

EMERGENCY ITEM: SECURE THE BORDER

In response to the Biden Administration's refusal to secure the southern border, Governor Greg Abbott launched Operation Lone Star to combat the record number of illegal immigration and smuggling of people, weapons, and deadly drugs surging into our state and our country.

Texas has done more than any state ever to secure our border, including:

- Secured over \$4 billion in funding for Texas' border security efforts (87R SB 1; 87R HB 2; 87(2) HB 9; January 2022; April 2022; October 2022)
- Deployed thousands of Texas National Guard soldiers and Texas Department of Public Safety troopers to the border
- Seized enough fentanyl to kill every man, woman, and child in the United States
- Arrested and jailed criminals for committing state crimes along the border

Since launching Operation Lone Star, Governor Abbott has taken unprecedented action to secure the border and provide support to local border officials, including:

- Designated Mexican drug cartels as terrorist organizations (September 2022)
- Bused migrants to sanctuary cities Washington, D.C., New York City, Chicago, and Philadelphia to relieve overwhelmed border communities (April, August, November 2022)
- Hired the first-ever Texas Border Czar (January 2023)

To continue addressing President Biden's border crisis in full force, Governor Abbott has made border security an emergency item for the 88th legislative session. The Governor will work with members of the legislature to:

- Secure another \$4.6 billion to bolster border security efforts
- Pass legislation making it AT LEAST a ten-year mandatory minimum jail sentence for anyone caught smuggling in Texas
- Enhance the minimum penalty for operating stash houses to a third-degree felony
- Enhance criminal penalties for foreign terrorist organizations and increase intelligence operations against such organizations
- Increase penalties for smuggling and stash house operations when committed in a disaster area

