

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Homeland Security & Public Safety
For HB 884

Compiled on: Tuesday, March 28, 2023 5:20 PM

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Hearing Date: March 28, 2023 2:00 PM - or upon final adjourn./recess or bill referral if permission granted

Mark Anthony Vasquez
The Statewide Leadership Council
Weslaco, TX

My name is Mark Anthony Vasquez and I submit my opposition to HB 884 because it promotes the perversion of state's rights over the legitimacy of national government for no other reason but to proffer the suggestion that authority rests in the hands of those who manipulate the very authority they claim to adhere to. I am a resident of the Rio Grande Valley in Hidalgo County, Texas and we are all too familiar with the perversion of authority as it already stands - where a large range of agency is given to an assortment of state-funded outlets of patrol and detainment. We live here on the border and we can attest to the severity of such state-funded initiatives and we know exactly how this translates on the ground. I submit my public comment today knowing full and well that those constituents living in the northern counties have no real tangible idea what is going on at the border. I am in opposition to HB 884 because it is a bill that is built upon the mis-educated fears of a mass of people who refuse to see our place in the story of this country as anything other than a nuisance and a problem that demands money and military resources as remedy.

I stand in opposition to HB 884 because the bill itself is uncharacteristic of the level of maturity and responsible government that we cherish as a people. Already in place within the border communities is the depth of the truth - which demands we look to our north and acknowledge the presence of the checkpoints and to look south and to identify the checkpoints at our point of entry, and then to assume that what is lacking of all the assortment of patrol vehicles and detainment centers and the thousands of employed operatives active in these tragedies is the lack of more and more authority over the people. I am in opposition to HB 884 because it makes a mockery out of the very principles of law and order we have come to trust in as a people. That there is an order of crime and punishment and law and order in our border communities that is excluded from our traditional understanding of due process is a heavily documented fact. HB 884 only seeks to contribute to this culture of exemption - a culture that is already the source of a wide-array of civil rights abuses on the border - where the laws of the land do not apply as in other parts of our federation and where there is an entirely different rule of law. The fact that our elected officials endorse this culture of exemption on the border communities is evidence of the disregard these officials exercise upon the residents of our border communities and is an apt illustration of the very mis-directed callousness which permeates the discussion regarding our border communities.

I am in opposition to HB 884 because it is a mockery and a perverted use of representative-government resources and a failed attitude when seeking to find remedy to such a complex issue as is the humanitarian crisis on the border.