

DISTRICT OFFICE:
12222 MERIT DRIVE
SUITE 1010
DALLAS, TEXAS 75251
OFFICE: 972.701.0349
FAX: 972.661.1512



CAPITOL OFFICE:
ROOM 3E.10
P.O. BOX 12068
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711-2068
OFFICE: 512.463.0116
FAX: 512.463.3135

NATHAN JOHNSON
STATE SENATOR • DISTRICT 16

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Contact: Brenda Allen
Brenda.Allen@senate.texas.gov
972-701-0349

SENATOR JOHNSON REFILES BILL TO EXPAND MEDICAID DURING THIRD SPECIAL SESSION

AUSTIN, TX – Today, Senator Nathan Johnson refiled his Live Well Texas plan to expand Medicaid for one million uninsured Texans.

“It seems that the special session agenda is expanded whenever a new bill gets filed, so why not try my luck? A special session is meant to address a crisis affecting fundamental responsibilities of state government. We’ve already debated bills on education and safety; it’s time we acknowledge the crisis occurring in healthcare.

With five million uninsured, including almost one million children, Texas continues to have the most uninsured people and the highest uninsured rate in the country. The end of the federal public health emergency assistance this year means even more Texans soon will be uninsured.

Compared with private school vouchers, Medicaid expansion is more popular, affects more people, and costs less money. It’s free when you factor in the federal reimbursement. And, unlike vouchers, seventy percent of Texans want it.

Ordinarily, I’m respectful of the special session process and file only bills that would fall within the limited scope of the governor’s call. But we’re now on the third amendment to the third special session agenda, and with more than 270 bills already filed, the guardrails of convention clearly have been abandoned. The inclusion of Colony Ridge as a declared crisis put me over the edge.

If we have time and money for a debunked emergency, we certainly have time to take up Medicaid expansion. The common thread among the items being debated is that we’re addressing large-scale lingering crises with large amounts of money and bold action. This bill weaves right in.”

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About Senator Nathan Johnson: *He represents almost a million people in Texas’s Senate District 16, a commercially and culturally vibrant district that sprawls throughout Dallas County. Johnson currently serves on the Senate Committees on Business & Commerce; Jurisprudence (Vice Chair); Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs; and Administration.*

