



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

May 16, 2023

The Honorable Doug Burgum
Governor of North Dakota

Dear Governor Burgum:

President Joe Biden's negligent disregard for America's national security hit another devastating milestone last week when his Administration ended Title 42 expulsions. Since taking office, President Biden has willfully refused to enforce our nation's immigration laws while systematically dismantling every effective border security policy that previously led to the lowest number of illegal border crossings in decades. The resultant surge in illegal immigration and transnational criminal activity is a direct consequence of these misguided actions, and yet President Biden further jeopardized our nation's security by ending Title 42 expulsions on May 11, 2023.

With the end of Title 42 expulsions, President Biden's own administration estimates that at least 150,000 migrants are waiting to cross the U.S.-Mexico border and enter our country illegally. The flood of illegal border activity invited by the Biden Administration flows directly across the southern border into Texas communities, but this crisis does not stop in our state. Emboldened Mexican drug cartels and other transnational criminal enterprises profit off this chaos, smuggling people and dangerous drugs like fentanyl into communities nationwide.

In the federal government's absence, we, as Governors, must band together to combat President Biden's ongoing border crisis and ensure the safety and security that all Americans deserve. The Emergency Management Assistance Compact empowers states to provide assistance to one another in times of disaster or emergency, both of which accurately describe the current border crisis. Join us in the mission to defend our national sovereignty and territorial integrity and send all available law enforcement personnel and resources to the Texas-Mexico border to serve alongside our thousands of Texas National Guard soldiers and Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) troopers.

Since 2021, Texas has spent more than \$4.5 billion on essential border security operations, and the Texas Legislature is currently contemplating an additional \$4.6 billion for the next two years. Additionally, Texas' continued work building our border wall has been funded through hundreds of millions of Texas taxpayer dollars and through private donations totaling more than \$55 million to date. But Texas alone should not have to shoulder the financial burden of protecting our nation.

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As Governor of a border state on the frontlines, I have taken unprecedented actions to protect Texans and Americans. Since I launched our historic border mission, Operation Lone Star, in March 2021, Texas has apprehended more than 376,000 illegal immigrants and made over 28,000 criminal arrests, with over 25,000 felony charges. Operation Lone Star has also seized more than 416 million lethal doses of fentanyl that would have otherwise spread into communities across the nation. That's enough deadly fentanyl to kill every man, woman, and child in the United States. In preparation for the end of Title 42 expulsions, I deployed the new Texas Tactical Border Force to the Texas-Mexico border. Hundreds of specially trained Texas National Guard soldiers joined the thousands already deployed as part of Operation Lone Star and immediately began targeting hotspots along the border to intercept and repel illegal crossings.

These efforts helped Texas hold the line against the influx of illegal crossings and criminal activity following the end of Title 42 expulsions, with widespread media coverage and recognition of our efforts in areas like Brownsville and El Paso. Even as the Biden Administration pulled Border Patrol agents off the line in areas like McAllen, the State of Texas held strong thanks to our brave, hardworking Texas National Guard soldiers and DPS troopers. Without the historic efforts Texas has deployed to respond to President Biden's derelictions of duty, the end of Title 42 expulsions would have been significantly worse. Because of Texas' surge in border security strategies and resources, including miles of additional razor wire barriers, illegal border encounters decreased significantly from last week's highs.

Already states like Idaho have stepped up to help fill in the dangerous gaps created by President Biden's failed open border policies. Last week, Idaho Governor Brad Little announced the deployment of a team of Idaho State Police personnel to support Texas' border security efforts in a monthlong mission to prevent the smuggling of people and illicit drugs like fentanyl into America. The State of Florida has also offered resources, such as hundreds of Florida National Guard soldiers and law enforcement officers, as well as assets like drone technology. I thank these states for proactively addressing this crisis and request other states follow their lead in helping to secure America's border.

President Biden unleashed a nationwide crisis and subsequently denied the federal government's responsibility to address it. However, as Texas has demonstrated, when united we can overcome any challenge together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Abbott". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Greg Abbott
Governor of Texas

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