



September 1, 2020

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, TX 78711
Sent Electronically

Dear Governor Abbott,

Thank you for your leadership and concern for our most COVID vulnerable population—those in long-term care and nursing facilities. We appreciate your leadership in directing Texas Health and Human Services to begin allowing family visitation in these facilities. Our concern, like yours, is for the health and safety of all residents, staff and visitors.

As the pandemic is an ongoing and at times rapidly changing situation, we respectfully request that you convene a task force to rectify issues in long-term care settings as they arise. A taskforce of government agencies and private sector organizations can work together to share resources, ideas, and common challenges each is facing while providing much needed services to the older adults of Texas. Together, taskforce members can develop recommendations and a long-term visitation strategy—one that considers the capabilities of each individual facility including testing, environment, as well as the unique needs of residents. The safe reopening of facilities and the continued delivery of quality person-centered care is critical to our organizations.

We must continue to prioritize this vulnerable population during our response to COVID-19, while also planning for the future. Our organizations stand by ready to help. We deeply appreciate your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melissa Sanchez".

Melissa Sanchez
Texas Director of Public Policy
Alzheimer's Association



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Linial".

George Linial
President & CEO
LeadingAge Texas

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Diana Martinez".

Diana Martinez
President & CEO
Texas Assisted Living Association

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Warren".

Kevin Warren
President/ CEO
Texas Health Care Association

- cc: Luis Saenz, Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor
Elizabeth Farley, Budget and Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor
Heather Fleming, Office of the Governor
Chairwoman Lois Kolkhorst, Senate Health and Human Services Committee
Chairwoman Senfronia Thompson, House Public Health Committee
Chair James Frank, House Human Services Committee