



The Senate of Texas

CÉSAR J. BLANCO

TEXAS SENATOR
DISTRICT 29

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Senator César J. Blanco Recognized by El Pasoans Fighting Hunger for his Commitment to Combatting Food Insecurity in El Paso

El Paso, Texas – Today, Senator César J. Blanco was recognized by El Pasoans Fighting Hunger (EPFH) Food Bank for helping secure \$3.4 Million for the 2022 Food Capacity Building Grant. With this funding, EPFH will have the resources to make necessary facility upgrades and purchase additional vehicles to improve facility capacity and address food insecurity in El Paso.

EPFH also recognized 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:

"I am deeply honored to receive this recognition for the El Pasoans Fighting Hunger Food Bank. Reflecting on the challenges our community has faced with job losses and persistent inflation, it's evident that communities across Texas have leaned on our food banks more than ever before, and EPFH has been a steadfast pillar of support when our community needed it the most.

"I am proud to have supported this grant and helped pass legislation that will make a meaningful difference in the lives of El Paso families who shouldn't have to choose between paying for bills and medicine or putting food on the table."

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

"We at El Pasoans Fighting Hunger Food Bank are so grateful for Senator Blanco's leadership and support. We recognize him for his commitment to fight hunger in our community - specifically his tireless work during the last two Legislative Sessions to ensure that Food Banks across the state can access critical resources to ensure they are ready to serve their communities not only in times of crisis but every day. We are likewise grateful to the Senator for his work in authoring and ultimately passing a bill that

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would reduce barriers to access the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), a critical program providing nutritious food to struggling families and individuals in Texas."

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