

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on State Affairs
For SB 11

Compiled on: Monday, October 16, 2023 5:45 PM

Note: Comments received by the committee reflect only the view of the individual(s) submitting the comment, who retain sole responsibility for the content of the comment. Neither the committee nor the Texas House of Representatives takes a position on the views expressed in any comment. The committee compiles the comments received for informational purposes only and does not exercise any editorial control over comments.

Hearing Date: October 16, 2023 10:00 AM

Vicki Adams
Pct chair 1057 Ellis county
Midlothian, TX

Pass this bill without any possible point of order. This is a battle of good and evil and I pray Texas has the fear of the Lord with each and every one of our leaders and not the fear of man.

Porshea Croft
Self
Montgomery, TX

ANYONE attempting to enter the United States without going through the proper legal channels is EXTREMELY harmful for all involved, this is a start.

Henry Stowe
Self/engineer
Pasadena, TX

I am against this bill. This is a hastily crafted response to a federal problem. I do not trust a standard police officer to deal with this issue. Instead, economic pressure should be applied to large business that contract the use of "illegal" immigrant labor. We cannot clog the ciurt system with this nonsense. Our civil and criminal courts are already jammed with nonsense.

Charlene Reagan
Self and True Texas Project
SPICEWOOD, TX

This legislature needs to FINALLY create a strong, enforceable criminal offense for any foreign national who enters the state of Texas illegally. Why in the name of Sam Hill has this legislature not made illegal entry into Texas a criminal offense before now? Close the dang border, people!

Cynthia Grubb, Mrs
Family / self employed
Dallas, TX

WITHOUT ANY Question, WE want entering our country from a foreign nation a crime of the highest order!! The INVASION must END!

Jonathan Reynolds
Self
Buchanan Dam, TX

State Affairs Committee Members

The United States of America is a sovereign nation. Deliberate improper entry into this country from a foreign nation must carry a criminal offense, and that criminal offense must be a felony and include incarceration. In many cases people that deliberately enter the United States illegally are bad people that want to do bad things like human trafficking or drug smuggling, or even worse commit acts of terrorism. Please give this bill some teeth.

Respectfully, Jonathan L Reynolds, Llano County Pct 204 Chair

Karen Sinclair
Citizen of Texas psychologist
Missouri City, TX

I pray, in Jesus name, that you stop the stall and vote on this bill to FINALLY create a strong, enforceable, criminal offense for any person from a foreign country who crosses our border. It is past time!!! You know we are not safe with so many unknowns crossing. Do your jobs.

Jennifer Mobbs
Self
Tyler, TX

The fact that this is not already illegal makes me ask WHY!? We MUST, ABSOLUTELY MUST have strong, harsh criminal penalties for ANY FOREIGN NATIONAL that ILLEGALLY ENTERS TEXAS. NO Catch and Release for them to "come back" for a court hearing later! If it does not benefit Foreign Nationals to illegally enter Texas; if they are criminally charged and punished and receive NOTHING, then we can stop the wave of illegals destroying our State. Can we count on our Elected Officials?

Beverly Skinner-Wells
bwellsono@gmail.com
Hideaway, TX

The border needs to close. We are loosing our national security one day at a time.

Marguerite Belec
self retired
Ingram, TX

Do your job. Save our Republic. It is absolutely abhorrent that you have allowed TX to be used as an entry position to the US. Illegal drugs, child and sex trafficking, people injured and killed are results of your ineptitude. Take action.

Cathy Cocco
Self, marketing
Austin, TX

I support this bill and encourage the House representatives to do the same. We must condemn and stop illegal trafficking of people and prevent terrorists from taking advantage of the open borders to hurt our citizens.

Michelle LoweSolis, Ms
Self
San Antonio, TX

Seeking asylum is legal and a human right, long recognized in both U.S. and international law. The proposed policy runs contrary to this, robbing many asylum seekers of a fair chance to present their case to an immigration judge. I urge committee members to vote NO on SB11.

Pake Stephens
Self
Del Valle, TX

“ Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.”. These words have represented what the United States of America has stood for for generations and now y'all are attempting to throw it all in the trash. It feels disgusting and disrespectful to the ideals our nation was founded on. Republicans in this state are ruining everything that once made it great. People have gone from being proud to be Texan to being Ashamed to call it home and it's because of legislation like this!

SB 11 should be laughed out of the room for being Anti-American. America is made up of immigrants, all of our forefathers were immigrants, and now you want to make it illegal for others to seek the same since you and yours already have a seat at the table!? Shame on y'all! This is disgusting. VOTE NO ON SB 11 you elite, out of touch with reality, jerks.

Charles Pinzino
Self, retired
Lindale, TX

This bill should be supported by every Texas citizen, especially our legislators. The Biden administration is deliberately encouraging foreign nationals to enter our State illegally. Put a stop to it.

Jen Jen Min
Self
Plano, TX

I desire for the legislature to FINALLY create a strong, enforceable criminal offense for any foreign national who enters the state of Texas illegally (SB 11). Why in the name of Sam Hill have they not made illegal entry into Texas a criminal offense before now?

Tim Kane
self
Tyler, TX

I urge you to appreciate the severity of the invasion taking place over our southern border by crafting a bill to criminalize the unauthorized entry into Texas a crime. Such unauthorized entry should carry severe criminal penalties and enable our law enforcement officials to arrest and detain these people. It wouldn't take long for the message to reach the cartels that they need to try another border state.

Barbara Harless, Mrs.

self

Murphy, TX

Illegal entry to my country is – “ILLEGAL”.

PUNISH all illegal entrants.

Create an environment on the Texas border which will DETAIN ALL possible illegal entrants until a proper hearing can be arranged and create a system to ensure a speedy process.

Benice Messina-Gates, Mrs

self

Fate, TX

I ask you to protect Texans and all Americans from the human invasion of our north and south borders. Passage of SB11 will help to do that by discouraging improper entry. Please pass this out of committee quickly. Thank you.

Margaret Wilson

self--attorney

Eddy, TX

This must be the law. The punishment must be severe enough to deter entry. If not, we are an unserious state--even worse than our federal government.

The cartels own Texas if we do not protect our own border.

Fran Rhodes

True Texas Project, self (President non profit)

Fort Worth, TX

It is long past time that something is done to control the crisis at our southern border. This bill would be one good step in that direction. By creating a criminal offense we give law enforcement officers a tool to prosecute and return these individuals instead of just letting them roam our country. True Texas Project strongly supports this bill and we urge you to pass it out of Committee quickly.

Leigh Currie Nerren

myself

Lindale, TX

PASS IT! FINALLY create a strong, enforceable criminal offense for any foreign national who enters the state of Texas illegally (SB 11). Why in the name of Sam Hill has this not been done?

Jana Raymond

self

Groesbeck, TX

Close the border and make it a criminal offense to illegally enter TEXAS! In favor of SB 11. Save Texans!

John Bolgiano

Self - Retired

Llano, TX

SUPPORT

A nation without borders is no nation. On our border with Mexico, we are facing a daily incursion of thousands of individuals from over 160 different countries. The federal system is allowing entry with minimal vetting and no effective tracking. This bill gives Texas the tool it needs to stop a flood of potentially dangerous illegal aliens. Please return a favorable report and help this bill's passage into law.

Debbie Lindstrom
self
McKinney, TX

I support this bill.

Martha Clay
Self.
Austin, TX

Humanity, and most Texans, would dictate that Texas should harbor those seeking asylum, and not to make it illegal to seek asylum, which has been legal for as long as I can remember. Texas legislators have made our state almost unbearable for those who wish to live without oppression on our bodily, educational, and healthcare rights. Please **DO NOT SUPPORT THIS BILL.**

Denise Linn
Self, a TAXPAYER
Keller, TX

Stop playing stupid games and pass the legislation Texans want! You never should have tried to impeach Paxton, and you sure shouldn't ignore bills from those who didn't agree with the impeachment hoax! Texans want to see action to combat dangerous influences—we want a strong, border security bill. Why aren't border crossings illegal? Please advance and pass SB 11—this should have been done a long time ago. What comes across the border when it's not being protected? Drugs, violence, terrorists, disease, and worst of all, humans being trafficked. The only way to fight this disgusting practice is with a strong border and laws that severely punish those who are trafficking and their customers—please advance and pass SB 4. We deserve our rights and freedom, especially when it comes to our health—please advance and pass SB 7 to ensure that we won't be forced to take any vaccine we don't want. This decision shouldn't be left to an employer, a government, or a nongovernmental agency (like the WHO)—it should be made by us alone. Please get going on the important business at hand—thank you.

Mary Corbin
Self
HOUSTON, TX

Pass this bill as is

Lawrence Fernandez
Self
Brownsville, TX

Secure our border now!

Corinne Garza, Ms
Self/retired
Brownsville, TX

I live on the border and I support SB11.

Stacy Bielstein

self

Brownsville, TX

As a resident of Brownsville, Texas and a lifetime border resident, I am urging this Committee to vote FOR SB 11. I have witnessed the disaster of the increase of illegal immigration and the crossings of human and drug smuggling through the private ranches, farms and homes and it is a disaster and poses a danger and threat to our families. It is your responsibility to protect your constituents, not the people the foreign countries who refuse to follow the Rule of Law. I have listened to the press conference held this morning, as a woman of Hispanic heritage, I am applaud and disgusted by the statements made by those individuals and representatives claiming that these Bills are of racism. These statements have no value, are un-factual and are pitiful. These Bills will only help to create stronger criminal offenses for individuals who do not follow the Law. Everyone, whether foreign or citizen, must follow the Laws of our precious Country. VOTE FOR SB 11. Thank you.

Deborah Bell

Self

Brownsville, TX

My name is Deborah Bell and I am a resident of Brownsville, Texas. My mother's family has been farming along the Rio Grande River since 1919 and what we are currently witnessing in our city/state in regards to illegal immigration is something we've never seen before. I am urging members of the House Committee to pass this legislation as we need immediate intervention down here on the border. The mass amount of people crossing daily is astronomical and isn't sustainable by any standard. Today alone I passed a Motel 6 on Central Blvd here in Brownsville with over 35+ transportation buses being utilized to transport illegal immigrants. I have heard folks testify to how this particular legislation would be a burden to taxpayers-ludicrous! We, the taxpayers, are already paying for the millions of illegal immigrants that have crossed our Southern Border this year and we will CONTINUE to have to pay for them as there is not a single plan in place for all these individuals. The residents of Cameron County have had enough. This special session was called for a reason-we need action now! We need our elected officials to listen to what we are saying...we are living this daily and enough is enough. If the Federal government will not intervene then we must take action immediately. As a long time resident of Brownsville, I am asking you to please vote in FAVOR of SB 11. We need help down here on our Southern border.

Sheila Rosario

Self

Allen, TX

Please do not pass this bill. These are human beings, equal in every way to natural born Americans. They want better lives. They're risking everything to get it. Please don't make it worse for them.

Matthew Bielstein

self

Brownsville, TX

As a resident of Brownsville, Texas, I am FAVOR of SB 11. Please for FOR SB 11.

Hampton Jacoba

Self

Brownsville, TX

Vote yes

Lisa de Oliveira

self; homeschool advocate & concerned parent

Denton, TX

With recent events in the Middle East, this bill, SB11 should be the utmost priority to CLOSE OUR BORDERS from improper entry from a foreign nation!!

How in the world have you not passed this bill already is beyond every Texan's comprehension!! We have literally been invaded with 8 million unvetted people crossing our borders in the past 2 years; this is NOT hyperbole or an exaggeration of terms. If even 1% of these individuals have nefarious intentions for US citizens, that is THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE who are here in our country that will now be able to do our citizens harm!!

Please pass SB 11 which will create the strongest criminal offense and penalty for entering our country illegally! Every sovereign country has the right to defend their borders and it is essential to maintain secure population.

JUDY VESTAL

self

TEXARKANA, TX

Please, Please, Please realize how important this is...even if the Federal government disagrees...we have the power to pass our own laws in this state and even if it may be too late to stop our enemies from setting up shop in our borders, we should at least do this... and announce it all over the world. Don't be so weak and afraid in this. We may soon realize just how strong we should have been in this before

Victor Henderson

N/a

Denton, TX

Keep criminal border invaders out of Texas. Lock them up and throw them out.

Annette Bennett

FBG tea party,

Fredericksburg, TX

Texas must use every tool available to stop these illegal aliens from coming into our state. The burden on taxpayers is going to be horrific - it must stop. We cannot depend on the federal government to protect our borders - so we must. We need strong, enforceable criminal offense for any foreign national who enters the state of Texas illegally. STOP this madness NOW.

Melissa Harrington

self

Lewisville, TX

Every country [should] have laws regarding how non-citizens can enter a country. This is COMMON SENSE. If someone enters illegally and does not follow the laws prescribed - they are a CRIMINAL by definition. Punish criminals! This does not prevent people from entering lawfully - it punishes criminals for breaking the law.

Cynthia Davison

Self

Austin, TX

We MUST do everything we can to restore our border. Please support SB 11.

Jon-Paul Leos

None

Bulverde, TX

This is wrong. It is un Christ like. It is shameful to do this

Cody Gillispie, Mr

Self

Decatur, TX

No one should ever be allowed to enter a country illegally Americans don't do it so no one else should be able to come in USA without proper papers. If they do give them maximum penalty. Anyone who holds this bill up should be fired or impeached immediately

Lori Davidson, Ms

self

JOSHUA, TX

I am asking you to pass this bill. We need to stop this insanity of open borders and allowing any unvetted person into our country. You wouldn't allow any unvetted person into your home so why would we do it at our borders?

Thanks,

Ms. Davidson

Michael Nurre

self - Software Engineer

Corpus Christi, TX

I urge you to pass this bill. Our borders are wide open helping to facilitate human and drug trafficking. There are large groups of military aged singled males coming into our country that do not like our country. The corrupt federal government is making this possible by releasing the illegal aliens without sending them back, unconstitutionally tying the hands of our local agencies. We need to ensure anyone entering our country illegally can be detained by local agencies and sent back to their country of origin.

Jan Ashcraft

Self

Cibolo, TX

I am a 67 year old born and bred Texan. I've also lived here for most of my adult life. This bill is an affront to all that we believe in this state. To criminalize those seeking asylum here is wrong. I'm sure it also goes against federal and international laws. Seeking asylum is a human right. Stop with the theatrics! Come up with meaningful and valid solutions for our immigration problems. This is cruel, unjust, and definitely not a solution.

Bonnie Seelig
Retired/Self
Spicewood, TX

SB 11 must FINALLY create a strong, enforceable criminal offense for any foreign national who enters the state of Texas illegally.

Just because our national government wants to destroy our country, it does not give the legislature permission to act in league with the devil. No country stands that will not protect its borders or its citizens. What is the point of citizenship if it does not protect those who are the citizens? Unlike what many politicians believe, citizens are not just the money pot for their train to more power.

Since when do we open open the doors to our house for anyone to enter? When your citizens do that, you can open the country, but not until!!!!

If you do not have laws to protect your citizens AND do not enforce laws to protect your citizens, you have no country!

William Metteauer
self - marketing
Tyler, TX

I support this bill. I can't believe this is not already a criminal offense! Do not allow these people to stay in this country either. This needs to be enforceable by any law enforcement entity. Thank you.

Marci Marie Simmons
Self
Weatherford, TX

I am AGAINST SB 11 would feed racial profiling, empowering law enforcement to arrest anyone they suspect crossed the border illegally.

Carol Engelhardt
Self-Dyslexia Therapist Teacher
Chander, TX

Please pass strong bills on allowing no sex trafficking, major border security, build the wall!

Jennifer Fleck
self
Spicewood, TX

I am in favor of this bill and so much more. Please do everything you can to protect our border. Nothing else matters, if we don't have a country to defend.

Anna Katharina Dechert, Houston Policy & Advocacy Manager

Tahirih Justice Center

Houston, TX

Chair Hunter, Vice Chair Hernandez, and Honorable Members of the House Committee on State Affairs:

I write today on behalf of The Tahirih Justice Center. Tahirih is a non-profit legal advocacy organization that, since 1997, has been serving immigrant survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, and other gender-based violence. Tahirih's Houston Office has worked in Texas since 2009. Tahirih has grave concerns about the impact that SB11 will have on vulnerable survivors of violence and urges the committee to report the bill unfavorably.

Deterrence-based policies at the federal level have not alleviated violence and crime along the U.S. border; instead, these policies have only caused gender-based violence to proliferate, as migrants and others are left vulnerable to abuse and exploitation in increasingly precarious conditions. State-based deterrence policies based on the same flawed frameworks will have the same effect. In 2022, Tahirih partnered with Oxfam America to conduct research on the prevalence and causes of gender-based violence along the U.S.-Mexico border. Surveying providers of social and legal services on both sides of the U.S. southern border, the report found that Title 42, the Remain in Mexico policy, and other deterrence-focused border policies actually caused an increase in the high rates of gender-based violence against migrants in border communities because of how these policies leave migrants vulnerable to abuse and exploitation.

Codifying unlawful entry as a crime under Texas statute will drive safety farther out of reach for vulnerable survivors of violence because it will make it harder to access humanitarian relief, such as asylum, U visas for survivors of violent crimes, T visas for survivors of human trafficking, and protection under the Violence Against Women Act for battered spouses of U.S. citizens and permanent residents. The affirmative defense to prosecution for individuals with lawful presence in the U.S. or who have been granted asylum fails to offer the release-valve it promises due to a critical misalignment with federal immigration law. Asylum seekers are guaranteed the right to request asylum in the U.S. and have their claim heard by an adjudicator. However, due to backlogs in processing, applications for relief can take years to reach a conclusion. If the outcome of a criminal proceeding is dependent on the adjudication of an application for immigration relief, it would raise serious due process concerns to proceed with the criminal case before the immigration process is complete.

There are very real concerns for Texas and for border communities, but they are not caused by asylum seekers who are exercising a fundamental right under U.S. law to seek protection from persecution and violence. SB11 not only misplaces responsibility for rising levels of violence along the border on immigrant survivors, but it also increases their vulnerability to further violence and exploitation.

Bonnie Bogert

Seld

Conroe, TX

Seeking asylum has been allowed in the United States since it was created. To not allow asylum seekers the ability to have their cases heard in court is wrong. Please do not pass this bill!

Jessica Nipp

Self, pastor

Temple, TX

Seeking asylum is a human right, an unalienable right given by our Creator. To strip someone off their ability to seek safety for themselves and their family is one of the most unAmerican, unTexan, unChristian things I have ever heard of.

Nancy Cramblit

self

Colleyville, TX

This bill must be **STRONG** and **ENFORCEABLE**. Class A Misdemeanor is **NOT** a deterrent! Please truly respect our sovereignty and protect it according to that oath y'all took!

Lori Garrison
Self
Ranger, TX

Create a STRONG, enforceable criminal offense for Any foreign national who enters the State of Texas illegally!!!! This is a criminal offense. Protect Texans. God save the Republic.

Stephanie Visconti Cosgrove
Self
BULVERDE, TX

Stop criminals

Debbie Pepin
self
Austin, TX

this needs strong and enforceable deportation/punishment to any foreign national who enters TX illegally

Sharon Edwards
self
Austin, TX

Please vote yes on this bill. Texas needs a strong, enforceable criminal offense penalty for ANY foreign national who enters our state illegally. The entry numbers are staggering and having a massive effect on our schools, welfare system, and economy.

According to reports, since January of 2021,, over 7 million Illegals have crossed the southern border. Some estimates put it over 10 million. Most estimates of the illegal alien population in 2020 were 14.5 million. That means we are on track to double the illegal alien population in the United States within the last four years. Texas has spent billions already to stem the tide. Taxpayers can't afford this.

Cindi Castilla
Texas Eagle Forum/Self
Dallas, TX

Texas Eagle Forum supports SB 11. Please do not water it down to appease those who don't have our nation and our state's best interest in mind. We must consider the safety of our citizens, human trafficking, child trafficking, expenses to our state, harm to the public education of those who are here legally, increased medical costs, etc.

Thank you.

Cindi Castilla
President, Texas Eagle Forum

Richard Bayless
Self
Sherman, TX

Something like this is needed. It doesn't need to be bullet proof because any State Law will be opposed by the Executive Office of the United States. The goal should be more of a declaration of the resolved and undeterred intent of the Great State Of Texas.

Sabrina Ball, Mrs

Self

Fort Worth, TX

Any bill that violates the US Constitution is a waste of time and more importantly taxpayer dollars. Focus on real issues, like fully funding public schools and rejecting voucher schemes

Anne Edwards

Self

Austin, TX

Pass

Steve Misner

Self, retired

Paradise, TX

Stop illegal entry, it's not immigration or migration, by any means necessary even if it requires 100,000 soldiers standing on our side of the river or the use of live ammunition, STOP THEM

Marilyn Harris

Self & husband, both retired

Sanger, TX

This should be a no brainer for the Texas House to pass.

Come on and do the right thing for Texas.

Unfortunately, current house leadership is not concerned about our state.

Susan Bell

self

Comfort, TX

WE MUST DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO CLOSE OUR BORDER AND EXPEL THE INVADERS.

it is by nature, a criminal offense to cross our border illegally. The problem with this is it does not immediately solve the problem of illegals...where are they going to wait for trial....at tax payer expense.

Just close the border. Ship them back from whence they came.

Julie T Martin, Ms

Self

Austin, TX

We need to protect the USA and our state of Texas. I agree we need to impose criminal offense for improper entry from a foreign nation. This all should be a no brainer!

Jayne McRae

myself

The Woodlands, TX

I vehemently oppose this bill. Seeking asylum is a legal and human right. This right is recognized by both U.S. and International law. The proposed policy is in violation of these laws and rights. All asylum seekers need an opportunity to present their case to an immigration judge. This bill is not right morally, ethically, nor legally.

Sincerely

Jayne McRae

Bridget Brame
self
Georgetown, TX

My family and friends are FOR this bill. This bill will offer Texas some ability to deal with illegal border crossers caught outside our lawful points of entry. The Biden Administration is doing all it can to break our nation. This bill gives us some help in fighting this invasion.

Bradley Hodges
self
austin, TX

FOR.

Susan Deininger
We the PEOPLE/Kerr County PatriotsS
Kerrville, TX

This bill should not be limited to COVID 19. The parties who mandate these prohibitions and or vaccinations will simply change the name of the disease.

Travis Jones, MBA
self; Tech Entrepreneur
Flint, TX

Stop the namby-pamby fighting in the Texas House and specifically do not go with any *NEW* bills like Dade Phelan and Governor Abbott are trying to do. In this special session going on right now (October 16, 2023) , I want to see bills to create enforceable and strong criminal offenses for any foreign national who enters our big beautiful Texas illegally. Please go with State Senator Birdwell's SB 11 to do this, do not "start over" during this special session. My wife and I are millennials and business-owners out here in Eastern Texas. Thank you for your consideration, God bless.

Susan Deininger
We the PEOPLE/Kerr County PatriotsS
Kerrville, TX

Why have you not put a law into place before now designating a strong and enforceable criminal offense for any foreign national entering the state of Texas illegally? Please put a strong enforceable law into place now, . This is a very dangerous game. What makes you think any of you can win it? Look at socialist/communist/dictatorships and tell me who of those in the power line-up are safe from even murder if the 'top dog' gets jealous? There is no honor among thieves./

Joanne Mainer
Self
Rusk, TX

Dear Representative

I am writing to you today to ask you to quickly pass SB 7 out of committee to prohibit private employer COVID-19 vaccine mandates.

Thank you,
Joanne Mainer

Lindsey Shields

self

Houston, TX

I am against this bill

Cameron Mayfield

Texas Rising

Houston, TX

I am against this bill

Andy Hopper

Wise County Conservatives

Decatur, TX

I fully support SB11--it is essential for the legislature to create a strong, enforceable criminal offense for foreign nationals that enter Texas illegally. However, I would ask that we add language to this bill to fund the burden placed on local jurisdictions in housing the illegals that are apprehended, ideally by creatively extracting the revenue from the Federal government by withholding payments, etc. and/or selling assets used to facilitate the entry, transport of illegals, and traffick humans and drugs.

Jake Wilson
Self - CPA
Fort Worth, TX

I'm a Republican writing in support of making a very important amendment to this bill as it relates to persecuted Christians and other asylum seekers.

SB11 states that

“(d) It is an affirmative defense to prosecution under this section that:

- (1) the actor has been granted a federal immigration benefit entitling the actor to:
 - (A) lawful presence in the United States; or
 - (B) asylum under 8 U.S.C. Section 1158;”

I perceive that the intent of this section is to give persecuted minorities who need asylum in America the opportunity to stay. But I hope the legislature will consider the procedures for asylum. Actually being granted asylum can take several years from one's date of application.

A better way to write this bill is that it would be an affirmative defense to prosecution if the asylum seeker has been determined by an asylum officer to have a reasonable fear of persecution and torture.

Making this very important amendment would allow persecuted minorities and other asylum seekers the ability to remain in the nation and state between the time of passing this reasonable fear screening and eventually being granted asylum, often a few years later.

Please see more information on reasonable fear screenings directly at the US Citizenship and Immigration Services website here:

<https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/refugees-and-asylum/asylum/reasonable-fear-screenings>

"Overview

Sections 238(b) and 241(a)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act provide for streamlined removal procedures that prohibit certain individuals from contesting removability before an Immigration Judge and from seeking any relief from removal. Generally, however, such noncitizens may not be removed to a country where they are more likely than not to be persecuted or tortured.

As such, if an individual ordered removed under either Section 238(b) or Section 241(a)(5) of the INA expresses a fear of return to the country to which he or she has been ordered removed, the case must be referred to an asylum officer, who will determine whether the individual has a reasonable fear of persecution or torture. Those who are found to have a reasonable fear of persecution or torture are then given an opportunity to seek withholding of removal or deferral of removal before an Immigration Judge. Those found not to have a reasonable fear of persecution or torture may request that an Immigration Judge review the negative reasonable fear determination. If an individual does not request review by the Immigration Judge or the Immigration Judge upholds the negative determination, the individual may be removed from the United States. If the Immigration Judge reverses the negative reasonable fear finding, the individual will be placed in proceedings before an Immigration Judge for a determination on eligibility for withholding or deferral of removal only."

Thank you for efforts to secure the border, and I hope it will be carefully done in the right way.

Jake Wilson
House District 91

Kim Hesley
Self / Title Insurance
Rockport, TX

I am in support of this bill.

Johnie Harper Harper
True Texas project I
De Leon, TX

Do it

Jonathon Heffron
self - retired
Rockport, TX

I am a constituent of Chairman Todd Hunter. While I am writing for myself only, I know there are literally hundreds of other constituents in Aransas County who share my views. The Chairman should allow this Senate Bill a fair hearing and favorably pass it out of the Committee without amendment.

Alexander Harris
self
Spring, TX

I support this bill. As an immigrant myself who entered this country legally in 1973, I respect the legal immigration system. Illegal entry will destroy this nation in two ways - (1) dry up the resources (hospitals, schools, work opportunities, etc), (2) bring in criminals, and (3) innocent illegal immigrant blood is shed in this state!

Bonnie Osborn, Mrs
Myself/Home
San Antonio, TX

We must secure and close all of our borders. Stop the
Bad actors from entering our country. I pray it's not too
Late but unfortunately the millions of people that have
Come in under this administration can't all be good folks.
God help us

Wp Piotrowski
Texas
Kemp, TX

Get it DONE!

Ann Rowland
Self
McAllen, TX

This comment is specifically for Rep. Richard Peña Raymond (D Laredo). SB11 is not a border security bill. SB11 will be used 99% of the time to arrest asylum seekers. Please vote against SB11 in this State Affairs committee meeting. You voted in regular session with the Republicans on this issue; now is the time for you to flip your way of thinking and welcome those seeking the American dream through the internationally recognized asylum process.

Greg Tallant, Mr

Alliance For A Safe Texas, True Texas Project, John Birch Society
Corinth, TX

We should hold criminals accountable for their crimes, whether they're U.S. Citizens or they're Illegal Criminals, as both are preying on American children and adults as well as foreign children and adults. We need to increase the penalties of anyone involved in human trafficking offenses. They need to be removed from society. I suggest life sentences and the death penalty, as they're destroying the lives of and killing children. These people are predators. Anyone who is involved in human trafficking should be held accountable. These people are a financial burden on our country and law enforcement, and as a tax-payer, I don't want my taxes supporting these evil people, thus I prefer the death penalty, as quickly as the law allows, so that we aren't wasting tax-payer money on evil people. They should be treated as terrorists, as they're terrorizing children! I believe that we should be using our military to secure our border and pursue these evil people. If we can't use our Texas National Guard to protect our border, then we need a Texas Militia or border Security Force with the authority to document, apprehend, prosecute, and insure they're prevented from ever being a menace to society in the United States.

Rebecca Bruns

Medina County GOP Chair Election Integrity Committee
Mico, TX

This is what we can truly call an INVASION.

- #1: Give LIFE BACK to the Texas Border Patrol Agents. Let them do the work they were hired to do. Lord have mercy.
- #2. Once an 'illegal' steps on to our State's LAND, even if on foot or in any type of 'transportation' other than their own '2 feet', our LAW must allow to STOP & SEARCH.
- #3. If a criminal background of any form, send to Guantanamo Bay prison. Depending on past criminal offense(s) apply a MINIMUM stay of 5 YEARS.
- #4. If NO criminal background, eject the person and/or entire FAMILY out of our Country immediately. Return to their County of ORIGIN.

We can begin to CREATE a new form of 'ILLEGAL ALIEN DEPORTATION' Companies.

Compare the COST to what we have NOW to the cost of buying some planes and run a legal EXPORT BUSINESS.

BILL the US Government and let's figure out how we can CHARGE BACK the cost to the County of Origin. Even if not in USD, some other form of payment = THINK!!!

Unfortunately, the 'commodity' is a HUMAN BEING, but we must save our County from 'internal destruction'.

The only amenity on the Plane is a lavatory and water.

Just like when we fly NOW on any airline., unless you PAY, the only amenity that is STILL FREE OF CHARGE is the lavatory and water, coffee, tea.

Linda Ricks

Self

Midlothian, TX

Dear Committee Members,

Please get this bill out of committee so this can become law!

Lucy Frost

Self - producer / writer

Manchaca, TX

I'm a native Texan, and life-long citizen of Texas. I vote in every election.

I oppose this bill.

While the situation at our border is troubling, closures of lawful points of entry and inadequate staffing for immigration courts and services in combination with cartels in Mexico have put those seeking lawful asylum in an impossible impasse. Humane treatment is called for.

Sharon Tryon
Self
Waxahachie, TX

I am for this bill, creating a penalty for improper entry into a foreign nation

Maritza Muguira
self/retired
La Marque, TX

My name is Maritza Muguira, I am representing myself, and I'm speaking in FAVOR of SB11. We are seeing a staggering increase of millions of Illegal immigrants crossing our open borders. Many of these immigrants crossing into Texas are not solely from Mexico, or Central and South America, but from all over the world! My family legally immigrated to the US and, we were required to have a sponsor and the means to sustain ourselves. Now, millions of unvetted aliens are entering illegally, including a significant number of young adult males. This is an army! Please pass legislation that assists Texan authorities to put an end to the federal government's policies bent on creating chaos and destroying our state.

Stephanie Fitzpatrick
Self
Cypress, TX

Please vote NO. This bill will affect asylum seekers from entering our country safely.

Helen Sue (Susie) Carter
Self and family
Kyle, TX

Our nation is at risk from destruction and chaos from Illegals.

Anyone involved in Illegal entry into our nation or smuggling of anything should be fined and put in prisons as bad as those in the country they are from.

STOP ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION, SMUGGLING, DRUGS, and CLOSE OUR BORDERS TIGHT---now!!!.

Susan Stewart
self
Pflugerville, TX

SB 11. So sick and tired of the heavy handed operations meant to feed a base of voters who want to see poor migrants persecuted. We are a nation of migrants. My ancestors migrated. All they had to do was get on a boat and show up on the shores of America. They were taken in.

SB11 is not a border security bill. SB11 will be used 99% of the time to arrest asylum seekers. Please vote against SB11 while it is in committee. Please think of your own ancestors. America, a Christian nation, should welcome those fleeing violence and seeking to achieve the American dream through the legal methods of our asylum process.

Earl Mahavier
Self Retired
San Antonio, TX

Against the State law

Brent Smith, Kinney County Attorney
Kinney County Attorney Office
Brackettville, TX

As the Kinney County Attorney, I have more experience with this subject than I wish.

While I support this bill, I feel that its enforcement must be addressed so that legislators can make the much needed changes for its success. Certain claims of a million arrests occurring from this bill are incorrect. Proper enforcement of this law will change the messaging currently received by those wishing to illegally enter our state and the numbers of illegal entries will drastically decrease. This has already been proven under the "Remain in Mexico" policy that was previously used. Under that policy, only 60,000 individuals were removed back into Mexico until their asylum hearings occurred before it created a drastic decrease in illegal entries. Due to enforcement of that policy, illegal entries fell by 80% across the entire U.S. border. With proper enforcement of this law, the same will occur here. It is my opinion that enforcement of this law would create the proper messaging within 30 days and create a drastic decrease in illegal entry.

However, with that said, the key here is proper enforcement. In order to achieve this messaging of not allowing illegal entry, we must enforce this law effectively. In order to do that, we must deploy adequate law enforcement into those border regions. This law enforcement must be specifically trained for border enforcement and operations. In order for this Bill to be effective, it must be accompanied with HB 127 that creates the Texas Homeland Security Division. Until we allocate the proper enforcement mechanism to our border security laws, they will fail to be effective. HB 127 would do just that. Its structure and mission oriented goals within the bill would enable legislation like this to be effective.

There is NO point in passing laws that cannot be adequately enforced. In Kinney County, we cannot even enforce our state criminal trespass laws that are already on the books due to inadequate enforcement of them. Adding this law is meaningless unless we can enforce it. In order to do that, you must create the enforcement mechanism like HB 127 proposes.

Ellen Leyrer
Self, Retired
Plano, TX

I support stronger measures for illegal immigration. The border crisis is beyond damaging in multiple ways (crime, economy, schools, healthcare, taxes, etc.) to every person in America and to businesses and cities as well. The influx must be stopped.

Christine Flynn
Self
New Braunfels, TX

I fully support the creation of the criminal offense of improper entry of any person or persons from a foreign nation. Our country has the right to protect its citizens from foreign persons who enter the United States without regard to the United States Immigration Laws. The United States is a sovereign country, and as such, has a right to enforce its immigration laws at all times. As a long time resident and property owner in the State of Texas, I expect that any one attempting to enter this State will only do so in compliance with federal immigration statutes or face criminal charges.

Sheena Rodriguez
Alliance for a Safe Texas & Self
Eules, TX

During FY 2023 alone, Texas has endured more than 1 million encounters along our southern border, with an unknown number of gotaways entering our sovereign state. Every Texas county and community feel the vast negative impacts of the ongoing and unparalleled border crisis. SB 11 would de-incentivize illegal crossings outside a legal port of entry. Such unlawful activities, continuously disregarded by the federal government, are wreaking havoc on Texas property owners, law enforcement agencies, and our finite state resources. SB 11 advances criminal penalties for such strenuous and unlawful activities that, once enforced, will provide much-needed relief to Texas property owners along the Southern state border as well as the rest of the state and, thereby, the country. As such, Alliance for a Safe Texas fully supports SB 11 as this legislation will ensure that we fortify our sovereign state against the vast negative impacts of mass illegal immigration not only for the current ensuing crisis but also long after to combat the continuous failures of federal administrations.

John Walker
The True Texas Project
Austin, TX

This bill is a good start and should be passed immediately. The Texas citizens along the Texas-Mexico border are suffering greatly due to the lack of protection that is constitutionally demanded. Now the citizens as far north as San Antonio are being over-run by illegal aliens. It is the duty of the Texas legislature to protect the citizens of Texas, both from Federal overreach and all criminal activities.

Julianne Sanford
Self
Jacksonville, TX

Absolutely it should be a criminal offense to it legally enter the state of Texas from any other country. Yes, it should be a criminal offense. Any sovereign state must protect its borders, or it fails to remain sovereign.

Tom Sattler
Self / Business Analyst
Tyler, TX

As a citizen of the Great State of Texas, I am sick and tired of illegal aliens (no, they are not migrants or any other politically correct, watered down term favored by the media, they have ignored the law and bi-passed any legal means to enter the country) getting a "free pass". It is clear that the current administration in Washington DC doesn't care about the massive influx of illegal aliens nor about the citizens of Texas. It is time to send a clear message...you enter the country illegally through Texas, there are consequences to be paid. Put some teeth in this damn bill and punish the outlaws.

Mary Smith
Representing self.
Arlington, TX

This is a good biil. The federal govt has not fulfilled their guidelines as stated in U S Constitution. Therefore, it is imperative that the state of Texas take a stand against invasion. This bill allows such a stand with punishment and clearly seeks protection for the people of this state and this nation.

Montie Shelton
self/retired
Huntsville, TX

I am sick and tired of illegal aliens invading Texas. They have strained all of our resources and committed unthinkable crimes such as murder, rape, sex trafficking and drug smuggling. Hundreds of thousands of Americans have died from fentanyl. We have no idea what evil people have come in this country. Can't we learn from the examples of countries in Europe and England which have been flooded with foreigners? Their national identity is lost and the things they hold dear are gone. If our country does not defend its borders, our nation will eventually fall. It is already strained to the breaking point. This delights the World Economic Forum, Klaus Schwab, George Soros, and their ilk who want to bring America to its knees. I want the border closed and anyone who slips through arrested as a criminal who is breaking the law. George Soros operatives teach these illegal aliens how to claim asylum to the point where it is meaningless anymore. It must be stopped. I am in favor of SB11.

Franklin Blalack
Self retired
Corpus Christi, TX

Almost all or all legal points of entry are closed or inaccessible. How is one to follow the law since that is the case. This purely an attempt to stop legal immigration or any immigration based on point of origin and/or prejudice. We should be better than that.

Charlie Edmonson, Mr

Self

Bryson, TX

Why have this not been done? We need the harshest penalty for this. It affects my livelihood as well as thousands or millions of Texans. By allowing this it drives wages down as well as increasing the burdens on tax payers, such as welfare, ect, ect, etc for these people.

MELISSA Spence

N/A

ALLEN, TX

This should be obvious. Pass the Senate bill or make it stronger. A border patrol agent was assaulted by two Venezuelan invaders and injured. The woman was RELEASED!!! This is unacceptable! We see video every day of agents having to escort invaders to be processed and released in the US. Our Texas Constitution provides for us to protect our borders. There is no reason to weaken this bill. Get it done. This is only a start. Our border needs to be closed and you can't hide behind Biden as an excuse. Abbott can't hide behind the House & Phelan. We know the games. Do something right and pass strong border legislation.

Jane Jarosz

Self

Crawford, TX

Pass this now. Please get rid of Phelan. He is just into himself and does not care or help the people of Texas!!

k holt

self - self employed

SMITHVILLE, TX

Fix the border!!! The unchecked immigration (illegally) of WHO KNOWS WHO is absurd, dangerous, ridiculous, and you need to fix it.

Mike Jackson

self - retired

Lufkin, TX

I fully support SB11. Anyone who illegally enters Texas should be prosecuted and deported. If a person enters my property without my permission or invitation, it is trespassing, which is obviously a criminal offense. It is no different for the state border. This invasion must be stopped or the fabric of Texas society will be changed forever. I urge to committee to pass this bill forthwith so it can be considered on the house floor.

Bill Mackey

self

Tyler, TX

How is this not already a criminal offense? Make illegal entry a criminal offense with severe penalties.

Annette Findling

ARW

Lakeway, TX

Stop all illegal entry to the US!

Donna Scarborough

Grassroits

Flint, TX

All eyes are on Texas. You are grown and will not be here forever. Forget your silly politics and get these bills passed. Send a message and be heroes. Show Washington DC how to govern. Both Texas teams are playing baseball and we are in the spot light. Lead the country! Make us proud. Thank you.

Donna Scarborough

Whitney Riley

Self

Hondo, TX

Senate Bill 11 creates a criminal penalty for improper entry from a foreign nation and passed in a vote of 19-12, with all Democrats voting against the measure. One has to question why all Democrats are voting against this measure. Create a system for legal entry that is not cumbersome and impossible for many. I urge the House to pass this bill and get on with the business of securing Texas for Texans. The House has not been an effective body even though the overwhelming desire of the population of Texas is to secure our border and secure elections. In addition, We the People do not recognize Dade Phelan as Speaker and do not consent to him governing.

Sheryl Hazelwood

Self - Retired

Tyler, TX

I support SB 11. It should be obvious that people entering our country illegally are breaking the law (see definition of illegal!). If we want illegal activity to stop, there must be severe penalties and immediate enforcement. Handing someone a piece of paper saying, "come back in a couple of years and get your wrist slapped" isn't working!!!