



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
AUSTIN

March 2, 2026

Senator John Thune
Majority Leader, United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker, United States House of
Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Senator Chuck Schumer
Senate Democratic Leader, United States
Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader, United States House of
Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressional Leadership:

We write in the immediate aftermath of the terrorist attack on the citizens of Austin, Texas. In the early morning hours of Sunday, March 1, 2026, a gunman opened fire on innocent citizens gathered along West 6th Street, killing two Americans and wounding 14 others before being shot and killed by Austin police officers. The FBI has confirmed it is investigating the incident as an act of terrorism.

On behalf of the undersigned Texas House Republicans, we write to you today with a clear and urgent message: The time for deliberation has passed. The American people—and the people of Texas—demand immigration policies that place the safety and welfare of Americans first. Every day that Congress fails to act is another day that puts American lives at risk.

Terrorists do not care about party affiliation. They do not care about our race, our gender, our differing viewpoints, or the debates that define our democracy. They do not distinguish between conservatives and liberals, Republicans and Democrats, men or women, Black or White. To them, we are all the same target. While Americans on both sides of the aisle disagree—sometimes fiercely—on policy, we share far more in common with one another than we will ever share with radical Islamic extremism. Conservatives and liberals debate. We argue. We vote. That is the American way. Radical Islam will never compromise with us, because the very freedoms that all Americans cherish—freedom of speech, freedom of religion, equality under the law, the right to live as we choose—stand in direct and fundamental opposition to everything they



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believe. There is no negotiating table with those who view our way of life as an abomination. The time to act is now.

Accordingly, the undersigned Texas House Republicans demand the following immediate actions:

- 1. Fully Fund the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).** DHS is the frontline defense of this nation. Budgetary obstruction and political gamesmanship that starves DHS of the resources it needs is not a negotiating tactic, it is a national security failure. Congress must pass full, unencumbered funding for DHS without delay.
- 2. Immediately Freeze All H-1B Visa Issuances.** Until a comprehensive audit of existing visa holders and their current status is completed, Congress must enact an immediate freeze on all new H-1B visa issuances. We must know who is in this country, why they are here, and whether they pose any risk to national security.
- 3. Pause All Immigration Until Proper Vetting Protocols Are Established.** We do not have an adequate accounting of who is in this country. Until we can guarantee that our systems are capable of identifying, tracking, and vetting individuals who enter the United States, we cannot in good conscience continue to process new immigration applications at the current pace. A pause is not anti-immigrant—it is pro-American.
- 4. Redirect Resources Toward Identifying Threats Already Within Our Borders.** We must know who is here and whether they intend to do harm. This requires a concerted, well-funded effort to cross-reference immigration records, law enforcement databases, and intelligence reports to identify individuals who pose a credible threat to American citizens. This is not optional—it is essential.

The people of Texas are tired of watching Washington offer rhetoric in place of results. More Americans will be killed if Congress continues to treat border security and immigration enforcement as political footballs. We do not send our representatives to Washington to tweet; we send them to govern.

Let us be direct: If Congress refuses to act, then Congress must empower the states to act. Texas has demonstrated repeatedly that it will not stand idle while Washington fails. We will use every legal and legislative tool available to protect our citizens, with or without federal cooperation.



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Americans need results. We need leadership. We need Congress to take its responsibilities seriously. The time is now.

Respectfully and urgently submitted,

Handwritten signature of Cole Hefner in black ink.

Rep. Cole Hefner
Chair of Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs

Handwritten signature of Daniel Alders in blue ink.

Rep. Daniel Alders

Handwritten signature of Jeff Barry in black ink.

Rep. Jeff Barry

Handwritten signature of Cecil Bell in black ink.

Rep. Cecil Bell

Handwritten signature of Keith Bell in black ink.

Rep. Keith Bell

Handwritten signature of Greg Bonnen in black ink.

Rep. Greg Bonnen

Handwritten signature of Brad Buckley in black ink.

Rep. Brad Buckley

Handwritten signature of Ben Bumgarner in black ink.

Rep. Ben Bumgarner

Handwritten signature of Giovanni Capriglione in black ink.

Rep. Giovanni Capriglione

Handwritten signature of David Cook in black ink.

Rep. David Cook

Handwritten signature of Tom Craddick in black ink.

Rep. Tom Craddick

Handwritten signature of Charles Cunningham in black ink.

Rep. Charles Cunningham

Handwritten signature of Pat Curry in black ink.

Rep. Pat Curry

Handwritten signature of Jay Dean in black ink.

Rep. Jay Dean

Handwritten signature of Mark Dorazio in black ink.

Rep. Mark Dorazio

Handwritten signature of Paul Dyson in black ink.

Rep. Paul Dyson



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Handwritten signature of Caroline Fairly in black ink.

Rep. Caroline Fairly

Handwritten signature of James Frank in blue ink.

Rep. James Frank

Handwritten signature of Stan Gerdes in black ink.

Rep. Stan Gerdes

Handwritten signature of Ryan Guillen in purple ink.

Rep. Ryan Guillen

Handwritten signature of Cody Harris in black ink.

Rep. Cody Harris

Handwritten signature of Caroline Harris-Davila in black ink.

Rep. Caroline Harris-Davila

Handwritten signature of Sam Harless in black ink.

Rep. Sam Harless

Handwritten signature of Richard Hayes in black ink.

Rep. Richard Hayes

Handwritten signature of Hillary Hickland in black ink.

Rep. Hillary Hickland

Handwritten signature of Janis Holt in black ink.

Rep. Janis Holt

Handwritten signature of Andy Hopper in black ink.

Rep. Andy Hopper

Handwritten signature of Lacey Hull in black ink.

Rep. Lacey Hull

Handwritten signature of Todd Hunter in black ink.

Rep. Todd Hunter

Handwritten signature of Carrie Isaac in black ink.

Rep. Carrie Isaac

Handwritten signature of Helen Kerwin in black ink.

Rep. Helen Kerwin

Handwritten signature of Ken King in black ink.

Rep. Ken King

Handwritten signature of Stan Kitzman in black ink.

Rep. Stan Kitzman

Handwritten signature of Marc LaHood in blue ink.

Rep. Marc LaHood



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Handwritten signature of Stan Lambert in black ink.

Rep. Stan Lambert

Handwritten signature of Brooks Landgraf in black ink.

Rep. Brooks Landgraf

Handwritten signature of Jeff Leach in black ink.

Rep. Jeff Leach

Handwritten signature of Terri Leo-Wilson in blue ink.

Rep. Terri Leo-Wilson

Handwritten signature of Janie Lopez in black ink.

Rep. Janie Lopez

Handwritten signature of AJ Louderback in black ink.

Rep. AJ Louderback

Handwritten signature of John Lujan in black ink.

Rep. John Lujan

Handwritten signature of Shelley Luther in black ink.

Rep. Shelley Luther

Handwritten signature of Don McLoughlin in black ink.

Rep. Don McLoughlin

Handwritten signature of John McQueeney in black ink.

Rep. John McQueeney

Handwritten signature of Will Metcalf in blue ink.

Rep. Will Metcalf

Handwritten signature of Morgan Meyer in black ink.

Rep. Morgan Meyer

Handwritten signature of Brent Money in black ink.

Rep. Brent Money

Handwritten signature of Candy Noble in black ink.

Rep. Candy Noble

Handwritten signature of Mike Olcott in black ink.

Rep. Mike Olcott

Handwritten signature of Tom Oliverson in black ink.

Rep. Tom Oliverson

Handwritten signature of Angelia Orr in black ink.

Rep. Angelia Orr

Handwritten signature of Jared Patterson in black ink.

Rep. Jared Patterson



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Handwritten signature of Dennis Paul in black ink.

Rep. Dennis Paul

Handwritten signature of Dade Phelan in black ink.

Rep. Dade Phelan

Handwritten signature of Katrina Pierson in blue ink.

Rep. Katrina Pierson

Handwritten signature of Keresa Richardson in black ink.

Rep. Keresa Richardson

Handwritten signature of Nate Schatzline in black ink.

Rep. Nate Schatzline

Handwritten signature of Alan Schoolcraft in black ink.

Rep. Alan Schoolcraft

Handwritten signature of Matt Shaheen in black ink.

Rep. Matt Shaheen

Handwritten signature of Joanne Shofner in black ink.

Rep. Joanne Shofner

Handwritten signature of Shelby Slawson in black ink.

Rep. Shelby Slawson

Handwritten signature of David Spiller in purple ink.

Rep. David Spiller

Handwritten signature of Valoree Swanson in black ink.

Rep. Valoree Swanson

Handwritten signature of Carl Tepper in blue ink.

Rep. Carl Tepper

Handwritten signature of Steve Toth in blue ink.

Rep. Steve Toth

Handwritten signature of Ellen Troxclair in black ink.

Rep. Ellen Troxclair

Handwritten signature of Gary VanDeaver in black ink.

Rep. Gary VanDeaver

Handwritten signature of Cody Vasut in black ink.

Rep. Cody Vasut

Handwritten signature of Wes Virdell in black ink.

Rep. Wes Virdell

Handwritten signature of Terry Wilson in black ink.

Rep. Terry Wilson

Handwritten signature of Trey Wharton in black ink.

Rep. Trey Wharton