

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

September 23, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden,

We write in support of the federal emergency declaration request submitted by Governor Greg Abbott in response to the escalating crisis at the Texas-Mexico border, specifically due to the alarming crisis in Val Verde County. The rush of migrants has increased from approximately 4,000 individuals on Wednesday, September 15, 2021, to over 16,000 migrants on Saturday, September 18, 2021. The flow of illegal immigration shows no sign of slowing down.

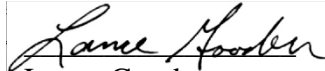
Due to the ongoing surge, the State of Texas is deploying significant resources to Val Verde County, which is leaving the rest of our state and southern border vulnerable. A considerable portion of Texas Department of Public Safety, Texas National Guard and law enforcement resources are deployed at our southern border even though immigration and border security are federal responsibilities.

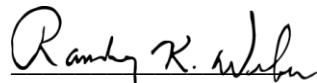
The nearly 16,000 individuals are overwhelming local medical facilities and resources. The extreme heat and unsanitary conditions the individuals are living in present significant public health concerns to residents and the migrants themselves. Additionally, it is unclear if any individuals have received a COVID-19 vaccination or have been tested for the virus, exposing Texans and Americans to COVID.


This year alone, the State of Texas has obligated over \$3 billion to address the ongoing surge of migrants and secure the southern border with little to no assistance from the federal government. These costs include labor, equipment, supply, and contract costs for multiple state agencies.


As a result of this disaster, the State of Texas is specifically requesting an emergency declaration for Public Assistance Category B (Emergency Protective Measures), DFA and the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program statewide. We urge you to consider this request expeditiously to approve the emergency disaster declaration and coordinate federal assistance.


Sincerely,


  
Lance Gooden  
Member of Congress

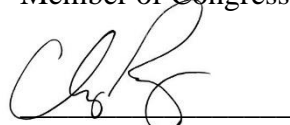
  
Randy Weber  
Member of Congress

  
John Carter  
Member of Congress


  
Roger Williams  
Member of Congress


  
Beth Van Duyne  
Member of Congress

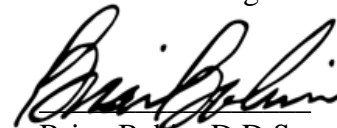
  
Van Taylor  
Member of Congress

  
Chip Roy  
Member of Congress


  
Michael Cloud  
Member of Congress


  
Tony Gonzales  
Member of Congress

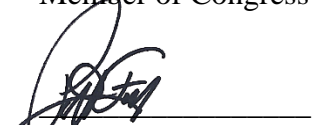
  
Louie Gohmert  
Member of Congress

  
Brian Babin, D.D.S.  
Member of Congress

  
Jake Ellzey  
Member of Congress

  
Michael C. Burgess, M.D.  
Member of Congress

  
Kevin Brady  
Member of Congress

  
Pat Fallon  
Member of Congress