



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

May 1, 2023

Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot
City of Chicago
121 North LaSalle Street
Chicago City Hall 4th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Dear Mayor Lightfoot:

The ongoing border and humanitarian crisis that Texas and the entire United States are grappling with is a direct result of President Biden's open-border policies. Under the previous administration, illegal immigration was at its lowest levels in decades. Now, President Biden is preparing to open the floodgates by ending Title 42 expulsions next week, and Texas is on the frontlines of this catastrophe.

As the mayor of a self-declared sanctuary city, it is ironic to hear you complain about Chicago's struggle to deal with a few thousand illegal immigrants, which is a fraction of the record-high numbers we deal with in Texas on a regular basis. Texas border towns like Eagle Pass, Brownsville, and Laredo—and even bigger cities like El Paso—cannot handle the flood of illegal immigrants rushing across our southern border.

With Title 42 expulsions set to end next week, the federal government has estimated that we could have up to 13,000 illegal immigrants cross the U.S.–Mexico border every single day. Some reports indicate that there are nearly 35,000 waiting to cross into El Paso as soon as Title 42 expulsions are no longer in effect. If Chicago can't deal with 8,000 in less than a year, how are small Texas border communities supposed to manage 13,000 in just one day?

These surges in illegal crossings will be accompanied by criminal activity, gang violence, and deadly drugs like fentanyl. These problems do not stay in border communities in Texas. They make their way all throughout the country, including to the streets of Chicago. Innocent Americans are put at risk every day by these open-border policies.

If you truly want to “work together to find a real solution” to this border crisis gripping our nation, you must call on the Biden Administration to do its job by securing our border, repelling

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the illegal immigrants flooding into our communities, classifying the Mexican drug cartels as foreign terrorist organizations, and intercepting the deadly fentanyl that is endangering our country.

You are right that “this situation is completely untenable,” but this is not a Texas problem—this is a problem for the entire United States of America. To provide much-needed relief to our overrun border communities, Texas began busing migrants to sanctuary cities such as your “Welcoming City,” along with Washington, D.C., New York City, and Philadelphia, with more to come. Until Biden secures the border to stop the inflow of mass migration, Texas will continue this necessary program.

Sincerely,

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

Greg Abbott
Governor

GA:bjd