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## **Senator Huffman and Representative Jetton File Border Security Funding Bill**

AUSTIN, TX - Senator Joan Huffman and Representative Jacey Jetton filed legislation to provide an additional \$1.5 billion in funding for border security operations and the construction of a border wall and \$40 million to the Department of Public Safety for border security operations and to ensure public safety and security in the Colony Ridge development in Liberty County. Huffman and Jetton filed identical legislation to address these critical needs outlined in Governor Abbott's call for the Fourth Called Special Session.

“The State of Texas has stepped up to protect Texans. We’ve invested billions of state taxpayer funds for manpower, barriers, and technology to deter illegal immigration into our state,” said Huffman. “Operation Lone Star continues to fill the dangerous gaps created by the Biden Administration's refusal to secure the border. In just fiscal year 2023 alone, we captured 169 individuals that are on the FBI’s Terror Watch List illegally entering into our state. Every dangerous individual who is apprehended or arrested and every ounce of drugs seized would have otherwise made their way into communities across Texas and the nation without our state’s efforts. This bill provides critical funding for our law enforcement to continue our efforts and I look forward to getting them the support that they need.”

“The Biden Administration’s open-border policies have created a humanitarian and public safety crisis at our southern border,” Jetton said. “While the federal government fails to keep drug cartels, human traffickers, convicted criminals, and dangerous drugs like fentanyl out of our country, Texas will continue to step up to ensure the safety of our communities. I am proud to author HB 3 to address these critical needs in our state.”

SB 3/HB 3 provides critically needed funding for border security operations and the creation, maintenance, and operation of a border wall along Texas’ southern border. This border wall will direct illegal immigrants to legal points of entry for processing by U.S. Customs and Border Patrol.

The additional construction of the border wall will be a key step in supporting law enforcement officers involved with Operation Lone Star, the multi-agency state level effort to secure the southern border despite federal inaction. Law enforcement officers involved with Operation Lone Star have apprehended more than 480,000 illegal immigrants, resulting in over 35,700 criminal arrests and over 434 million lethal doses of fentanyl seized.

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