



JAMES TALARICO

TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE

April 29, 2020

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor of Texas
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, TX 78711
Delivered via Email

Dear Governor Abbott:

Long-term care facilities like nursing homes, state supported living centers, and group homes are now the epicenters of the COVID-19 pandemic. While media outlets have rightly focused on the deaths in nursing homes across the country, people with disabilities and older adults face increased risks in all institutional and congregate settings. Like nursing homes, there have been similar outbreaks and deaths in our state supported living centers, state hospitals, and group homes.

Our state government can and must do more to protect our most vulnerable Texans. That is why we respectfully request the following critical measures to defend our elderly Texans, Texans with disabilities, and the Texans on the frontline serving these communities.

- Immediate additional funding through an emergency Texas Medicaid rate increase for long-term and intermediate care facilities to help cover increased costs for direct-care staff wages and personal protective equipment (PPE);
- Greater transparency in the reporting of COVID-19 deaths and cases in nursing home facilities, state supported living centers, state hospitals, and group homes;
- Mandatory available COVID-19 testing for every employee and resident of a nursing home facility, state supported living centers, state hospitals, or group home in Texas.

Thank you for your consideration of our request, and ensuring Texas protects our most vulnerable. Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you have any questions.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Talarico".

Representative James Talarico
House District



JAMES TALARICO

TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Representative Alma A. Allen
House District 131

Representative Rafael Anchía
House District 103

Representative Michelle Beckley
House District 65

Representative Diego Bernal
House District 123

Representative Lorraine Birabil
House District 100

Representative César Blanco
House District 76

Representative Rhetta Bowers
House District 113

Representative John Bucy, III
House District 136

Representative Angie Chen Button
House District 112

Representative Gina Calanni
House District 132

Representative Terry Canales
House District 40

Representative Sheryl Cole
House District 46

Representative Garnet Coleman
House District 147

Representative Philip Cortez
House District 117

Representative Drew Darby
House District 72



JAMES TALARICO

TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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Representative Yvonne Davis
House District 111

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Representative Alex Dominguez
House District 37

Handwritten signature of Anna Eastman in black ink.

Representative Anna Eastman
House District 148

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Representative James Frank
House District 69

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Representative Barbara Gervin-Hawkins
House District 120

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Representative Jessica González
House District 104

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Representative Mary González
House District 75

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Representative Vikki Goodwin
House District 47

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Representative Roland Gutierrez
House District 119

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Representative Ana Hernandez
House District 143

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Representative Abel Herrero
House District 34

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Representative Gina Hinojosa
House District 49

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Representative Donna Howard
House District 48

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Representative Celia Israel
House District 50

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Representative Jarvis Johnson
House District 139



JAMES TALARICO

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Handwritten signature of Julie Johnson in black ink.

Representative Julie Johnson
House District 115

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Representative Stephanie Klick
House District 91

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Representative Matt Krause
House District 93

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Representative Ray Lopez
House District 125

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Representative Eddie Lucio III
House District 38

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Representative Armando Martinez
House District 39

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Representative Trey Martinez Fischer
House District 116

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Representative Terry Meza
House District 105

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Representative Ina Minjarez
House District 124

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Representative Joe Moody
House District 78

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Representative Christina Morales
House District 145

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Representative Poncho Nevarez
House District 74

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Representative Lina Ortega
House District 77

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Representative Leo Pacheco
House District 118

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Representative Mary Ann Perez
House District 144



JAMES TALARICO

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Representative Ana-Maria Ramos
House District 102

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Representative Richard Raymond
House District 42

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Representative Ron Reynolds
House District 27

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Representative Eddie Rodriguez
House District 51

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Representative Ramon Romero, Jr.
House District 90

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Representative Toni Rose
House District 110

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Representative Jon Rosenthal
House District 135

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Representative Carl Sherman, Sr.
House District 109

Handwritten signature of Shawn Thierry in black ink.

Representative Shawn Thierry
House District 146

Handwritten signature of Senfronia Thompson in black ink.

Representative Senfronia Thompson
House District 141

Handwritten signature of Chris Turner in black ink.

Representative Chris Turner
House District 101

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Representative John Turner
House District 114

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Representative Gary VanDeaver
House District 1

Handwritten signature of Armando Walle in black ink.

Representative Armando Walle
House District 140

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Representative James White
House District 19



JAMES TALARICO

TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gene Wu".

Representative Gene Wu
House District 137

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erin Zwiener".

Representative Erin Zwiener
House District 45