

## TEXAS'S ROLE IN HOMELAND SECURITY: CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY AND PATH FORWARD

### HISTORICAL CONTEXT AND CURRENT CRISIS

Texas has historically faced persistent security threats along its border, including bandits, smugglers, and foreign adversaries, often with limited federal support. Today, we face an unprecedented crisis that demands immediate action. Mexican cartels have evolved beyond criminal enterprises into sophisticated organizations that effectively control both sides of the southern border, presenting an existential threat to Texas's sovereignty and security.

#### SCALE OF THE THREAT

- Cartels have established governance structures throughout Mexico and along the entire southern border, exercising control through sophisticated operations across multiple domains: space, air, land, river/sea, subterranean, cyber, and electromagnetic
- Texas has become the geostrategic center for cartel expansion into the United States
- Major national security threats, including state actors (China, Russia, Iran) and terrorist organizations (Taliban, Al-Qaeda, Haqqani network), maintain connections with these cartels
- Over the past four years, unprecedented levels of illegal immigration have occurred through both border crossings and commercial flights

#### TEXAS'S CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY

**The Constitution empowers Texas to act:**

- Article I, § 10, Clause 3 preserves state sovereign authority for self-defense during invasion or imminent danger
- This authority becomes crucial given federal limitations in fulfilling Article IV, § 4 obligations to protect states against invasion

#### POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

The scale and sophistication of current threats demand more than federal action alone can provide. The stakes are clear: failure to act decisively will result in continued erosion of Texas' sovereignty and the further expansion of hostile influence and control throughout its territory. Texas must leverage its constitutional authority to secure its borders, protect its citizens, and dismantle hostile operations within its territory. This requires not only strategic coordination with federal partners but also the establishment of permanent, state-controlled homeland security capabilities to address both immediate and long-term threats.



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