



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

April 27, 2021

Dear State Agency Director:

I am writing regarding the costs that the State of Texas is incurring due to the ongoing humanitarian crisis at our southern border. Even though the federal government has the duty to secure the border, the recent surge in illegal border crossings has forced the State to allocate resources and spend money to deal with the fallout of the border crisis.

A prime example is Operation Lone Star—a joint operation between the Texas Department of Public Safety and the National Guard—through which the State is spending millions of dollars each week. In addition, state agencies have received complaints about mistreatment of unaccompanied minors housed in federally run facilities for unaccompanied migrant children.

Because the burden of these extra costs is a direct result of federal policies, the State of Texas will formally request that the federal government pay in full the costs borne by the State. This will require a full accounting of these costs by state agencies. As heads of your respective state agencies, I ask that you send my office a full and accurate estimate of the fiscal impact the current border crisis is having on your operations, including the costs you have incurred and that you expect to incur. I request that you send this information to the Office of the Governor by Tuesday, May 11, 2021.

Securing the border is the federal government's responsibility, but the current crisis has placed a costly burden on the State of Texas. I strongly believe that our state and our fellow Texans should not be forced to shoulder these costs, and that the federal government should reimburse the State in full.

Thank you for your cooperation with this request and for your leadership during the ongoing border crisis.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Abbott".

Greg Abbott
Governor

GA:cwd