

THE SENATE OF TEXAS

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SENATOR
EDDIE LUCIO, JR.

April 2, 2020

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

Dear Governor Abbott:

Thank you for your continual assurance that Texas is doing everything it can to slow the spread of COVID-19 and providing confidence to our communities that our state is steadfast behind them. I agree with you in saying that *"the State of Texas is strong; our people, resilient... When neighbors help neighbors, our resilience is redoubled. I have no doubt that Texans will continue to work together in that spirit over the coming days and weeks. And we are here to help."* It is because of this heartfelt conviction that I respectfully write to you to ask your assistance on behalf of first responders and those on the front-line fighting the coronavirus outbreak.

Unfortunately, essential staff, ancillary medical professionals, and critical state employees are fighting the spread of the coronavirus without the necessary resources, i.e., professional protective equipment, and as one health professional in my district has stated, "we are taking a sledgehammer... to slow the spread." As days become longer and people risk their lives to protect those of others, I hope you can agree that our state can help provide our constituents some peace of mind and assist their efforts to take care of their families by providing them a supplemental emergency compensation. I humbly request with the utmost respect I have for you to respectfully consider working with the Legislative Budget Board and our local units of government to find a way for Texas to augment their pay and subsequently seek federal emergency-disaster relief reimbursement. This emergency assistance is of critical importance as state and local experts share with us that the influx of COVID-19 cases is expected to change rapidly.

I thank you in advance for your consideration on behalf of thousands of Texans that you and I represent. Your efforts to assure Texans that our state is firmly behind them will not be forgotten.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eddie Lucio, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Eddie Lucio, Jr.
State Senator

