



## DONNA HOWARD

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

DISTRICT 48

### Statement from Rep. Howard on Texas border conditions

I am disturbed and angered to see and hear the reports of the current conditions at the Texas border for children and families. No human being should be denied hygienic or dietary necessities or be housed in unsafe and unsanitary conditions. This is a humanitarian crisis. As your representative for House District 48, I want to assure you that you are on record as being horrified by this and that you want our government to represent our values by doing everything we can to provide humane support for people seeking refuge in the loving arms of our great democracy.

I have signed, along with other Texas House members, a bipartisan letter to the acting Secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Kevin McAleenan, demanding improvement of the treatment of children held in immigration detention facilities across the state and calling for a shortened length of stay in the facilities.

Due to the federal nature of the stays, heightened by the use of federal land and facilities, my colleagues and I have limited jurisdiction as state legislators. Because the Texas legislature will not meet until 2021, unless the Governor calls a special session, we cannot pass any legislation to help. However, we are working to identify opportunities to leverage our state offices in order to organize support and improve conditions.

In the meantime, I am supporting the legal efforts of advocacy groups and encourage my constituents to volunteer or donate to one of the many organizations that provide pro-bono or low cost representation, shelter, or supplies to immigrants and asylum seekers on the border, such as RAICES, Immigrant Families Together, and the Texas Civil Rights Project. A more extensive list of organizations involved has been compiled by the Texas Tribune and [can be viewed on their website](#).

Families belong together, and we will not be silent in District 48.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donna Howard".