



The Senate of Texas

CÉSAR J. BLANCO

TEXAS SENATOR
DISTRICT 29

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SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES APPROVES LEGISLATION BY SENATOR CÉSAR BLANCO

Austin, Texas - Today, the Texas Senate Committee on Health and Human Services approved two bills authored and joint-authored by Senator César Blanco, Senate Bill 863 and Senate Bill 827 respectively. Senate Bill 863 authored by Senator Blanco, will help keep children and staff safe by providing residential child-care facilities more flexibility on where care can be provided in emergency circumstances. Senate Bill 827 by Chair Kolkhorst and joint-authored by Senator Blanco will cut and cap the cost of copays for insulin at \$50.

During COVID-19, 227 residential child-care facilities reported at least one positive case of COVID-19 of either a child or adult who had contact with a child in care. Under current law, residential child-care facilities cannot relocate children to a different facility or care for them at a different location if they need to be moved for emergencies. This made it difficult for residential child care facilities to comply with health guidelines and quarantine measures putting kids and staff at risk.

"Senate Bill 863 will help keep children and staff safe by providing residential child-care facilities more flexibility on where care can be provided in emergency circumstances," said Senator Blanco. "There were a lot of lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and this bill addresses one of those lessons."

Almost 3 million Texans, roughly 14 percent of the adult population, have diabetes. The price of insulin has increased 1,000 percent over the last 25 years, making it more and more difficult for Texans to afford. Texans frequently spend anywhere from \$300 to over \$1,000 per month on the cost of their supply of insulin, not including any additionally needed diabetes-related medical supplies. Senate Bill 827 reduces the cost of medicine needed to treat diabetes.

"Diabetes affects millions of Texans, especially Latinos and our border community, and it's reported that one in four people with diabetes are skipping their doses because they can't afford their medicine," said Senator Blanco. "This bill will rein in the cost of insulin because no one should have to choose between putting food on the table and affording their medicine."