

Lucio Weighs In On Migrant Crisis

Austin, TX – Senator Eddie Lucio (D-Brownsville), commented on the migrant humanitarian crisis along the Texas-Mexico border.

Lawmakers in Austin continue to help border communities with migrant crisis*

As the Trump administration begins to crack down on asylum seekers, Texas state lawmakers are weighing in on the federal issue.

Although the processing of migrants asking for asylum in the Valley is a federal matter, two state senators say they're working with the governor's office to continue to provide local governments and non-profits with funding to keep them afloat.

"We are being overwhelmed," said State Senator Sen. Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa (TX-20). "We are being swamped."

Hinojosa says local governments don't have the resources to be helping the family units asking for asylum.

Working with the governor's office in June, Governor Abbott was able to place Texas resources on border security.

"Securing the border is the federal government's job but Texas is stepping to help out," said Gov. Abbott in June.

\$1 billion were approved to fund the National Guard and the Texas Department of Public Safety to assist Border Patrol with civilian duties.

Also in June, local governments like McAllen, could soon receive FEMA funding after spending nearly \$1 million in the last five years helping migrants.

Regardless of the money spent, both state senators say they sympathize with the dangerous situations many migrants face.

"They're being abused, they're being killed by organized crime," said Sen. Eddie Lucio, Jr. (TX-27).

As the summer continues and asylum policies change, lawmakers in Austin continue to find solutions to a federal situation in their local communities.

"We work bipartisanly in Austin and I think that's the key," said Sen. Lucio, Jr.

Before coming to his visit to the Valley, Texas Senator John Cornyn spoke on the Senate floor urging Congress to pass the Humane Act, which plans on helping local governments in the valley and ranchlands on repaying the costs of the migrant humanitarian crisis on the border.

* Caicedo, Santiago. "Lawmakers in Austin continue to help border communities with migrant crisis." *4 Valley Central*, 16 July 2019, <https://valleycentral.com/news/local/state-senators-in-austin-continue-to-help-border-communities-with-migrants-crisis>