



THE SENATE OF TEXAS
MORGAN LAMANTIA
DISTRICT 27

**A Statement from Senator Morgan LaMantia on the
Recent Tragedy Outside of the Ozanam Center in Brownsville, Texas**

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AUSTIN, TX - Senator Morgan LaMantia (D-South Padre Island) issued the following statement regarding the recent tragedy outside of the Ozanam Center in Brownsville, Texas.

"Yesterday morning, a driver claimed the lives of eight pedestrians at a bus stop near the Bishop Enrique San Padro Ozanam Center, a homeless shelter currently housing migrants. This incident serves as a painful reminder of the dangers that many migrants face in their journey to seek a better life.

We value all lives equally in the state of Texas and categorizing victims of tragedy based on their citizenship flies in the face of that value. When we talk about what's happening at the border and the crisis our communities are facing, let us remember we are talking about human beings — people who have the courage and fortitude that most of us wish we had. They left everything they had behind, left everyone and everything they knew for a chance at a better life. They risked a three-month trek through some of the most dangerous terrain and violent countries for a sliver of hope.

For those lucky few that got here and for that infinitesimal percentage that survived the journey, made it to our state, and were allowed to stay, we failed them. Their lives were taken, and their families' hopes were taken. Words fall short in these instances, but my deepest condolences go out to all the families and friends of the victims who lost their lives and those that were injured.

I want to thank all those who answered the call to help. Brownsville ISD provided counselors, Border Patrol supported our Brownsville PD officers, and community leaders organized multiple vigils throughout our city. Although this tragedy has sent shockwaves through our community, we are coming together to support those who need us the most, and our community is stronger for it."

Senator LaMantia's office is working closely with local entities involved in this situation, including law enforcement, and community leaders. The Brownsville Police Department is leading an ongoing investigation into this tragedy and is working to address any unanswered questions. Senator LaMantia understands that this incident has caused concern and uncertainty in the community and is committed to providing updates moving forward. The priority is to provide support and assistance to those impacted by this tragedy, and ensure that the victims and their families receive justice for this tragic incident.

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