

RESOLUTION 48-2024
EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR EFFORTS OF
THE STATE OF TEXAS TO SECURE OUR NATION'S
SOUTHERN BORDER

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners shares the concerns expressed citizens regarding the potential impacts of migrants illegally crossing unchecked our nation's southern border and flowing into Colorado's Denver Metro area, and has already experienced a surge in local trafficking of Fentanyl smuggled into our nation; and

WHEREAS, Denver counts the highest number of illegal aliens per capita of any large city in the nation and the Mayor of Denver, on January 31, 2024, stated that, "This is both a humanitarian crisis for the individuals that are arriving, and it's a fiscal crisis for the cities that are serving. Those two crisis are coming to a head right now."; and

WHEREAS, Washington County, which is just a few hours from the Denver Metro area, lacks the Human Services, Public Health, Law Enforcement, and housing resources and infrastructure to address the impacts of any measurable influx of migrants who entered our nation illegally; and

WHEREAS, in fiscal year 2023, United States Customs and Border Protection reported more than 3.2 million migrant encounters nationwide, of which over 2.4 million (a number exceeding the total combined population of Denver, Boulder, Broomfield, Adams and Arapahoe Counties) were recorded at the southern border; and

WHEREAS, by July 2023, the United States Customs and Border Protection reported that it experienced more than seven million encounters with migrants crossing the border since January of 2021, a number nearly 20% higher than the total population of Colorado; and

WHEREAS, the Border Patrol processed more migrants who entered the United States illegally in December 2023 than in any other month in the agency's history; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Branch of the United States has a constitutional duty to enforce federal laws protecting the states and citizens, including the immigration laws that are currently in place; and

WHEREAS, the current administration has failed to enforce those laws and has even arguably violated them, resulting in an unprecedented influx of illegal immigrants entering the United States; and

WHEREAS, Texas has appropriately stepped in the vacuum left by the inaction of the Federal Government and exercised its right of self-defense, under Article 4, Section 4 and Article 1, Section 10, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution to protect all American citizens from the impacts of historic levels of illegal immigrants, and deadly drugs like fentanyl, entering our country; and

WHEREAS, the Governors of twenty-two states have concurred that as the Federal Government has abdicated its Constitutional responsibility to secure our borders, Texas has every legal justification to protect the sovereignty of our states and our nation;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE WASHINTON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, COLORADO officially declares its support for the actions taken by the State of Texas to address clear and present danger that the unsecured southern border of our nation represents to the people of our county; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, COLORADO urges the Governor of Colorado to join the governors of the twenty-two other states supporting the actions taken by Texas and demand the Executive Branch of the Federal Government fulfill its Constitutional duty to enforce current immigration laws and secure our nation's borders.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED this 20th day of February, 2024.



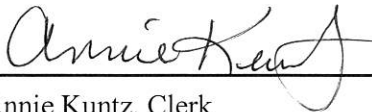
Kent Vance, Chairman



Gisele Jefferson, Commissioner



Lea Ann Laybourn, Commissioner



Annie Kuntz, Clerk

