



Brian Birdwell
Texas State Senator

In Support of Attorney General Greg Abbott

Yesterday I wrote Attorney General Greg Abbott to express my support for his action of filing suit against our federal administration in an effort to preclude the president's "executive action," or what is more properly described as his unlawful order, directing subordinates in the executive branch to blatantly disobey U.S. immigration law. While the bulk of the authority to correct this problem lies in our federal office holders, your action in this matter is critical; Texas must pursue another possible path to correct the balance of power and protect our citizens from an unlawful and unconstitutional action.

Presidents can take numerous executive actions that are constitutional and proper under the U.S. Constitution, such as nominations to the federal bench or signing or vetoing a bill arriving from the Congress. However, to call this unlawful order an "executive action" is grossly inaccurate, if not deliberately deceptive, and gives this unconstitutional action an air of legitimacy.

There are many dangers with the president's failure to adhere to his oath of office. First, by giving such an order, he incentivizes—and likely guarantees—future defiance of our immigration laws. Worse yet, law-abiding citizens of the United States will pay the taxes needed to provide education, health care and other public services to those who have broken our laws. Certainly Texas' high population and proximity to the U.S.-Mexico border would ensure that our citizens bear a disproportionate level of that expense compared with citizens of other states.

Most dangerous of all, if Congress fails to stop this action, it will establish the dangerous precedent of our federally-elected representatives believing it is acceptable for a president to act outside the bounds of the U.S. Constitution. This is in clear contravention of our founders' intent for citizens to live in a representative republic where the people are the masters of their government. If this problem is not corrected, we will simply begin electing the executive-branch despot of our choosing. Indeed, our republic hangs in the balance.

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