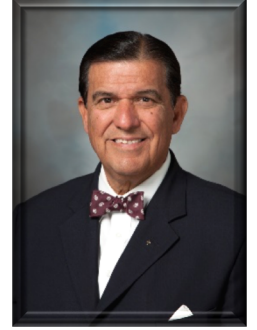




**STATE SENATOR  
EDDIE LUCIO, JR.  
DISTRICT 27**



**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

**Sen. Lucio Issues Statement on State and Local Efforts to Protect Texans in Nursing Homes**  
*Local fire departments partnering with local public health authorities to provide COVID-19 testing & Texas National Guard providing disinfection services to nursing homes across Texas*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Friday, May 15, 2020

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

**AUSTIN, TX** – Today, Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr., (D-Brownsville) issued the following statement regarding the partnership announced involving local fire departments joining the effort to expand COVID-19 testing in nursing homes throughout Texas. Earlier today, Texas Governor Greg Abbott announced that local fire departments would be working with local public health authorities to expand testing in Texas nursing homes. This announcement follows the Wednesday, May 13, announcement regarding the activation of Facilities Disinfection Teams of the Texas National Guard to help protect Texans in nursing homes from the spread of COVID-19.

**Senator Lucio statement:**

**"As history stands still worldwide, Texans -- guided by our can-do spirit -- are writing history by forging critical partnerships to combat the spread of COVID-19. I publicly thank our local fire departments for answering the call of our state in helping to protect the health of our most vulnerable members of society: our elderly in nursing homes. I sincerely thank you for agreeing to work with our local public health authorities to help protect our senior citizens in our nursing homes.**

**I also want to extend my deep appreciation to our Texas National Guard for their crucial role in helping curb the spread of this life-altering disease by agreeing to disinfect nursing homes across our great state.**

**Together, with today's local fire department announcement, these are two great examples of how Texans come together to help our communities overcome this historic public health threat. We commend, and are greatly appreciative of, the extraordinary public service that our local fire departments, local health authorities, and our Texas National Guard are providing to our communities. Thank you for helping write such positive partnerships in our modern history."**

###

*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.*