



# The Senate of The State of Texas

Senator Peter P. Flores

District 19

April 20, 2020

Dear Governor Abbott:

I am writing to voice my support for issuing an executive order instructing and directing “the Texas Department of Insurance and the Texas Worker’s Compensation Commission to rule that any Texas First Responder testing positive for COVID-19 be presumed to have contracted the disease in the Line of Duty.”

As we have seen time and again over the past few weeks, our first responders have continued to put their lives on the line to protect and serve during this public health crisis. While these heroes regularly put themselves in harms way in service of their state, they now open their families up to exposure every day that they return home after having interacted with the public and potentially been exposed to the virus.

All of these public safety officers, be it peace officers, fire fighters, correctional facility personnel, EMS workers or our medical health professionals, are uncomplainingly stepping up to help ensure the public’s health and safety, often without adequate Personal Protective Equipment.

As someone who has spent decades in law enforcement, all I ask is that we show these public servants our gratitude, support, and respect by ensuring that, should they contract COVID-19 during this time, their worker’s compensation benefits and line of duty death benefits will carry with them the presumption that the virus was contracted in the line of duty.

As always, I thank you for your unparalleled leadership during these unprecedented times.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peter P. Flores".

Peter P. Flores  
Texas Senator, District 19