

STATE OF MONTANA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 5-2024

EXECUTIVE ORDER DECLARING A DISASTER TO EXIST IN SUPPORT OF THE STATE OF TEXAS, WARRANTING SUPPORT FROM THE STATE OF MONTANA

WHEREAS, one of the chief responsibilities of government is to protect the safety and security of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, Article IV, Section 4 of the United States Constitution provides, “The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican Form of Government, and shall protect each of them against Invasion”; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Border Patrol reported arresting 249,785 illegal migrants on the Mexican border in December 2023, a new all-time record and up 31% from November 2023; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Border Patrol reported encounters soaring by more than 100% from fiscal year 2019 to fiscal year 2023; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Border Patrol reported encountering 169 individuals on the terrorist watchlist in fiscal year 2023, up from zero in fiscal year 2019; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Border Patrol reported encountering 598 individuals with gang affiliations at the Southwest border in fiscal year 2023; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Customs and Border Protection reported seizing 26,718 pounds of fentanyl at the Southwest border in fiscal year 2023, an increase of more than 150% over fiscal year 2021; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration seized more than 3 million fentanyl pills in 2023, a 78% year-over-year increase, in the region that includes Colorado, Utah, Montana, and Wyoming; and

WHEREAS, the State of Montana has experienced the devastating consequences of the nation’s unsecure southern border, including an increase in human trafficking and drug trafficking; and

WHEREAS, the Montana Department of Justice reported 143 human trafficking cases in Montana in 2023, up from 68 cases in 2021 and from seven in 2015; and

WHEREAS, the Montana Department of Justice reports Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area task forces seized a total of 346,383 dosage units of fentanyl in Montana between January 1 and September 30, 2023, an 83% increase in the total amount seized in all of 2022; and

WHEREAS, the throes of illegal migrants and fatal drugs pouring across the nation's Southwest border constitute an invasion; and

WHEREAS, the President of the United States has failed to enforce the nation's immigration laws, thereby aiding and abetting this surge in illegal migration and illegal drug flow across the Southwest border; and

WHEREAS, in response to the unprecedeted, ongoing border security crisis along the United States-Mexico border, the Governor of Texas has requested assistance and support from other states to respond to the border security crisis; and

WHEREAS, the State of Montana has an obligation to its people and all Americans to defend our national sovereignty, territorial integrity, and public safety; and

WHEREAS, the State of Montana can assist by supporting combined statewide operations along the 1,250 miles of Texas-Mexico border by providing essential resources and capabilities; and

WHEREAS, the State of Montana is a member of the Emergency Management Assistance Compact ("EMAC"), pursuant to Montana Code Annotated Title 10, Chapter 3, Part 10, through which Montana can provide mutual assistance to member states in order to respond to disasters that over-extend the ability of those other member states to reduce, counteract, or remove the danger; and

WHEREAS, these conditions warrant the Governor to mobilize state resources, including but not limited to the Montana National Guard, under the terms and conditions of EMAC to meet the needs of the impacted member states; and

WHEREAS, the State Emergency Coordination Center is coordinating with local, state, and federal agencies; and

WHEREAS, the Governor has broad statutory authority under Montana Code Annotated, Title 10, Chapter 3, to mobilize state resources in the event of a disaster.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GREG GIANFORTE, Governor of the State of Montana, pursuant to the authority vested in me under the Constitution, and the laws of the State of Montana, do hereby declare a disaster exists, warranting the State of Montana's support to the State of Texas.

This Order is effective immediately.



GIVEN under my hand and the GREAT SEAL of
the State of Montana this 2nd day of
April, 2024.

A blue ink signature of the name "GREG GIANFORTE" followed by "Governor" underneath, written in a cursive, flowing style.

ATTEST:

A blue ink signature of the name "Christi Jacobsen" followed by "Secretary of State" underneath, written in a cursive, flowing style.