

# THE SENATE OF TEXAS

STATE CAPITOL, 3S.5  
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711  
(512) 463-0127

1210 W. INTERSTATE 2, STE. 10  
PHARR, TEXAS 78577  
(956) 787-5227



7 NORTH PARK PLAZA  
BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS 78521  
(956) 548-0227

700 FM 3168  
RAYMONDVILLE, TEXAS 78580  
(956) 689-1860, EXT. 230

SENATOR  
EDDIE LUCIO, JR.

July 4, 2020

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

Dear Governor Abbott:

Regrettably, the constituents that you and I represent are hurting and our hospitals in the Rio Grande Valley are at critical capacity, struggling to take care of patients. I write to you on behalf of the good people of the Rio Grande Valley region and respectfully request that you provide immediate help to our Valley hospitals. The severe strain the alarming surge of COVID-19 patients has overwhelmed our local ability to take care of COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 patients. Consequently, our Valley hospitals are in dire need of additional resources and medical personnel. I respectfully request Texas to strengthen its resolve to our medically underserved communities in the Senate District that I represent and that you make available resources at your disposal to immediately assist, strengthen, and support our local health care system in the Rio Grande Valley.

As I have previously shared with you, our medically underserved region does not have the capacity or resources to withstand the onslaught of coronavirus patients that we all feared the COVID-19 pandemic could bring to our economically distressed region. That is why since the onset of the coronavirus outbreak, I have been requesting Texas to strengthen its response and to help our underserved region.

In a meeting as recently as this last Wednesday, July 1, with the CEOs of our Valley Hospitals we discussed how the coronavirus outbreak has devastated our hospitals and resulted in more than a 500 percent increase in hospitalizations in our local hospitals. Regrettably, this has caused the demand for intensive care units to exceed the available supply, which puts at risk the public health and safety of the constituents that you and I represent. That is why I reiterate my prior requests for prioritized assistance to the region that I represent and seek your help in strengthening the state's response to the alarming COVID-19 outbreak in the Rio Grande Valley. Be it from the state's allocation of Federal CARES Act funding, unexpended General Revenue, or Rainy Day Fund monies, our Valley Hospitals need critical financial assistance to address their lack of resources and capacity.

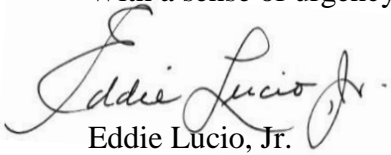
As I have previously shared with you, regrettably, our region does not have the tax base or resources to address the soaring COVID-19 outbreak. Consequently, we cannot finance locally the creation of isolated environments to expand our capacity or to retrofit, renovate, or build facilities to keep up with the surging coronavirus.



The rising tide of COVID-19 patients has strained our public health system so much that we are also in need of greater health care personnel. That is why I respectfully ask you to make increased levels of medical professionals (doctors, nurses, and support health staff) -- be it from Texas National Guard forces or from regions of the state - - available to our Valley hospitals, which are in dire need of their help. Along with greater amounts of medical supplies and personal protective equipment, our local health care system could be greatly assisted by you sending additional resources from the state's strategic reserve supply and inventory.

Governor, on behalf of the constituents that you and I represent in the Rio Grande Valley, I respectfully implore you to strengthen the Texas resolve to help our most noteworthy Valley hospitals by immediately making available much needed financial assistance along with desperately needed medical and health professional personnel. The best interest of our constituents need a Texas-sized solution and the time to act, is respectfully, now.

With a sense of urgency, I remain

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

Eddie Lucio, Jr.  
State Senator, District 27

