NEWS ADVISORY Steve Marshall Alabama Attorney General



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Attorney General Steve Marshall Calls on New Congress to Support Border Wall; Criticizes Speaker Pelosi for Failing to Address Border Security

(MONTGOMERY) – Alabama Attorney General Steve Marshall called on the new Congress convening today in Washington to fully fund a border wall to protect Americans and uphold the rule of law. Attorney General Marshall also criticized incoming U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-San Francisco, for deliberately ignoring border security by pushing a budget plan that funds every remaining federal agency for the balance of fiscal 2019 except for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

"It is *the* fundamental role of government to provide for the safety and security of its citizens and yet many in Washington, D.C., shirk this basic duty in order to score political points," said Attorney General Marshall. "Shame on them and shame on Speaker Pelosi for turning a blind eye to continued security threats to Americans by refusing to fund a border wall and the vital operations of U.S. Homeland Security.

"As Alabama's Attorney General, I am deeply troubled by the steady stream of dangerous illegal drugs entering my state and the impact it has on our citizens and law enforcement. Drug trafficking, human trafficking and many violent crimes committed in Alabama can be traced to criminal elements crossing our country's borders and the failure of current efforts to secure our border.

"Alabamians were shocked to learn of the brutal murder of a little 13-year-old girl in our state last year by affiliates of the Mexican drug cartel. Tragedy struck South Alabama when a woman riding her bike was hit and killed by an illegal immigrant who fled the scene, knowing that he'd already been deported twice. This week, we learned that a criminal alien previously deported for drug crimes illegally reentered the country—even returning to Alabama where his original crimes were committed—and was charged with the rape of a minor. Where does it end? *When* does it end? It ends with a border wall as the backbone of a serious and effective border-security strategy that protects Alabamians and all Americans.

"I call on Speaker Pelosi and all Members of Congress and the U.S. Senate to stand with the American people and law enforcement and fully fund the border wall to enable our hardworking U.S Homeland Security personnel to secure our borders once and for all."

Attorney General Marshall <u>participated in a White House panel</u> on protecting America's borders in August 2018.

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