



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

April 26, 2021

Dear Judge:

I am writing regarding the costs that counties are incurring due to the ongoing humanitarian crisis at our southern border. Even though the federal government has the duty to secure the border, the recent surge in illegal border crossings has forced the State and local governments to allocate resources and spend money to deal with the fallout of the border crisis.

I have heard from many counties about the challenges they are facing from the surge in illegal border crossings. Several counties have declared local disasters. Other counties have been working around the clock in response to the federal government opening migrant facilities in their counties.

At the state level, I launched Operation Lone Star, through which the State is spending millions of dollars each week on National Guard and Department of Public Safety troopers. In addition, state agencies have received complaints about mistreatment of unaccompanied minors housed in federally run facilities for unaccompanied migrant children.

Because the burden of these extra costs is a direct result of federal policies, the State of Texas will formally request that the federal government pay in full these costs borne by the State and local governments. As the chief executive officers for your respective counties, I ask that you send my office a full and accurate estimate of the fiscal impact the current border crisis is having on your county, including the costs you have incurred and that you expect to incur. This effort can be bolstered if your Commissioners Court adopts a resolution supporting the State's request for federal funds to reimburse the State and local governments for expenses incurred because of the federal government's border policies.

Securing the border is the federal government's responsibility, but the current crisis has placed a costly burden on the State of Texas and on our local governments. I strongly believe that your county, our state, and our fellow Texans should not be forced to shoulder these costs, and that the federal government should reimburse us in full.

Thank you for considering this request and for your leadership during the ongoing border crisis.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Abbott".

Greg Abbott
Governor

GA:cwd