



# The Senate of Texas

**CÉSAR J. BLANCO**

TEXAS SENATOR  
DISTRICT 29

**Press Release**

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## **Senator César J. Blanco Receives Vanguard Award from the Texas Ambulance Association**

**El Paso, Texas-** Today, Senator César J. Blanco received the Vanguard Award from the Texas Ambulance Association (TAA). This prestigious award, typically given to legislators who have significantly advanced Emergency Medical Service (EMS) care, honors Senator Blanco for his dedication to improving life-saving services in Rural West Texas, particularly through the passage of Senate Bill 1588 during the 88th Legislative Session.

Before the passage of Senate Bill 1588, the law required at least two certified EMS personnel in an ambulance during transport. Due to staffing shortages, this often meant one EMS worker was in the back caring for the patient while the other drove the vehicle. The new bill addresses these shortages by allowing for the recruitment of qualified, but not formally certified, individuals to drive EMS vehicles. This change enhances the EMS workforce in underserved areas, thereby improving response times and overall care.

**Senator Blanco issued the following statement:**

“I am deeply honored to receive the TAA Vanguard Award. The staffing shortages in West Texas have put immense pressure on our EMS personnel, and I was proud to file and pass Senate Bill 1588 to help improve response times and care for families in underserved areas. I am grateful for TAA’s dedicated advocacy for better healthcare in our communities, and I look forward to continuing our efforts to promote policies that prioritize patient care and enhance the health of our communities.”

**Rachel B. Harracksingh, TAA Legislative Chair and Former President issued the following statement:**

“We the members of Texas Ambulance Association are so grateful to Senate Blanco for passing SB1588, this bill was critical to promote adequate staffing of EMS vehicles across the State of Texas.”

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