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## House of Representatives

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Harrisburg

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**COMMITTEES:**  
APPROPRIATIONS  
GAME & FISHERIES  
HUMAN SERVICES  
TRANSPORTATION

Dear Governor Shapiro:

We write to urge you to join several other governors in offering vital support to the efforts undertaken by the state of Texas to secure the southern border of the United States. Operation Lone Star, a joint operation between the Texas Department of Public Safety and the Texas Military Department, was established in 2021 to deter the overwhelming flow of undocumented migrants crossing into the United States from Mexico. While Operation Lone Star should be credited for, in a relatively short span of time, apprehending approximately 500,000 undocumented immigrants and seizing enough Mexican fentanyl to kill the entire population of the United States, additional manpower and resources are urgently needed to stem the tides of unlawful migration, human trafficking, and deadly narcotics trafficking. At a time when the Federal government has demonstrated an unmistakable aversion to countering this ever-increasing surge in illegal immigration, we encourage you to honor your commitment to ensuring that Pennsylvania “does not leave any state with an oversized responsibility” in addressing the crisis at our southern border. Indeed, like you, we believe that all states, including Pennsylvania, share an obligation to fight this crisis to safeguard our communities and uphold the rule of law.

Since 2021, the number of migrants who have unlawfully crossed our southern border is greater than the individual populations of 38 states. In December of 2023 alone, more than 300,000 undocumented immigrants managed to enter the United States illegally. Predictably, the surge in unlawful migration has played a significant role in several developing crises throughout the United States and this Commonwealth, including the rise in both drug addiction and violent crime. In 2023, the number of overdose deaths exceeded 112,000 in the United States. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, this figure marks the highest 12-month overdose death total in history. A 2021 report published by the Department of Justice noted that 64% of all federal arrests in 2018 involved non-US citizens although they represented only 7% of the total United States’ population at that time.

While we do not doubt that many of the undocumented immigrants entering the United States are merely seeking better lives and opportunities, our country has recently witnessed a number of high-profile, violent crimes committed by undocumented immigrants who have entered our country with mal-intent. Within the course of several months last year, a Mexican national was arrested by police after being accused of drugging and raping at least 10 boys in Tennessee; a Mexican national was arrested and charged with brutally murdering an entire family of Honduran migrants near Houston, Texas; and six undocumented immigrants – three of whom were members of the violent Central American MS-13 gang – were charged with the murder of a boy in Maryland. In this Commonwealth, a Brazilian national and undocumented immigrant made national headlines after

escaping from a prison where he was serving a life sentence for killing his girlfriend in front of her young children and leading police on a colossal manhunt.

Pennsylvania's participation in this initiative will not only aid in managing the border crisis but also strengthen our state's reputation as a proactive contributor to addressing major national concerns and enhancing the safety and well-being of our own communities. Consequently, we urge you to send much-needed personnel and resources to combat the historic rise in illegal immigration in Texas.

Sincerely,



Representative Michael Cabell  
117<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Representative Russ Diamond  
102<sup>nd</sup> Legislative District



Representative Jacob Banta  
4<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Representative Jason Ortitay  
46<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Representative Ryan Mackenzie  
187<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Representative Marla Brown  
9<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Representative Milou Mackenzie  
131<sup>st</sup> Legislative District



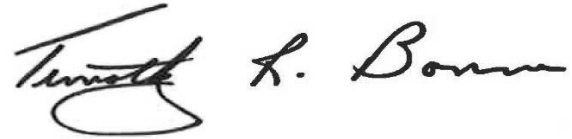
Representative Stephanie Borowicz  
76<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Representative Marci Mustello  
11<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Representative Eric Nelson  
57<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Representative Tim Bonner  
17<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Representative Kate Klunk  
169<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Representative Robert Mercuri  
28<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Representative Alec Ryncavage  
119<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Representative Ryan Warner  
52<sup>nd</sup> Legislative District



Representative Jill Cooper  
55<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Representative John Schlegel  
101<sup>st</sup> Legislative District

Representative Aaron Bernstine  
8<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

Representative Rich Irvin  
81<sup>st</sup> Legislative District

Representative Martin Causer  
67<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

Representative Donna Oberlander  
63<sup>rd</sup> Legislative District

Representative Ann Flood  
138<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

Representative Tom Jones  
98<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

Representative Joseph Adams  
139<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

Representative Torren Ecker  
193<sup>rd</sup> Legislative District

Representative Rob Kauffman  
89<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

Representative Donna Scheuren  
147<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Representative Seth Grove  
196<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Representative Joanne Stehr  
107<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Representative Joshua Kail  
15<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Representative Eric Davanzo  
58<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Representative Armanini  
75<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Representative Thomas Kutz  
87<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Representative John Lawrence  
13<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Representative Jamie Flick  
83<sup>rd</sup> Legislative District



Representative Clint Owlett  
68<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Representative Dane Watro  
116<sup>th</sup> Legislative District




Representative Timothy O'Neal  
48<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Representative Tina Pickett  
110<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Representative Jonathan Fritz  
111<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Representative Bryan Cutler  
100<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Representative Jack Rader  
176<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Representative Kathy Rapp  
65<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Representative Joseph Hamm  
84<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Representative Robert Leadbeter  
109<sup>th</sup> Legislative District