



ALEX DOMINGUEZ



TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DISTRICT 37

January 12, 2022

The Honorable Matt Krause
Texas State Capitol, Room 4S.6
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Chairman Krause:

I write this letter requesting the House General Investigating Committee to investigate Operation Lone Star and to recommend to the Legislature how we can address the loss of life, lack of support services, and lack of adequate pay and administrative services for our service members and their families.

There is a crisis of morale for our Texas National Guardsmen at the border that is costing lives. Since October, four service members who had been activated for Operation Lone Star tragically died by suicide. This string of suicides raises concerns about the treatment of soldiers activated at the border. Reports have revealed that soldiers are experiencing pay delays and inconsistencies, reduced tuition assistance benefits, and cramped living quarters with no indication of when the mission will end. This is a failure in leadership, not in our service members.

This treatment of our service members is unacceptable. The suicide rate for veterans is already higher than the general non-veteran population with an average of 16 veterans dying by suicide each day. As legislators, we must exercise oversight of the Executive branch, including our Texas military services, to ensure our service members are provided adequate support services, paid in a timely manner, deployed for missions that are not politically motivated, and provided the services and benefits they were promised when signing up to serve our state. Anything less disrespects their service and commitment, and in some cases has ended in tragedy.

I am calling on the General Investigating Committee to investigate Operation Lone Star and provide recommendations to the Legislature for how we can address this crisis. We cannot continue to turn a blind eye to our suffering service members.

Sincerely,



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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alex Dominguez".

Alex Dominguez
State Representative
District 37
Texas House of Representatives



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