



The Senate of Texas

CÉSAR J. BLANCO

TEXAS SENATOR
DISTRICT 29

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

June 24, 2023

Contact: Taylor Sanchez

915.276.3872

Taylor.sanchez@senate.texas.gov

Senator César J. Blanco Recognized as Legislative Equity Champion 2023 by Día de la Mujer Latina

Austin, Texas – Today, Senator César J. Blanco was recognized as Legislative Equity Champion 2023 by Día de la Mujer Latina for passing House Bill 113 to elevate the role of Community Health Workers (Promotoras) and remove funding barriers to hiring new Promotoras.

Promotoras and Community Health Workers (CHWs) will play an even greater role in the delivery of quality healthcare across Texas, thanks to a new law championed by Senator Cesar Blanco & Representative Lina Ortega and signed into law by Governor Greg Abbott on June 13. On April 14th, Día de la Mujer Latina, in partnership with Intercultural Ctr for Health, Research and Wellness and Precise Populations, hosted its biennial CHW Advocacy Day in Austin, where 300+ Texans visited the State Capitol to advocate for the law's passage.

Senator Cesar Blanco and Representative Lina Ortega passed HB 113 to address what has long been a funding barrier to hiring additional community health workers. For years, Community Health Workers were classified as “administrative expenses” by Texas Medicaid, which made it difficult for Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) to hire additional workers to serve the patient community. The new law recategorizes and places CHWs in the quality improvement budget, elevating their importance and enabling Medicaid MCOs to hire more of these unique professionals to better serve the patient community.

Senator Blanco issued the following statement:

“I’m extremely honored to have been recognized by Día de la Mujer Latina for sponsoring and passing House Bill 113! Promotoras play a vital role in bridging underserved communities to quality healthcare. Our community is healthier and safer due to the work of Promotoras and I am proud to support them with the passage of House Bill 113. This bill will elevate the work of Promotoras and make it easier to hire additional community health workers.”

Venus Ginés, President and CEO of Día de la Mujer Latina issued the following statement:

“We are grateful to Senator Blanco and Representative Ortega for passing this important legislation to enable Community Health Workers and Promotoras to continue their work to improve the health and well-being of all Texans.”

For further information, please contact Taylor Sanchez at 915-276-3872 or Taylor.Sanchez@senate.texas.gov.

###

Senator César J. Blanco is a US Navy Veteran and proudly represents the people of Brewster, Culberson, El Paso, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Pecos, Presidio, and Reeves counties in the Texas Senate. In the 88th Texas Legislature, Senator Blanco serves as a member of the Senate Committees on Health & Human Services; Natural Resources & Economic Development; Water, Agriculture, & Rural Affairs; Veteran Affairs; and Border Security. Senator Blanco also serves as Vice-Chair of the Senate Hispanic Caucus. He has been named a Best Legislator by Texas Monthly Magazine.