

## **Troubling Contradictions in LBB Reports on Border Security Spending**

**Legislative Budget Board (“LBB”) reports on border security spending are confusing and contradictory.** Some reports show border security spending decreasing, while others show an increase. These contradictory reports create confusion regarding state spending on border security.

**Initial reports from the LBB showed a decrease in border security spending.** The LBB’s May 2013 summary of the 2014-15 budget (83-R: [SB 1](#)) showed border security spending totaling \$94.1 million. This amount was a decrease from the \$219.5 million dedicated to border security spending in the 2012-13 budget (82-R: [HB 1](#)). This apparent decrease should raise concerns about our commitments to securing our border.

**Later reports from the LBB showed an increase in spending.** An [LBB report released in July 2013](#) shows border security spending totaling \$331.2 million in the 2014-15 budget (83-R: SB 1). The new number included spending on related items such as DPS pay raises, DNA testing, and recruiting. For example, the Schedule C salary raise for state troopers was \$74.9 million. This apparent increase is not comforting, because it includes funds from related items not spent directly on border security. This new spending number is flawed because it inflates the spending figure by not prorating the specific amounts that actually went to border security from these related items.

**These are troubling contradictions when we are attempting to determine what our state is spending on border security.** As we debate border security, it is important to have accurate and reliable information on where our money goes. If the LBB prorated the related spending, we could accurately determine the amount spent on border security. As it currently stands, the reports only offer contradicting information.