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SENATOR
EDDIE LUCIO, JR.

March 19, 2020

The Honorable Greg Abbott,
Governor, State of Texas
State Capitol, 2S.1
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Abbott:

As our state continues to take actions to contain the spread of the coronavirus, I respectfully ask you to ensure that every part of our state has the necessary tools to defeat COVID-19. As you so appropriately have stated, this invisible disease "knows no geographic and no jurisdictional boundaries and threatens the lives of our fellow American across this entire country," which is why I respectfully ask you to please extend drive-thru testing, and increase the availability of tests, in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

In the last couple of days, we have heard that such services have been established in Houston, San Antonio, Austin, and will soon be available in Corpus Christi. Being a state senator among one of the most economically challenged and medically underserved areas of the state, I implore you to extend such critical testing in the South Texas region that I represent. As you are aware, in this region of South Texas, we have among some of the most vulnerable and uninsured populations in our state which lack a public hospital and a hospital district. Our constituents in our state's southernmost counties could be greatly protected by making more tests available. Being among Texas' highest population growth regions and being neighbors to the Country of Mexico, make the need for increased resources even more acute. Being the highest and most populated region in Texas that lacks a public hospital and a hospital district, state resources are the safety net for the constituency that we represent as Texas works to overcome this public health threat.

Thank you in advance for keeping in mind the unique challenges that the constituents that we both represent in mind as you continue to take decisive actions to protect the public's health from this coronavirus outbreak. Again, I implore you to work with our health authorities to extend testing resources to our region of Texas and for working together to fight spread of this devastating virus.

Respectfully,

Eddie Lucio, Jr.
State Senator

