



JEFF LEACH



STATE REPRESENTATIVE • DISTRICT 67

October 9, 2020

Sent Via Electronic Transmission

Dear Attorney General Paxton,

As Chairman of the House Committee on Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence, with jurisdiction and oversight of the Office of the Attorney General, I write to express my strong concerns about recent allegations levied against you by senior officials of the agency. Without question, these allegations are serious and I support a full and complete investigation by appropriate law enforcement agencies.

As Attorney General, you are charged with leading and stewarding an agency of more than 4,000 hard-working Texans in 38 divisions and 117 offices across our state. The important duties and responsibilities of your office - among them child support, consumer protection, victims' services and handling over 30,000 cases annually - requires not only the trust of those who work under your leadership, but also the trust of the people of Texas whom you are entrusted to serve.

Certainly you, like all Texans, are entitled to a presumption of innocence until an investigation is completed and a judicial determination is rendered. That said, at this time Texans have good reason to be concerned that the important work of the agency may not be possible under your continued leadership. If there is any truth whatsoever to the factual and legal claims of your own senior staff, I believe you must voluntarily resign your position and urge you to do so. Bottom line: The operations of this vital agency must continue without interruption and the trust of the people of Texas in their Chief Law Enforcement Officer must be restored.

Irrespective of that decision, by way of this letter I formally request that you provide a written report as to what specific steps are being taken by you and your newly appointed First Assistant Attorney General, Brent Webster, to ensure that the effective operations of the agency continue in full force and effect, without delay, without interference and without interruption. I would ask that such a report be provided to all Members of the Legislature within seven (7) days of the date of this letter.

For Texas,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Leach".

CC:

Governor Greg Abbott
Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick
Speaker Dennis Bonnen
Members of the Texas House of Representatives
Members of the Texas Senate