



JIM STEINEKE MAJORITY LEADER

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 5th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

(608) 266-2401
Toll-Free: (888) 534-0005
Rep.Steineke@legis.wi.gov

P.O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708-8953

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
CONTACT: Rep. Jim Steineke

May 11, 2021
(608) 266-2418

Steineke Presses for Aid to Address Southern Border Crisis

MADISON – A resolution authored by State Representative Jim Steineke (R-Kaukauna) asking Governor Evers to send aid to southern border states was approved by the state Assembly this afternoon. Following a tour of the Del Rio Sector of the U.S.-Mexico border and hearing from local border patrol about the need for resources to address the influx of migrants, states like Wisconsin need to send whatever help they can to address the mounting national security and humanitarian crisis. The resolution calls for the governor to send aid, including the Wisconsin National Guard, to the U.S.-Mexico border.

“Seeing what our border patrol, local law enforcement, and property owners down on the border are dealing with on a day-to-day basis was a truly eye-opening experience,” said Rep. Steineke. “They are begging for help, and we cannot continue to wait for Washington to act – we need leadership at the state level.”

Border Patrol officials made it clear that the crisis at the border is a national security issue. While some who cross are simply looking for a better life than the one they left, sex offender apprehensions are up 2,433%, criminal migrant apprehensions are up 265%, and U.S. officials have encountered migrants from 67 countries including Syria, Russia, Iraq, China, and Cuba. With the influx of bad actors and drugs coming across the border, the burden of action should not fall solely on border states when we know this is a problem that affects the entire nation.

The crisis at the border is also a humanitarian one. While many migrants drown while crossing the river or die in the hot Texas wilderness, many more end up enslaved to the Mexican cartels who helped them cross. In the Del Rio Sector alone, it is estimated that the cartels are making \$24 million per week in human trafficking. Unaccompanied children crossings are up 258%.

“From both a national security and humanitarian standpoint, it is imperative that Wisconsin take action to help our southern neighbors address the crisis at the border,” continued Rep. Steineke. “With this resolution, we’re telling the governor to pick up the phone, call our border states, and see what they need from Wisconsin to secure and protect our borders.”

###