



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

June 19, 2018

The Honorable Ted Cruz
U.S. Senator
U.S. Senate
B40B Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cruz:

The separation of children from their families at the border is tragic and heartrending. It is the latest calamity children suffer because of a broken U.S. border. As you know, for years children seeking entry into the United States have been subjected to human trafficking, sexual assault, and torture at the hands of human smugglers and cartel members during their trek to the United States.

This disgraceful condition must end; and it can only end with action by Congress to reform the broken immigration system. The executive and judicial branches have exhausted the limits of their authority to patch up our flawed immigration laws. Now, the only remaining path is the one provided by the Constitution: the legislative path.

As you know, the U.S. Constitution specifically tasks Congress with responsibility over immigration laws. That task has been dodged and politicized for so long the country is now at a breaking point. The victims include, obviously, the children now on the Texas border. The victims also include all American citizens who have had to grapple for decades with the consequences of a dysfunctional immigration system.

As I write this letter, I see that all Republican Senators in the U.S. Senate have announced their agreement to address the plight of children on our border. Additionally, multiple strategies already have been proposed that can solve that problem and mend the broken immigration system. Those actions are a start. But, as you know, it takes more than words to end this. It takes votes.

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Texans are not fooled by the partisan divide on this issue. They know that even if all Republicans agree, a bill fixing the problem will not pass without Democrat support in the Senate.

Texans, and Americans, need our delegation, both Republicans and Democrats, to lead Congress in ending the rhetoric and ensuring results. Time spent talking to microphones is time lost talking to members about solutions. You sought your office to do big things. This is your moment. Seize it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Abbott". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Greg Abbott
Governor

GA:lsk