



The Senate of Texas

César J. Blanco
Texas Senator
District 29

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Contact: Brian Hodgdon
248.941.5302
Brian.Hodgdon@senate.texas.gov

Senator César J. Blanco Files Legislation In Response to COVID-19

“These bills will help our state bounce back stronger, healthier, and more prepared.”

Austin, Texas - Senator César J. Blanco (El Paso) filed eight senate bills to help Texas bounce back from COVID-19 stronger and more prepared.

The bills filed by Senator Blanco are:

1. SB 434- Expands telehealth and telemedicine services to increase access to healthcare.
2. SB 435- Requires Texas to develop a pandemic playbook so we are better prepared for future pandemics.
3. SB 436- Creates protections for patients with pre-existing health conditions, including any underlying health conditions caused by COVID-19.
4. SB 437- Requires the State to stockpile a 90-day supply of personal protective equipment (PPE) for frontline healthcare workers and essential workers during public health disasters and emergencies.
5. SB 438- Adds personal protective equipment (PPE) and disinfectant supplies to the Emergency Preparedness Supplies Sales Tax Holiday.
6. SB 439- Creates a presumption for worker compensation for nurses on the frontlines against COVID-19.
7. SB 453- Requires the state to study supply-chain disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and make recommendations to strengthen supply-chains for businesses and workers in the future.
8. SB 469- Waives the required waiting period for unemployment benefits during a public health disaster.

Senator Blanco issued the following statement regarding the bills he filed:

"COVID-19 has devastated our communities. Over 34,000 Texans, including 2,068 El Pasoans have died from COVID-19. Thousands of Texans are out of work and facing food insecurity. Businesses are struggling to stay open. And all the health and economic disparities have only been worsened by the pandemic. It did not have to be this way.

"Texas' response to COVID-19 has to be a priority for the legislature this session-- families and businesses are counting on it. These bills will help working families and businesses become more resilient so they can bounce back stronger, healthier, and more prepared.

"I look forward to working with my colleagues this session to deliver COVID-19 relief and recovery, including working to ensure vaccine distribution is equitable and delivered to the hardest-hit communities and populations."