

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

March 20, 2020

Greg Abbott  
Governor, State of Texas  
P.O. Box 12428  
Austin, TX 78711

Dear Governor Abbott,

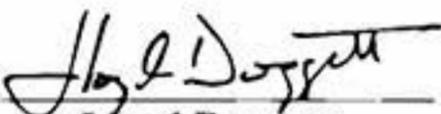
Now that the Families First Coronavirus Response Act has been adopted with bipartisan support, we respectfully urge you to assure that any uninsured Texan who receives a physician's recommendation for a COVID-19 test can get that test for free. Under the measure just passed, you are empowered to expand Medicaid eligibility for all uninsured individuals in Texas by submitting a State Plan Amendment. While aware that you have strongly opposed Medicaid expansion, this specific expansion is solely for testing and requires no state funding.

To overcome the COVID-19 pandemic, we must identify its scope by determining who is infected to mitigate community spread and assure necessary treatment. Many among the 5 million uninsured Texans will otherwise not seek testing, leaving all in our community at risk. We request your approval for Texas to accept federal funds by expanding the Texas Medicaid program for COVID-19 testing for our vulnerable neighbors.

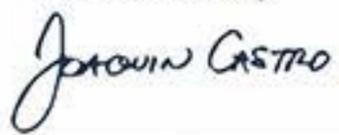
Further, we ask that you join in our call to HHS Secretary Alex Azar to reopen the Federal Marketplace through a Special Enrollment Period under the Affordable Care Act. An estimated 1.1 million uninsured Texans are eligible for free Marketplace coverage right now. A Special Enrollment Period will allow more people to get coverage during this crisis, making all of our community safer.

We stand ready to assist in any way we can to protect the public health of the millions of Texans we all serve. We appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

  
Lloyd Doggett

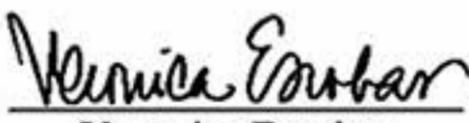
  
Marc Veasey

  
Joaquin Castro

  
Lizzie Fletcher

  
Filemón Vela

  
Eddie Bernice Johnson

  
Veronica Escobar

  
Vicente Gonzalez

  
Sheila Jackson Lee

*Sylvia Garcia*

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Sylvia Garcia

*Henry Cuellar*

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Henry Cuellar

*Colin Allred*

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Colin Allred

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Al Green