

AUGUST PFLUGER
11TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

CHAIRMAN OF
THE COUNTERTERRORISM, LAW
ENFORCEMENT, &
INTELLIGENCE SUBCOMMITTEE
DEPUTY WHIP

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4311

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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY
& COMMERCE

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY

May 1, 2024

The Honorable Mark Amodei
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
2006 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Henry Cuellar
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Amodei and Ranking Member Cuellar:

As the Committee considers the Fiscal Year 2025 Homeland Security appropriations bill, we write to express our support for a dedicated funding line of \$11.26 billion to address the cost incurred by the State of Texas to address the security and humanitarian security crisis at our southern border.

Securing our homeland is a chief responsibility of the federal government. While Texas has faced the brunt of the 7.9 million individuals¹ entering the United States across the southwestern border, all 50 states are being impacted by the mass resettlement of illegal aliens.² Additionally, our nation has seen the consequences of such a crisis, resulting in murders, overdoses, robberies, and other crimes committed by criminal illegal aliens, and a rapidly number of overdoses due to fentanyl trafficked across the southwestern border.³

¹ U.S. Customs and Border Protection, “Southwest Land Border Encounters”, April 4, 2024, accessed April 29, 2024, <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/southwest-land-border-encounters>

² Heritage, “Oversight Project Investigation Uncovers Shocking Facts About Who’s Facilitating Biden Border Crisis”, December 5, 2022, accessed April 29 2024, https://www.heritage.org/press/oversight-project-investigation-uncovers-shocking-facts-about-whos-facilitating-biden-border?_ga=2.69177617.1456686454.1678888558-1048683231.1678888558&_gl=1*tndpis*_ga*MTA0ODY4MzIzMS4xNjc4ODg4NTU4*_ga_W14BT6YQ87*MTY3ODkwNDU3OS4yLjEuMTY3ODkwNDYwNS4zNC4wLjA.

³ U.S. Department of Homeland Security, “Fact Sheet: DHS Is on the Front Lines Combating Illicit Opioids, Including Fentanyl: Homeland Security”, December 22, 2023, accessed April 29, 2024, <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2023/12/22/fact-sheet-dhs-front-lines-combating-illicit-opioids->

However, in response to the crisis at the southern border, exacerbated by the federal government's inaction and failed policies, the State of Texas has been forced to pour billions of dollars into securing the Texas-Mexico border. Ranchers throughout West Texas routinely find bodies of dead migrants or have their properties destroyed. Jails, schools, hospitals, and local communities have incurred the responsibility of facilitating migrants at a rate they cannot sustain. Small localities along the border have had to respond to the federal government's failures by reallocating resources to not only provide for these migrants but also secure their communities.

Unfortunately, these dangers reach far beyond Texas. The cartels are profiting billions of dollars from this crisis by smuggling lethal drugs and dangerous criminals through Texas and into the United States. However, the burdensome costs to prevent this type of activity fall squarely on the shoulders of Texas taxpayers—costs that are the federal government's responsibility. We were pleased by the willingness to address this issue recently by bringing H.R. 3602, the *End the Border Catastrophe Act*, to regain control of the border and help relieve the burden states along the Southwest border are facing. The Majority of the House believes this cause to be a justifiable expense, and we encourage your Committee to continue the efforts of supporting these states who have sacrificed a great deal of funding and resources without adequate reimbursement from the federal government.

We appreciate each of your consideration of this request to hold our federal government accountable, bolster our nation's security, and protect our communities. We look forward to working with each of you and your staff on this important issue.

Sincerely,



August Pfluger
Member of Congress



Randy K. Weber, Sr.
Member of Congress



Pete Sessions
Member of Congress



Michael T. McCaul
Member of Congress



Monica De La Cruz
Member of Congress



Michael Cloud
Member of Congress



Troy E. Nehls
Member of Congress



Roger Williams
Member of Congress



Keith Self
Member of Congress



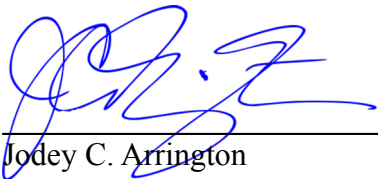
Pat Fallon
Member of Congress



Chip Roy
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Morgan Luttrell
Member of Congress



Jodey C. Arrington
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Michael C. Burgess, M.D.
Member of Congress



Brian Babin, D.D.S.
Member of Congress



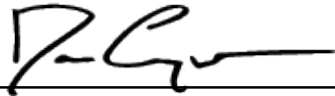
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