



# The Senate of Texas

CÉSAR J. BLANCO

TEXAS SENATOR  
DISTRICT 29

**Press Release**

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## **Senator César J. Blanco and Representative Ryan Guillen Pass Bipartisan Legislation to Help Hungry Families Put Food on the Table**

**Austin, Texas** – Today, Senator César J. Blanco (SD29) passed House Bill 1287, a priority bill of his for the past two sessions. HB 1287 will modernize the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) by making a necessary and long overdue update to the Vehicle Asset Test to ensure hungry Texas families do not lose their food assistance benefits due to inflation and increased used car values. Nearly 13% of Texas households – 4 million Texans – face food insecurity. In El Paso, approximately 35% of El Pasoans are food insecure.

Current Texas rules cap the maximum value of a vehicle at \$15,000 for the first vehicle and \$4,650 for the second or additional vehicles to qualify for SNAP benefits. However, these outdated valuation limits, set 20 years ago, do not align with the rising costs of living and inflation in the used car market. House Bill 1287 would update the maximum value of a vehicle to \$22,500 for the first vehicle and \$8,700 for any subsequent vehicle to qualify for SNAP benefits.

### **Senator César J. Blanco issued the following statement:**

“With high inflation and rising costs of living families are increasingly forced to make impossible choices between food and other basic needs. I am proud to pass HB 1287 to help food-insecure families put food on the table without sacrificing the transportation they need to work and care for their families. No family should be denied help simply because they own a reliable vehicle, and no family should lose their ability to put food on the table because of inflation in the car market.”

### **Representative Ryan Guillen (Rio Grande City) issued the following statement:**

“Texans everywhere are feeling the impact of inflation. Because SNAP eligibility is linked to vehicle value, hungry Texans are losing benefits at a time when they need them most. These vehicle limits were set over 20 years ago — they are outdated and out of touch with reality.”

### **Susan Goodell, CEO of El Pasoans Fighting Hunger issued the following statement:**

“El Pasoans Fighting Hunger is so grateful to Senator Blanco and Representative Guillen for their leadership in ensuring that Texans have less barriers to access SNAP benefits during difficult financial times. Hardworking individuals and families in El Paso and across the State rely heavily

on their vehicles to get to and from work and school. It is simply unnecessary for our struggling neighbors be placed in a position that will only worsen their struggles. This update to the SNAP Vehicle Asset Test was long overdue and provides families a clearer path to personal success and financial self-sufficiency.”

**Celia Cole, CEO of Feeding Texas, issued the following statement:**

“We are incredibly grateful to Senator Blanco and his staff for championing this legislation over the past few sessions and helping to get it over the finish line. Thousands of Texans have lost SNAP benefits due to extreme inflation in the used car market. This bill updates the vehicle asset limits to better reflect today’s car values and will prevent families from losing access to much needed food assistance.”