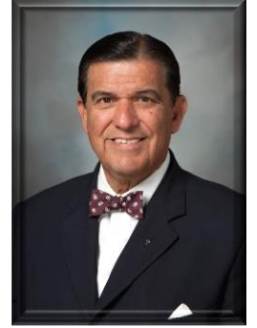




**STATE SENATOR
EDDIE LUCIO, JR.
DISTRICT 27**



Austin Capitol Office
P.O. Box 12068
Austin, TX 78711
512-463-0127

Cameron District Office
800 N. Interstate 69E, Ste. 7
Brownsville, TX 78521
956-548-0227

Hidalgo District Office
1210 W Interstate 2, Ste. 10
Pharr, Texas 78577
956-787-5227

PRESS RELEASE: Sen. Lucio Appointed to Critical COVID-19 Impact Work Groups

Lucio to address Food Supply Chain, Food Banks & Agriculture, and Public Schools & Higher Education Impacts

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Friday, April 24, 2020

CONTACT: Daniel Esparza, Legislative Director
(512) 463-0127

AUSTIN, TX – Today, Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr., (D-Brownsville) was appointed by Lt. Governor Dan Patrick to two critical work groups that will be discussing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on local communities as Texas strives to re-open.

With a successful history addressing the needs of Texas agriculture, combating hunger, and making nutritious meals available in public schools, Sen. Lucio was appointed to the Food Supply Chain, Food Banks, and Agriculture work group. Additionally, with an effective tenure as Vice Chairman of the Senate Committee on Education, Sen. Lucio was also named to the Public Schools and Higher Education work group.

"I am thankful that my productive experience addressing the agricultural needs in our state, as well as my successful track record creating education opportunities and meeting the needs of our students have allowed me to be appointed to two critical work groups studying the impact of COVID-19 on our state," said Lucio, Senator for Texas District 27.

As background, in 2011, Sen. Lucio spearheaded the summer meals program with the passage of his Senate Bill 89, and, in 2013, he established the free school breakfast program in Texas school districts by passing into law Senate Bill 376. In 1999, Sen. Lucio helped Texas farmers and the Agriculture Industry by establishing the Go-Texan Program (sponsoring HB 2719).

"In the numerous conference calls I have had in the last several weeks with concerned constituents, educators, parents, students, and community leaders, I have heard of the devastating impact COVID-19 has had on our communities," said Sen. Lucio. "I look forward to continuing to put the needs of my constituents first and voice their concerns with my Senate colleagues so that together we can work on a clear path to overcome the challenges the coronavirus public health threat has created in our region."

A total of six work groups were formed in the Texas Senate to discuss the challenges Texas will face as a result of the coronavirus outbreak in preparation for the upcoming 87th Legislature, which begins on January 2021.

"For Texas to successfully rebound, our discussions of the challenges that COVID-19 has created must be guided by the needs of our constituents," said Sen. Lucio. "I look forward to echoing the concerns of District 27 in the Texas Senate so that together -- like a policy think tank -- we can be properly prepared and ensure South Texas is an integral part of the solution to revitalize our communities and create a robust Texas economy in the upcoming legislative session," concluded Sen. Lucio.

The Senate work groups are as follows:

Food Supply Chain, Food Banks & Agriculture: Sen. Charles Perry, R-Lubbock; Sen. Peter Flores, R-Pleasanton; Sen. Bob Hall, R-Edgewood; Sen. Eddie Lucio, Jr., D-Brownsville; Sen. Jose Menendez, D-San Antonio; and, Sen. Kel Seliger, R-Amarillo.

Public Schools & Higher Ed: Sen. Larry Taylor, R-Friendswood; Sen. Brandon Creighton, R-Conroe; Sen. Eddie Lucio, Jr., D-Brownsville; Sen. Angela Paxton, R-McKinney; Sen. Beverly Powell, D-Burleson; and, Sen. Royce West, D-Dallas.

Economic Impact & Budgeting: Sen. Jane Nelson, R-Flower Mound; Sen. Paul Bettencourt, R-Houston; Sen. Brian Birdwell, R-Granbury; Sen. Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa, D-McAllen; Sen. Joan Huffman, R-Houston; Sen. Robert Nichols, R-Jacksonville; Sen. Charles Schwertner, R-Georgetown; and, Sen. John Whitmire, D-Houston.

Health, Hospitals & COVID-19 Issues: Sen. Lois Kolkhorst, R-Brenham; Sen. Dawn Buckingham, R-Lakeway; Sen. Donna Campbell, R-New Braunfels; Sen. Charles Schwertner, R-Georgetown; and, Sen. Borris Miles, D-Houston.

Jobs & Re-Opening the Economy: Sen. Kelly Hancock, R-North Richland Hills; Sen. Brandon Creighton, R-Conroe; Sen. Pat Fallon, R-Prosper; Sen. Nathan Johnson, D-Dallas; Sen. Robert Nichols, R-Jacksonville; Sen. Charles Perry, R-Lubbock; and, Sen. Judith Zaffirini, D-Laredo.

Senate Pandemic Preparedness: Sen. Bryan Hughes, R-Mineola; Sen. Carol Alvarado, D-Houston; Sen. Paul Bettencourt, R-Houston; Sen. Pat Fallon, R-Prosper; Sen. Kelly Hancock, R-North Richland Hills; Sen. Joan Huffman, R-Houston; and, Sen. John Whitmire, D-Houston.

###

Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr. (D – Brownsville) represents Cameron, Hidalgo, Kenedy, Kleberg, and Willacy Counties. He is the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Intergovernmental Relations; Vice Chairman of the Senate Committee on Education; Member of the Senate Committees on State Affairs; Veteran Affairs & Border Security; and of the Select Committees on Redistricting; and, Texas Ports. He is member of the Sunset Advisory Commission and has been an ex-officio member of the DSHS Task Force of Border Public Health Officials since 2017. Elected in 1991, Lucio is third in seniority in the Texas Senate.