in methamphetamine. It's in marijuana. It's in everything. And all these people are using that fentanyl. And it's such a powerful drug that is driving people to overdose. They can't handle the amount of of opiates in their system. They're not used to it. They're not prepared for it to show up in their system. And then they're overdosing are the parts. You know, certainly we have people who are coming in or coming in to in jail or let out a mobile phone. They go back out and, you know, while they were in jail, their tolerance goes down. But as soon as they go up and go back out again, they to the they go right back to the same dosage they were using before. And it's a real problem. And we can do all the treatment and we can't arrest our way out of this. Obviously, it's a community problem, but it certainly starts at the border. And when we don't have a secure border at our southern border and all these stops coming across, it's really difficult for us to fight.

[00:05:15] **Speaker 2** I imagine the border is probably the southern border is where you will probably point to a large percentage of our fentanyl and our meth. Would you all say that that is the biggest problem, that the largest percentage of the O.D. drugs are coming up over the southern border? Gotcha. Yeah.

[00:05:39] **Speaker 6** I serve on the board of Directors of National Sheriffs Association. So I have the privilege and honor of representing over 3000 of America's sheriffs. And I talk to sheriffs that work the border of Cochise County, Yuma, Arizona, various counties in Texas. And so I can I can report to you that the information from U.S. Customs and Border Patrol all say the same thing. We have a non-secure border that is controlled by drug cartels, and fentanyl is moving across the border at record numbers. And so we all know a little bit about supply and demand economics. And when you have a tremendous supply and demand, we're going to have increases in overdoses in opiates and fentanyl. We have counties all over the southern border that are making record seizures. We read about them from time to time in the newspapers. So that's a that's a major problem. That creates a situation where every county in the United States becomes a border county. So we're all going to be seeing the serious the seriousness of this. Vice President Pence correctly indicated that in our own counties in Washington, Waukesha County, we declared a health crisis. It's been a crisis for a long time, and it's going to continue to be that crisis, the trafficking. And it's it's human trafficking. It's it's sex trafficking. It's it's murders. The challenges and I'm hoping, Governor, when you take office, you'll you'll join me in going to the border and seeing it firsthand, if you haven't already done so, because it's incredibly. And I and I think the things that we'll talk about today will be reflective all across the country. We can talk a little bit on retention and recruiting. The opiate problem as it relates to border security bail reform measures is is equally challenging. I spent quite a bit of my time this last year helping the National Sheriffs Association develop a position on bail reform. And and the trend of reducing the importance of public safety and bail is is a challenge. I'm so grateful. I've known Rebecca Kleefisch for the lion's share of my 37 years in law enforcement. And I know you listen, the fact that you're doing this here today is evidence of that. I know you'll be a strong governor, and being a strong governor means influencing national issues. And so so many of the things that we're dealing with in county levels and nobody knows they're there, community, I'm biased, but nobody knows their community better than the local sheriff. And we can, through working with a strong governor, to help solve lots of problems, help influence national issues and working together. We can all get these communities to be much safer than they are now. And so I don't want to monopolize the time, but these these issues that you're hearing are local, regional and national.

[00:08:29] **Speaker 3** If I take you to the sheriff's office and thank you for your leadership on the national stage with the Sheriffs Association, I just want to emphasize, having served in the White House, served as vice president, how vitally important the voice of conservative governance on the life of the nation. I mean, Tony Evers is never going to go to border. He's never he's never to call out sheriff. I was just in Cochise County. I was just in the Yuma sector. I've been there twice in the last two months. I've got family that lives in Arizona and not far from the border. We have lost operational control of the southern border. Sheriffs. Exactly right. I heard it from Border Patrol agents. I heard from local sheriffs who are doing the lion's share of the work because we have an administration that's looking the other way with it, with a flood of heartless human trafficking coming across. And we these tragic stories of 18 wheel tractor trailers. It's a level of evil that is incomprehensible to me. But we are setting records for illegal immigration, a flood of fentanyl that's impacting our communities. It's one of the reasons why I'm so enthusiastic about Rebecca Kleefisch, because she she's going to lead for conservative convictions here in Wisconsin for jobs and educational opportunities. But she's already a national leader in this party, and she's going to give voice to the concerns, the heartland concerns of people in Wisconsin, international issues. And I know she's going to help lead us back to a secure border and to confronting this wave of illegal immigration and fentanyl coming into our country. It's more important than ever that we have that leadership in the statehouse.

[00:10:18] **Speaker 2** We are very proactive and visited Yuma, actually, that part of the southern border months ago. And I did see it firsthand. I know exactly what you're talking about, Sheriff. It is almost indescribable. As you say, the border is so porous down there that affirmed my commitment to on day one, joining other conservative governors around this country in Operation Border Strike Force Wisconsin will help contribute to our state's efforts to do what the federal government refuses to do under President Biden, which is actually enforce border laws. And you all will remember that one of his first acts as governor. Governor Tony Evers, pulled our National Guard troops off of the southern border, saying that there was no justification for having our troops down there at the same time. I'm talking with you all. And you're telling me that 90 plus percent of our illicit drugs that are killing our people are coming up over that border? It was an irresponsible act, and I assure you, I will do absolutely everything I can to protect the people of Wisconsin from the drug trade that is coming up over that southern border. But I wonder about another source of trial for you all on an everyday basis. And there is perhaps no better illustration than what has happened over the last two weeks. Again, in Milwaukee County, seven domestic violence deaths. If you read the reporting on it, so much of it talked about social isolation and women not knowing that there are resources available to them and how the isolation of COVID exacerbated domestic situations that have simply escalated. I wonder if you guys could talk about how COVID has affected mental health and how you're dealing with it. I'm glad you're.

[00:12:27] **Speaker 7** I think everybody's well aware of the balance that's needed in regards to our overall wellness. We talk about physical wellness, mental wellness, whatnot, spiritual wellness, and those are all very important. And what we've done over the last two years, almost three with good intentions, is we can't do it over in the physical wellness. And I always say that was physical wellness because we were talking about nutrition exercise, we're talking about hiding in our basement to somehow allude there's this virus, right? So we really walked away from all three elements. But we've got to get back now. We've got to find that balance between physical wellness, mental wellness and spiritual wellness. And that's just as much within within law enforcement with our own staff, with the rank and file that we've got to make sure that we're solid, because as long as our law enforcement are solid, our communities are solid, and it's only until our communities are solid that our law enforcement, our salt, they're not divorced from each other. They're completely dependent upon each other. Their well-being, their successes are tied to each other. So too often we have these conversations in isolation or silos and it's not. So, yes, we have seen an increase in mental health crisis at all ages, ages that we never thought we would see it. We're seeing issues with the lack of resiliency, the ability and willingness of people to come back out and reengage one another, you know, engage in constructive, positive, meaningful relationships. And all of that has also happened with the advent of social media, where so much of those deep, meaningful relationships have just degraded to like clicks and shares, you know, so there's a there's a bigger part to it as well. But that that combination, that relationship between physical wellness, spiritual wellness and mental wellness are key. And we've got to have those resources to build that back up, to bring that back to natural law enforcement for our communities as a whole.

[00:14:08] **Speaker 2** Thanks. Yeah. Sheriff Grant. Or I wonder if there is also a legal component to this. What about mental health among law enforcement officers? Because this has been an incredibly stressful time.

[00:14:21] **Unidentified** Well, I don't think there's a question.