



# ALEX DOMINGUEZ



TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DISTRICT 37

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## **Representative Dominguez Secures \$16,700,000 for DHR Health Projects**

AUSTIN-- Last month, the Texas House and Senate approved more than \$16 million in direct funding for projects in Starr and Hidalgo County. This funding was provided in the final version of Senate Bill 8, which appropriated more than \$13 billion in federal funds from the American Rescue Plan Act.

This appropriation was initially included in the Senate version of the bill, but Representative Dominguez and DHR discovered an error by Senator Lucio's office that would have made the funds unusable and most likely returned to be re-appropriated or to the U.S. Treasury if not corrected. Representative Dominguez immediately dedicated himself to working with Speaker Dade Phelan, Chairman Greg Bonnen, Conference Committee staff, and other legislative leaders to restore the proper language and secure funding for this important project.

**"This \$16 million investment is just a piece of a more than \$13 billion investment in Texas, but it is a critical step towards ensuring the Rio Grande Valley has the healthcare infrastructure we need to defeat COVID-19 and keep our communities healthy for decades to come,"** said Dominguez. **"I am proud to have worked with DHR and my colleagues on the House Appropriations Committee and Senate Finance Committee to secure this important funding and resolve the errors in the initial Senate version. These funds are critical especially for Starr County which is often times overlooked."**

Texas' SB 8 appropriated \$13.3 billion to a variety of projects in Texas including \$7 billion for unemployment insurance, \$378 million for frontline medical staffing, \$286 million for the Teacher's Retirement System, \$95 million for food banks, and more than \$1 billion for expanded emergency services and healthcare investment across the state. Representative Alex Dominguez is the sole representative from the Rio Grande Valley serving on the House Appropriations Committee.

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