



May 13, 2026

## Testimony Before the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on the Constitution and Limited Government

Ammon S. Blair, Senior Fellow

Dear Chairman Roy, Ranking Member Scanlon, and Distinguished Members of the Committee:

Good morning and thank you for inviting me to testify before you.

My name is Ammon Blair. I am a Senior Fellow with the Texas Public Policy Foundation's Secure & Sovereign Nation Initiative and a consultant to the Operation Lone Star Task Force. I previously served as a United States Border Patrol Agent in the Rio Grande Valley Sector and served more than two decades in the United States Army. My work focuses on border security, transnational criminal organizations, terrorism-related threat environments, and state homeland-defense frameworks.

The issue before this Subcommittee is not whether Americans have the right to practice religion freely. They do unequivocally. The First Amendment protects belief, worship, religious instruction, peaceful association, and voluntary observance. Texas law does the same.

However, religious liberty does not create immunity from the rule of law. A crime remains a crime regardless of religion, and no religious, ideological, or political system possesses a constitutional license to violate the rights of a sovereign nation, a sovereign state, a political subdivision, private property owners, or individual citizens.

The constitutional issue before Congress is narrower but foundational. The American constitutional order recognizes dual sovereignty between the federal government and the states. It does not recognize parallel sovereign systems operating outside constitutional supremacy, judicial review, equal protection, due process, or the rule of law. The Supremacy Clause, Equal Protection and Due Process Clauses, and Article IV guarantee one supreme constitutional order and one republican form of government.

No religious, ideological, political, or organizational system may exercise coercive civil authority independent of the Constitution while claiming immunity from constitutional accountability. This distinction between protected belief and regulable conduct is deeply rooted in American constitutional law.

Under the Tenth Amendment and longstanding police-powers doctrine, states retain inherent sovereign authority and the ongoing duty to preserve public safety, territorial integrity, property rights, institutional order, and domestic tranquility. States were never meant to function as passive subdivisions awaiting federal permission before defending constitutional order.

Texas stands at the center of this national-security crisis. Federal strategic assessments, including the 2026 U.S. Counterterrorism Strategy and the ODNI's 2026 Annual Threat Assessment, identify cartels, and Islamic terrorism as top homeland threats. These threats overlap and reinforce one another through hybrid and gray-zone operations.

Texas is confronting weaponized mass migration, cartel-engineered smuggling networks, foreign-linked governance structures operating within our communities, and systemic failure across the entire immigration-enforcement and removal cycle. These dynamics have produced concentrated enclaves with limited assimilation and fragmented allegiances, environments actively exploited by foreign terrorist organizations, hostile states, and transnational criminal networks. Migration pipelines now function as operational infrastructure for coercion, illicit finance, transnational repression, and foreign influence.

While all eyes are on conflict with Iran overseas, that conflict is not confined to distant battlefields, it is playing out right here on our shores. Iran has waged decades-long hybrid operations in the Western Hemisphere and U.S. interior, leveraging proxies including Hezbollah, Hamas, and Muslim Brotherhood-linked networks alongside cartel smuggling infrastructure.

These threat networks increasingly utilize gray-zone tactics, operating under the threshold of armed conflict inside the United States, through cyber-enabled influence operations, propaganda ecosystems, and online radicalization platforms to accelerate recruitment, coordination, and institutional influence.

These networks exploit migration corridors and distribute institutional ecosystems inside the United States. They operate through nonprofits, charities, educational institutions, advocacy groups, media ecosystems, and political coalitions to pursue influence, concealment, and institutional entrenchment.

These networks pursue the very "civilization-jihadist process" of settlement outlined in the Muslim Brotherhood's 1991 Explanatory Memorandum. That document calls for gradual institutional entrenchment to "eliminate and destroy the Western civilization from within" by building parallel power structures inside American society. Mass migration at scale can create operational and demographic conditions that facilitate long-term institutional entrenchment when vetting, assimilation, and constitutional integration mechanisms erode.

The constitutional concern is not private worship or voluntary religious practice. It arises where systems attempt to establish coercive adjudicatory structures, assert Sharia as superior civil law, obstruct access to American courts, or subordinate constitutional protections to alternative governing authority. Civilization jihad operates as a sophisticated gray-zone campaign.

Individual entities may appear benign in isolation yet collectively function as part of a broader strategy of institutional penetration, influence, and long-term entrenchment.

Texas is confronting this reality directly, exercising its sovereign authorities, including the Governor's powers as Commander-in-Chief under Article IV, Section 7 of the Texas Constitution and self-defense authorities under Article I, Section 10 of the U.S. Constitution.

Governor Abbott has designated both the Muslim Brotherhood and CAIR as foreign terrorist organizations and transnational criminal organizations at the state level. He stated: "The Muslim Brotherhood and CAIR have long made their goals clear: to forcibly impose Sharia law and establish Islam's 'mastery of the world.'"

Abbott has directed investigations into entities "masquerading as legal 'courts' staffed with 'judges' issuing orders that purportedly carry the authority to bind individuals to Islamic codes, thereby preempting state and federal laws," declaring that legal disputes in Texas "must be decided based on American law... not according to Sharia law."

Texas acts to preserve public safety, institutional integrity, and constitutional order in the face of these hybrid threats.

The Constitution protects the broadest sphere of religious liberty precisely because every person and institution within the United States ultimately remains accountable to one constitutional system, one civil sovereign, and one rule of law. That single constitutional order is what preserves ordered liberty and equal protection for all Americans, regardless of faith. No parallel system claiming supremacy over the Constitution can be permitted.

Thank you.

I look forward to your questions.