



ALEX DOMINGUEZ



TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DISTRICT 37

January 12, 2022

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor, State of Texas
Texas State Capitol, Room 2S.1
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Governor Abbott:

I write this letter to request a moratorium on deploying additional troops to our Texas/Mexico border for Operation Lone Star. 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. That is why I am urging you, as Commander-in-Chief of the National Guard, to do everything in your power to prevent further tragedy for our service members and their families. At the very least, our service members and their families deserve the paycheck that they were promised on time and adequate mental health resources.

I have also called on the Texas House General Investigating Committee to investigate the string of suicides and on-the-ground conditions for Operation Lone Star. I urge your office to develop a plan to address this crisis of morale in the mission that you ordered. Until this is done, you must issue a moratorium on deploying new troops.

While we may not always agree on what is best for our fellow Texans, I know that we agree on this. 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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