



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

December 14, 2022

The Honorable Ken Paxton
Attorney General of Texas
P.O. Box 12548
Austin, Texas 78711-2548

Dear Attorney General Paxton:

With the end of Title 42 just days away, the number of illegal immigrants crossing the Texas–Mexico border has reached an all-time high. Indeed, this past Sunday, over a 24-hour span, over 2,600 illegal immigrants crossed the border near El Paso and illegally entered Texas. These numbers are likely to increase in the coming weeks.

Although the burden to address the ongoing border crisis should not fall to Texas, the federal government has failed to take action to address this problem. I appreciate the lawsuits your office has pursued to hold President Biden accountable for abdicating his responsibility to enforce our immigration laws. I have also taken unprecedented action by launching Operation Lone Star and engaging the Texas Department of Public Safety and the Texas National Guard to secure our border.

But as the facts on the ground continue to change, we must remain vigilant in our response to this crisis. There have been recent reports that non-governmental organizations (NGOs) may have assisted with illegal border crossings near El Paso. We further understand NGOs may be engaged in unlawfully orchestrating other border crossings through activities on both sides of the border, including in sectors other than El Paso.

In light of these reports, I am calling on the Texas Attorney General's Office to initiate an investigation into the role of NGOs in planning and facilitating the illegal transportation of illegal immigrants across our borders. In addition, I stand ready to work with you to craft any sensible legislative solutions your office may propose that are aimed at solving the ongoing border crisis and the role that NGOs may play in encouraging it.

We look forward to your anticipated cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Abbott". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Greg" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Abbott".

Greg Abbott
Governor

GA:jsd