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March 22, 2020

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Office of the Governor- State of Texas
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711-2428

Dear Governor Abbott,

I write to you today to urge you to issue a statewide shelter-in-place order to curb the proliferation of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) and help flatten the curve. I commend your swift action in taking precautions such as social distancing, preventing the congregation of large groups and the issuance of executive orders designed to protect our population. However, COVID-19 is progressing at unprecedented infection levels; now is the time to take warranted drastic measures in order to protect our fellow Texans. I understand your hesitance as only a portion of counties have confirmed cases, yet I can assure you that will not be the case for long. Counties infected are hubs for travel, commerce and central to many metropolitan areas, including Dallas, Houston, and San Antonio. Drastic efforts are required now to prevent the worst and quite literally save lives.

As a state, Texas has the highest level of uninsured people in the nation. Texas is also ranked last in testing, containment and public health emergency spending per capita, and we were one of the last states to declare a statewide emergency. As such, we are one of the most vulnerable states and it is time for state leadership to take serious steps to curb the spread of COVID-19. We risk the health of Texans and others in the United States if we do anything less than call for a statewide shelter-in-place order.

As the number of confirmed cases continues to grow, it is of paramount importance that you do everything in your power to protect the 28 million citizens that call Texas home. I strongly urge you to please pay close and immediate attention to this letter and let me know how I can work with you to lessen the loss of life due to this pandemic. Please know I remain at your disposition and look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress