

March 24, 2020

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor, State of Texas
Texas State Capitol, Room 2S.1
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Governor Abbott:

We are writing to ask you to issue an executive order implementing a statewide “stay-at-home” policy that closes all non-essential businesses, restricts travel to the greatest extent possible, and gives our health care providers, state and local governments and all Texans the greatest chance possible to suppress the imminent and unprecedented threat posed by the novel coronavirus and its resulting disease, COVID-19.

We recognize a statewide order of this magnitude will have an unprecedented impact on Texans and their livelihoods; we did not come to this decision lightly. Each and every one of us are fully prepared to provide employees, employers, and families the necessary relief and support such an order will require. However, despite the hardship, the best science we have is clear that this is the best way forward for our state and our country.

Health care experts agree that limitations on all non-essential movement give our state the best chance to flatten the curve and avoid overwhelming our health care system within a matter of weeks. That’s why several Texas hospital leaders, as well as a bipartisan group of mayors, urged you to take these actions over the weekend.

We agree with them. What our state needs the most to fight COVID-19 is time, especially for our health care providers. Hospitals need time to learn more about the disease they are facing, and to get the supplies of tests and personal protective equipment necessary to fight what is still a mutating disease. We need to slow the influx of new COVID-19 patients to help them keep up.

Currently, Texas – like the rest of the nation – lacks adequate testing, personal protective equipment, ICU beds, and ventilators to combat COVID-19. Whatever the reasons why, those are the facts on the ground. Our hospitals are telling us they cannot handle the projected surge

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of patients likely to come in the weeks ahead, especially when combined with the normal rates of hospitalizations for patients facing life-threatening emergencies.

With more time, we can secure more masks, tests, ventilators and beds for our hospitals. We give researchers here in Texas and across the globe more time to discover treatments that limit harm to patients who contract the virus. And we give doctors and health care workers, who are on the frontlines of this disease, a better chance of protecting themselves.

In order to flatten the curve and give us time to win this war, we need to take immediate action. We know that this can work if we act appropriately.

In order to protect Texas and her people, we need to do all we can to slow the spread of COVID-19. Taking the strongest actions on a statewide basis, as opposed to a city by city and county by county approach, will flatten the curve more quickly.

The ranchers in West Texas deserve the same protections as doctors in Houston. The farmers in Laredo are every bit as deserving of protection from COVID-19 as the bartenders in Austin. The truck drivers moving critical goods and equipment across thousands of miles of Texas roads should know that any grocery store or hospital they come to is implementing the smartest and most stringent health and safety practices possible.

We recognize the unparalleled challenge and risk the novel coronavirus presents, as well as the tremendous decision you have to make as our state's top executive. We are eagerly prepared to support your decision to issue a statewide stay-at-home order so that hospitals, businesses, and citizens can have the best chance possible to stay healthy – and so that all of us may quickly return to our unique and truly wonderful Texas way of life.

Sincerely,



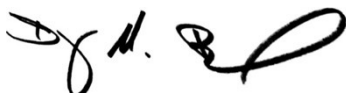
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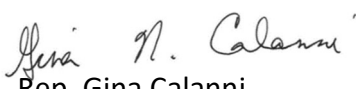
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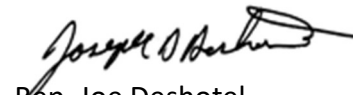


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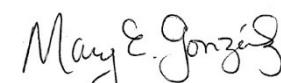
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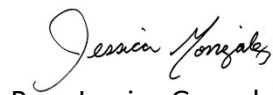
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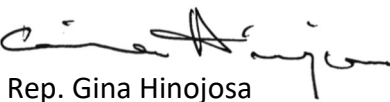
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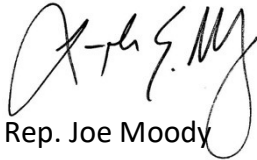
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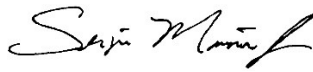
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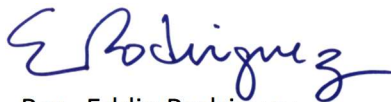
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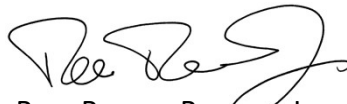
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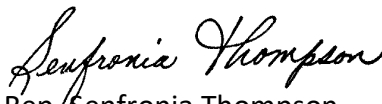
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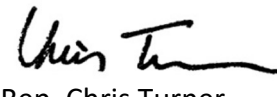
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