



The Senate of Texas

CÉSAR J. BLANCO

TEXAS SENATOR
DISTRICT 29

Press Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
August 24, 2023

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Senator César J. Blanco Honored With 88th Legislative Session Hunger Leadership Award by Feeding Texas

Austin, Texas – Yesterday, Senator César J. Blanco was presented the 88th Legislative Session Hunger Leadership Award by Feeding Texas, the largest hunger-relief organization in Texas. The Hunger Leadership Award specifically recognizes Senator Blanco for sponsoring and passing House Bill 1287 with Representative Ryan Guillen, to help more Texas families access food assistance through the Supplemental Nutrition Access Program (SNAP).

Texas uses a Vehicle Asset Test to determine SNAP eligibility, placing limits on the value of the vehicles that a household may own and still qualify for the program. Due to inflation and rising values of a household's vehicles 55,000 people seeking federal food assistance were disqualified in 2022. House Bill 1287 makes a one-time inflationary adjustment to the Vehicle Asset Test to better reflect today's car values, increasing limits from \$15,000 to \$22,500 for the first car and from \$4,650 to \$8,700 for additional vehicles. 13% of Texas households – 4 million Texans – face food insecurity. In El Paso County, approximately 344,750 (35%) El Pasoans are food insecure.

Senator Blanco issued the following statement:

“Too many Texas families are facing food insecurity with recent inflation and rising costs of living. 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 These vehicle limits were set over 20 years ago — they are outdated and out of touch with reality. That is why I was proud to sponsor and pass HB (House Bill) 1287 to expand SNAP food assistance for Texas families.

“Updating Texas’ SNAP Vehicle Asset Test is not a handout; it is a hand-up for Texas families facing food insecurity who should not be punished for having the vehicles they need to lift themselves out of poverty or care for their families.

“By helping tens of thousands of hungry Texas families put food on the table, passing this bill is one of my greatest legislative accomplishments in the Texas Legislature.

“I am humbled and honored to receive the Hunger Leadership Award from Feeding Texas.”

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Feeding Texas issued the following statement:

“We are honored to present Senator Blanco with a Hunger Champion award for his work to increase food security in the 88th Texas legislative session,” said Celia Cole, CEO of Feeding Texas. “After years working to update the vehicle asset test, Senator Blanco and his team were successful in getting HB 1287 over the finish line. This new law raises the SNAP vehicle asset limits and will help to prevent Texas families from being denied access to much-needed food assistance.”

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