

HENRY CUELLAR, PH.D.
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 1, 2021

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor of Texas
1100 San Jacinto Boulevard
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Governor Abbott,

I write to you in appreciation for your service towards our country's national security interests, and to urge your support of our State's continued efforts to fight the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our South Texas border communities need the Texas National Guardsmen assistance to effectively distribute and administer the vaccine.

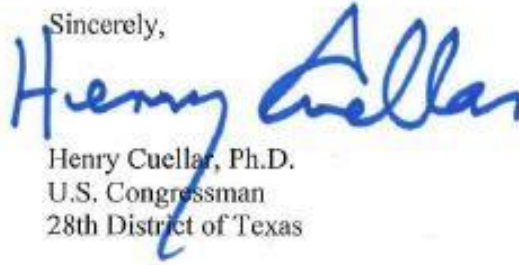
We write regarding President Biden's January 2021 Memorandum, which will provide reimbursement to states to support vaccine distribution and administration, at a 100% cost share until September 30, 2021. The 1,000 plus Members of the Texas National Guard who assured our democratic process could proceed, during the Presidential Inauguration, demonstrated the professionalism and effectiveness of these men and women. I now ask you to redeploy these troops to help our Texas border communities overcome the continued challenges faced in their fight against the COVID19 pandemic. The federal government will provide the necessary resources for the national guard to administer the vaccine to local populations, including the many veterans who live near the South Texas border

Border communities in my District are tasked with maintaining supply chains of national importance but underrepresented in COVID-19 distribution resources. We recognize and appreciate the efforts and support that you sent January 2021 with 470 more staff, medical equipment, and COVID-19 test kits, but we are hearing from our constituents that they need more. For example, Laredo, has experienced over 10,000 new positives in the last two weeks. Here, 6 to 10 people are dying daily, with only two hospitals to help support them that have exhausted now exhausted maximum capacity. South Texans, especially the rural areas, need your support.

Various areas across the Southwest Border continue to experience delays in distribution and administration of the COVID-19 vaccine. Due to limited medical providers in the region, they require support personnel to effectively administer the vaccine to local populations. Texas National Guard troops have demonstrated that they can supplement efforts of national importance. My constituents and I now look to you supplement efforts of critical State significance, in coordination with those of the Texas Department of State Health Services.

This is a serious issue and will continue to impact our State until we can have the support and enduring efforts of the Texas National Guard. Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I look forward to working with you in service to South Texas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Henry Cuellar". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "H" and a long, sweeping underline.

Henry Cuellar, Ph.D.
U.S. Congressman
28th District of Texas

CC: Major General Tracy Norris, Adjutant General