



The Senate of Texas

CÉSAR J. BLANCO

TEXAS SENATOR
DISTRICT 29

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

September 19th, 2024

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Senator César J. Blanco Renews Call for Better Healthcare Access Across Texas

Austin, Texas – During today’s Senate Health and Human Services Committee, Senator César J. Blanco reaffirmed his dedication to improving access to healthcare for Texans, particularly in underserved and rural communities. With the growing healthcare deserts across the state, Senator Blanco emphasized the need for ensuring every Texan, no matter their zip code, has the ability to receive timely, affordable, and quality care.

“Our healthcare system is leaving too many Texans behind—especially those living in our rural areas,” said Senator Blanco. “In many counties, families face a stark reality: either travel long distances for care or go without. Mothers, fathers, and grandparents are forced to make difficult choices between seeking the care they need or skipping treatment altogether because it’s too far, too costly, or simply unavailable.”

Senator César Blanco, a long-time advocate for healthcare access, introduced the HEAL Texans Act during the 88th Legislative Session to expand access to quality healthcare and address Texas’ healthcare workforce shortage. Blanco highlighted the urgent need to strengthen healthcare infrastructure by incentivizing primary care providers to serve in rural areas, expanding telemedicine, and supporting rural hospitals at risk of closure. He emphasized that without legislative action, the gap between urban and rural healthcare access will continue to widen, leaving more Texans without the care they deserve.

“This legislation is not just about policy—it’s about people,” Blanco continued. “It’s about the women and new mothers who struggle to find basic pre-natal and reproductive care. It’s about the children who have to wait weeks to get the pediatric care they need because the pediatrician is only in town every so often. And it’s about the senior citizens who can’t grow old in the place they want to retire because they live in a county without a single full-time doctor. These are the faces we can’t forget. We need to show up for them.”

Blanco added, “I want to thank Lt. Governor Dan Patrick and Chair Kolkhorst for prioritizing access to care as an interim charge this session. Access to healthcare should never be a privilege that’s determined by your address. It’s a basic human right. We owe it to our underserved and rural communities to ensure that healthcare is within reach for every Texan.”

Dr. David Hackethorn, Internal Medicine Specialist and Texas Silver-Haired Legislature Member issued the following statement:

“There’s no doubt: nurse practitioners are already providing the quality care their community needs. With Texas facing a dire shortage of about 5,000 primary care providers, letting nurse practitioners use their full training and skills is a critical step toward solving Texas' access to healthcare crisis.”

Tom Aldred, Executive Director of Texas Conservative Coalition Research Institute (TCCRI) issued the following statement:

"Out of the 254 counties in Texas, 224 are experiencing shortages in primary care professionals, making it difficult for many Texans to access healthcare services. Allowing APRNs to practice to the top of their license is an obvious part of the solution to this problem and could also reduce healthcare costs. Multiple studies have shown APRNs are highly qualified to serve patients in this role, given their extensive education and training. More than half of the country already utilizes full practice for APRNs, and a dozen more give them considerably more authority than Texas does. It is time for Texas to follow suit and better utilize qualified APRNs to improve access to healthcare."

Emily Brizzolara-Dove, Policy Advisor for Texas 2036 issued the following statement:

"APRNs provide safe, cost effective care to Texans in need. The current regulatory structure hamstrings these providers with an undue administrative and financial burden that does not provide value to patients. The HEAL Texans Act seeks to ease administrative pathways so that additional capacity can be added to the healthcare workforce in areas of Texas that desperately need it."

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