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**Texas State Senator Tommy Williams Calls Out Feds  
for Border Security Failures**

*Chairman Criticizes Do-Nothing Administration and Congress*

**Austin** – Texas State Senator Tommy Williams, Chairman of the Senate Transportation and Homeland Security Committee, introduced today a resolution calling on Congress to provide the Texas Legislature a cost analysis of the exact funding necessary to fully enforce all immigration laws in Texas and to report on the status of those funds.

“I’m tired of the rhetoric, inaction and escalating costs Texas is forced to bear because the federal government has failed to secure our border,” said Williams. “Our citizens have a right to be protected. Too many of our land and homeowners along the Texas-Mexico border live in fear of their lives and property. It’s time for the federal government to fulfill their constitutional duty to secure our border and reimburse Texas for the extra costs our state and communities have incurred due to the federal government’s failure to secure the Texas-Mexico border.”

The inability of Washington D. C. to secure our border and develop a comprehensive immigration reform policy puts an unfair and unreasonable burden on the entire State of Texas. Texas border communities, in particular, are struggling to keep their streets and neighborhoods safe from spillover gang violence.

Furthermore, in the past year alone, approximately 287 plus “special interest aliens” have been apprehended along the Texas-Mexico border. Special interest aliens are those coming from countries known to harbor terrorists groups such as Afghanistan, Pakistan, and other countries known to harbor Islamic extremists.

“Our current administration and Congressional leaders from both parties are willing to spend billions of dollars to enforce a No-Fly-Zone in Libya, but fail to show up for our fight to secure our borders at home,” Williams said.

The federal government imposes mandates on our state related to non-citizen, unauthorized immigrants, but fails to provide the funding and the manpower necessary to enforce immigration laws effectively. This broken system has punished Texas for too long.

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Texas taxpayers have spent billions compensating for the lack of federal resources provided to the state. In just one example, Texas prisons house between 7,000 and 12,000 violent offenders who claim foreign citizenship, and the state bears the entire cost of housing and prosecuting those offenders at an average cost of \$47 per day. Converted to an annual cost, means Texas taxpayers are paying over \$200 million per year because the federal government has failed to secure our border.

"At the very least, the federal government should be responsible for the cost of housing non-citizen, unauthorized immigrants convicted of committing a crime in the State of Texas. This is an unfunded mandate, and Texas should be fully reimbursed for its incurred expenses," Williams concluded.

**Attachment:** "Recent Violence Resulting in the Deaths of US Citizens"

**-MORE-**

**Attachment**  
**Recent Violence Resulting in the Deaths of US Citizens**

According to the Texas Border Security Operations Center, more than 35 Americans died in Juarez, Mexico, between January 1<sup>st</sup> and October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010, while 39 Americans died there in 2008 and 2009 combined. Here are few examples of recent border violence resulting in death:

- On 02/15/2011, a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement special agent was shot and killed after he was attacked by unknown assailants while driving between Monterrey, Mexico, and Mexico City. During the attack, a second ICE special agent was shot twice in the leg.
- On 01/26/2011, an American missionary was shot and killed as she and her husband drove through a blockade near Reynosa. The husband and wife were driving along the two-lane road that connects the city of San Fernando with the border city of Reynosa, about 70 miles north, when they came upon an illegal roadblock. The husband frantically drove his bleeding wife for help, crossing the wrong way on an international bridge into Texas, where she later died.
- On 11/02/10, two University of Texas-El Paso students were shot and killed in Juarez, Mexico.
- On 10/20/10, a Fort Bliss U.S. National Guardsman and a second victim were gunned down in South Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. Both were shot multiple times, with 18 shell casings found at the scene. Hernandez had no criminal history or gang affiliation.
- On 09/30/10, a male U.S. Citizen was shot and killed while on a jet ski in the Mexican waters of Falcon Lake. The victim and his wife were approached by three boats each with armed individuals. The couple tried to escape and the male U.S. citizen was shot in the head by automatic gun fire.
- On 09/30/10, a student at the University of Texas-Brownsville was killed after cartel members hijacked a bus in Mexico. He was visiting family near Ciudad Mante, Tamaulipas, Mexico.
- On 08/06/10, a U.S. Citizen from El Paso, Texas was shot in the back in a small Colonia near Juarez, Mexico across the border from the University of Texas at El Paso. Police suspect he was the victim of a robbery not related to drug trafficking organizations.
- On 06/28/10, a resident of Edinburg, Texas was killed in the crossfire of a gun battle between Mexican cartels on Mexican Highway #2 near Ciudad Mier, Mexico. The victim was traveling from Escobedo, Nuevo Leon, Mexico, to the U.S.
- On 5/26/10, at least three men shot and killed a San Juan resident during a home invasion. Investigators believe the attack was a botched kidnapping ordered by the Gulf Cartel.
- On 03/25/10, a U.S. Citizen was executed while driving his vehicle, bearing a Texas license plate several meters from a Mexican Army checkpoint in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. The victim was a manager at the Mexico JMC plant and had just left for lunch. The victim held a current Texas drivers license with a residency listed in El Paso, Texas.

*Senator Williams represents Senate District 4 covering all or portions of Jefferson, Orange, Chambers, Liberty, Harris and Montgomery Counties. Williams serves as Chairman of the Senate Transportation and Homeland Security Committee and as a member of the Finance, State Affairs, International Relations & Trade Committees and the Senate Select Committee on Redistricting.*

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