



Rio Grande VALLEY

July 13, 2020

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor of Texas
P.O. Box 4087
Austin, Texas 78773-0001

Dear Governor Abbott:

We write today on behalf of the residents of the Rio Grande Valley with an urgent request: Please return the emergency management authority to local jurisdictions.

Since May 1, 2020 over 200 Texans have died across our South Texas communities. Governor Abbott, the situation in our hospitals is critical. As infections and positivity continue to increase, we are facing dire shortages of staff and resources. Local authorities need the ability to take immediate, decisive action to save Texans.

In addition to the authority to quickly address developing situations, our communities need immediate medical support. Our hospitals are beyond their physical capacity and we need equipment to create additional beds and facilities to provide convalescent care.

Beyond equipment, we are also in critical need of additional staff and resources. Our frontline medical personnel have begun to fall ill, and our ambulance services are operating beyond capacity. The people of the Rio Grande Valley need your immediate assistance or more lives will be lost.

Respectfully,

Hidalgo County Judge Richard F. Cortez

Cameron County Judge Eddie Treviño, Jr.

Starr County Judge Eloy Vera

Willacy County Judge Aurelio "Keter" Guerra

cc: RGV Legislative Delegation