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Mission:

*To make legislative
recommendations to
help the Texas Border
Region grow and
prosper economically.*



**Statement of the Texas Border Coalition
to the
Texas Senate Committee on State Affairs
Senate Bill 4 by Perry et al.**

**February 2, 2017
Austin, Texas**

The Texas Border Coalition is a collective voice of border mayors, county judges, economic development commissions, international bridges and business leaders focused on issues that affect the 2.5 million people living along the Texas-Mexico border. TBC works closely with state and federal representatives to educate, advocate and secure funding for transportation, immigration and border security, workforce development and healthcare programs that benefit the economically disadvantaged counties from El Paso to Brownsville.

Our coalition opposes SB 4 as filed. It is the Coalition's position that local and county governments should control how they process undocumented persons who are arrested for alleged criminal activity.

In contrast, SB 4 as filed would tie the hands of local and county governments on this issue and interfere with the ability of local and county law enforcement to assess and focus limited resources on their communities' law enforcement priorities. This could undermine public safety for local residents.

Further, SB 4 in its current version would task local and county peace officers with the work of federal immigration officials. Local and county law enforcement officers are not trained to do the work of federal officials or to recognize the specialized documents that provide proof of immigration status. If SB4 is passed without funding to provide adequate training for local officers, it will create another unfunded mandate that saps local and county law enforcement resources. This situation could harm effective policing in our communities and undermine trust in law enforcement officers.

Undocumented persons who are apprehended for serious crimes are already routinely transferred to federal custody. Using state law to require local and county law enforcement to comply with a voluntary federal program flies in the face of the principle of local control and could undermine public safety in our border communities.

The Texas Border Coalition opposes SB 4.