Border security debate about politics, too
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Violence along the U.S.-Mexico border was the topic of political rhetoric that escalated in Washington this week.

The three highest elected office holders in Texas, Gov. Rick Perry, Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison and Sen. John Cornyn — all Republicans — railed against the federal government for failing to secure the border.

They want the National Guard, and they want a Predator drone.

Perry used a U.S. Chamber of Commerce event to lash out at the Federal Aviation Administration for failing to expedite deployment of the Predator drone — which is coming as soon as FAA clears a path through commercial traffic.

Hutchison and Cornyn used a Senate hearing to decry the failure of the government to secure the border, and the White House for its failure to deploy the National Guard in Texas.

"I’ve been very hesitant to ask for the National Guard in the past, but we are in an emergency," Hutchison pleaded. "We need manpower, we need help."

All this comes against the ongoing violence in Mexican border cities, including the killing of three Americans in Juarez with ties to the U.S. consulate.

And last month a border rancher, Robert Krentz, a man known to hand out a lunch to migrants walking on his property, was killed by someone authorities believe crossed illegally from Mexico.

Still, many suspect politics as the ulterior motive in the desperate cries from Texas politicians.

Perry faces a re-election challenge from former Houston Mayor Bill White, a Democrat, who has accused the governor of using the border as a “photo op” in a get-tough campaign on crime.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., went out of her way to disagree with Cornyn’s analysis of federal failure to secure the border, noting that the number of Border Patrol agents has doubled to 20,000 since 2004.

She said every mile of vehicle and pedestrian fence, required by Congress and approved by the Bush administration, has been built.

The border is “more policed and militarized than in any other time in history, in a completely unprecedented way,” said Dr. David Spener, a
Trinity University associate professor and author of “Clandestine Crossings: Migrants and Coyotes on the Texas-Mexico Border.”

Perry and Cornyn claim spillover violence is threatening U.S. cities.

But Anthony Placido with the Drug Enforcement Administration, and Kevin Perkins with the FBI, defined spillover violence as planned cartel attacks on the U.S. government or law enforcement, not trafficker-on-trafficker violence.

“This notion of spillover violence from the drug trade in Mexico ignores the fact that the drug trade is a U.S. trade as well,” Spener said. “To identify that problem as emanating from Mexico is also to turn reality on its head.”

Turning the tables on Perry, the five Democratic congressmen along the Texas border with Mexico complained that federal funds to offset local costs have not been distributed fairly by the state.

Border counties have received as little as 3 percent of the $125 million Homeland Security provides in grants each year, said Rep. Ciro Rodriguez, D-San Antonio.

The Democrats said that as they fight in Congress to “ensure Texas gets its fair share of federal funding, we hope the state would in turn allocate the funding where it is needed most.”

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Comments

4 comment(s) on "Border security debate about politics, too"

Kirk 9:24 AM

Border is li keep illegals aliens out. It is that simple-ask Mexico, they have more draconian rules then AZ!!! And i will be going to AZ this year to supprt them. Fewer illegals and seiu would be really nice!!!

Anonymous 2:45 AM

Here is this goofy-silly border “security” assigned belief system in full swing again. If you are a Republican, your assigned belief is the borders should be secured; the laws should be enforced and, unfortunately, there will be profiling to adequately implement this system. If you are a Democrat, your assigned belief is multi-faceted; amnesty for most, no profiling, no disruption of families in the USA, blah, blah, blah. Both parties will not bite the hand that feeds them so there will be no authentication for employment. American people see what they suspect are individuals here illegally and do nothing, never a call to Border or Immigration services—as both parties believe government will handle the problem. There is no third opinion, right? OK, here is one: this government is so pathetically corrupt and dysfunctional, simple laws like immigration cannot be enforced even if they were given “special powers” and billions more to function. But, in order for the sheeple to believe IN government, there must always be that hoax of an option that government is just ready and willing but for some peculiar reason it cannot get its hands around the issue.

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