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For Immediate Release

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What the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act* Means for Texas

The Senate will soon vote on the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act* to help Americans deal with the effects of the COVID-19 outbreak. Sen. Cornyn spoke about his support for the bill on the Senate floor [earlier today](#), and below is a summary of its positive impact on Texas.

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act:

- **Ensures no Texan will have to pay for COVID-19 testing** by providing \$1 billion to pay COVID-19 testing fees for the uninsured and requires all insurance to cover testing fees.
- **Provides 14 days of paid sick leave for Texas workers** to cover diagnosis, quarantine, or care for dependents and **expands the Family Medical Leave Act to provide 12 weeks of paid leave** for workers who need to care for affected dependents due to closures.
- **Expands SNAP benefits to Texas families** that depend on reduced or free meals through school, including two-thirds of schoolchildren in the state. Sen. Cornyn also recently [announced](#) that USDA provided Texas with a waiver to allow students to continue to receive free meals despite school closures.
- **Expands access to home delivery meals for the elderly** with \$240 million so they can remain safely in isolation.
- **Expands unemployment benefits during this time of uncertainty** by waiving the work-search requirement so that Texans can practice isolation, and authorizes \$1 billion in emergency grants for states and interest-free loans to process and pay unemployment insurance benefits.
- **Takes care of servicemembers and veterans** with \$82 million for COVID-19 related expenses for military personnel and Dept. of Defense employees and \$60 million for veterans' related medical services.
- **Authorizes an additional \$500 million for low-income women and children affected by COVID-19** through the USDA Women, Infants, and Children Nutrition Program, in which 650,000 Texans are currently enrolled.

- **Provides \$400 million for food banks**, including the at least 21 food banks in Texas that cover every one of our 254 counties.

Senator John Cornyn, a Republican from Texas, is a member of the Senate Finance, Intelligence, and Judiciary Committees.

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