

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4323

June 11, 2013

The Honorable Susan Combs
Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts
P.O. Box 13528, Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711-3528

Dear Comptroller Combs:

In December 2006, then Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn conducted an analysis to study the financial impact of unauthorized immigrants on the Texas budget. It marked the first time any state had executed such a comprehensive analysis. The study found that "[t]he absence of the estimated 1.4 million undocumented immigrants in Texas in fiscal 2005 would have been a loss to our gross state product of \$17.7 billion."

A more recent study from the Immigration Policy Center noted, "[i]f all unauthorized immigrants were removed from Texas, the state would lose \$69.3 billion in economic activity, \$30.8 billion in gross state product, and approximately 403,174 jobs, even accounting for adequate market adjustment time."

With immigration reform currently being deliberated in the U.S. Congress, I respectfully request that your office update the 2006 report by the Texas Comptroller. For the sake of consistency, I ask that you apply the same methodology used for the 2006 study and simply update the numbers. Your report would be vital to the 38 members of Congress from Texas, and to other elected officials and decision makers as they grapple with immigration reform. The study might also assist in shaping legislation related to immigration at the state and local levels.

As public servants, the weight of our words is heavier. The passage or failure of immigration reform will profoundly affect Texas. An updated study from the Texas Comptroller's office would shed light on the true impact to our state by unauthorized immigrants. Your findings and conclusions could also prove invaluable during deliberation on the various proposals being considered by Congress. It would be unfortunate for groundless statements presented as facts to go unchallenged.

I am confident that this study will help Texans make decisions that help Texas.

Sincerely,


Pete P. Gallego
Member of Congress (TX-23)