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SENATOR ALVARADO FILES DISASTER RESILIENCE LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE

Austin, Texas --- Last week, Senator Carol Alvarado filed a package of bills to protect Texans during disasters. Hurricane Beryl left nearly three million homes without power, exposing critical gaps in Texas's disaster preparedness and leaving our most vulnerable residents in dire straits. This legislation is aimed at closing the gap between the haves and have-nots after disasters, when safe living conditions are too often a privilege.

- SB 481 requires nursing homes and assisted living facilities to maintain emergency generators to power heating, cooling and emergency functions for at least 96 hours. In Harris County alone, 14 nursing homes and 30 assisted living facilities were without power for at least four days after Beryl struck, leaving residents exposed to extreme heat. This bill ensures facilities can maintain safe temperatures, properly store medications and operate essential medical equipment during extended outages.
- SB 482 protects utility workers by increasing penalties for assault during disasters – the same protections afforded to first responders. After Hurricane Beryl, thousands of line workers traveled from across the country to help restore power to millions of Texans. These essential workers must be protected from harassment and violence.
- SB 483 mandates that utility companies securely share customer contact information to promote timely communication during emergencies. While millions struggled without power during Hurricane Beryl, many were unable to receive basic updates about outages affecting their homes. This bill enables direct emergency communications while implementing strict data security requirements and time limits on information retention.
- SB 484 requires warning labels on portable generators that do not include carbon monoxide safety shut off features. Portable generators are one of the most dangerous consumer products on the market. Carbon monoxide deaths spike predictably because of portable generators after every major power outage and this legislation ensures consumers are properly warned when the product lacks an essential safety feature.
- SB 485 creates clear duties of care for landlords serving senior citizens and Texans with disabilities. The bill establishes clear responsibilities for landlords during disasters,

requiring them to take reasonable precautions to protect residents, prepare for hazardous conditions and ensure that staff are properly trained and available during emergencies, Additionally, landlords are prohibited from abandoning their complexes during disaster situations, emphasizing their obligation to remain present and accountable to their tenants.

- SB 486 increases criminal penalties for the abandonment of children, seniors and disabled Texans during declared disasters. With rising rates of natural disasters, caretakers must be held accountable when they desert those in their care. This bill ensures that leaving vulnerable Texans behind during their time of greatest need carries serious consequences.

These bills represent critical steps toward ensuring that all Texans have the protections and support they need when disasters strike.

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