

Texas First: Removing Incentives for Illegal Immigration

President Donald Trump has stepped up and is doing exactly what Texas should and could have done years ago. He has [declared a national emergency](#) at the Southern Border, [restricted illegal crossings](#), [ended taxpayer-funded support](#) for open borders, and put economic pressure on Mexico to take action. He has also ramped up deportations of criminal illegal aliens.

President Trump's efforts are yielding results. [According to ABC News](#), "In the 11 days after Jan. 20, migrants apprehended at ports of entry declined by 93%." [The Federalist reports](#) that illegal alien apprehensions fell from an average of 2,000 per day before Trump's inauguration to 786 per day afterward.

The Huffines Liberty Foundation estimates that illegal aliens cost Texans over \$13 billion annually. While illegal immigration has significantly declined, Texas must do more to support Trump's mission and secure the border. A key step is eliminating incentives, or "magnets," that encourage illegal immigration.

Policy Recommendations to Reduce Illegal Aliens in Texas

Texas' strong economy attracts businesses, workers, and investment. While we must protect economic growth, we must also ensure that illegal aliens do not exploit its benefits.

Enforce E-Verify for All Texas Businesses

Texas should pass legislation requiring all businesses to verify employees' legal status using the E-Verify system. Businesses that fail to comply should face penalties, including loss of licenses and fines.

End In-State Tuition for Illegal Immigrants

Texas has provided [in-state tuition](#) for illegal aliens since 2001. The American Immigration Council estimated that 59,000 illegal aliens are

currently postsecondary students in Texas. The cost of this, according to the [Federation for American Immigration Reform](#), is \$459 million annually. The Texas Legislature must repeal this policy.

Stop Birthright Citizenship for Children of Illegal Aliens

The U.S. Supreme Court has never decided whether the U.S. Constitution's Fourteenth Amendment requires birthright citizenship for children of illegal aliens. President Trump has directly challenged birthright citizenship with an executive order stating that children born in the U.S. to illegal aliens should not automatically receive citizenship. In support of President Trump's efforts to end birthright citizenship, Texas should pass a law prohibiting the issuance of birth certificates to children of illegal aliens.

Require Proof of Citizenship for Government School Enrollment

In 1975, the Texas Legislature passed a law allowing only U.S. citizens and legally admitted aliens to attend government schools for free. As a result, many school districts denied enrollment to illegal aliens or charged tuition.

The Supreme Court's 1982 Plyler v. Doe decision overturned this policy, mandating free government education for illegal immigrants and costing Texans between \$7 to \$10 billion annually.

Texas should require proof of citizenship for school enrollment of both students and their parents to get an accurate count of illegal aliens in Texas schools and bill the federal government for every penny. The federal government must either pay us for this problem or let us send the illegal aliens home.

Ban Remittances to Mexico and Other Foreign Nations by Illegal Aliens

According to the Baker Institute for Public Policy,

in 2022, remittances from Texas to Mexico alone totaled [\\$8.5 billion](#), draining money from the Texas economy. Texas should ban remittances to Mexico and other foreign nations by illegal aliens, eliminating a key financial incentive for illegal immigration. Only legal residents should be allowed to send funds abroad, closing this loophole.

Stop Medicaid Coverage for Non-Citizens Giving Birth

One reason illegal immigrants come to Texas is to have children who gain U.S. citizenship. Another draw is free medical care through Medicaid. Illegal immigration-related Medicaid costs Texas between \$671 million and \$1.2 billion annually. Texas should end Medicaid-funded childbirth for non-citizens.

Invoke State Powers to Expel Illegal Immigrants

Illegal aliens are drawn to the U.S. by the likelihood of staying once they cross the border. Tex-

as can repel an invasion under Article I, Section 10 of the U.S. Constitution. Texas should use this constitutional power to send all illegal aliens home in support of President Trump’s agenda to restore border security.

Ban Illegal Aliens from Buying or Leasing Property in Texas

Legislation has been filed in recent legislative sessions to prohibit certain countries and citizens of those countries from buying land in Texas based on national security concerns. Texas should consider amending the legislation to also ban illegal aliens from purchasing or leasing property in Texas.

Conclusion

Texas must aggressively do whatever possible to eliminate policies that encourage illegal immigration. By removing these “magnets,” Texas can better support President Trump’s mission to secure America’s borders, increase self-deportations, and DOGE government waste.



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We look beyond the obvious and develop researched solutions based upon the common sense liberty principles of individual rights, fiscal restraint, personal responsibility, limited government, and social conservatism.

