



March 24, 2020

Governor Greg Abbott  
P.O. Box 12428  
Austin, Texas 78711-2428

Dear Governor Abbott:

The Texas Psychological Association (TPA) represents the voices of over 4,500 psychologists in this state, but today we are writing on behalf of all under and uninsured Texans who may be in need of mental health resources during the COVID-19 pandemic. Fear and panic continue to spread across the state. It is imperative that we establish access to mental health services for all Texans in these difficult times.

Texas psychologists stand ready to help. TPA has already initiated protocols to partner with its members to provide limited free mental health services to those in need. In an effort to flatten the curve and encourage social distancing, these services are to be provided exclusively via telephone or telehealth platforms.

But we cannot do it alone. We are asking for your support in directing the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to establish a database of mental health professionals to supplement mental health access on a temporary basis. This was most recently done by DSHS following Hurricane Harvey, as well as Texas Health and Human Services after the El Paso shooting.

Other states are taking action. New York Governor Andrew Cuomo has directed its state health department in seeking qualified mental health professionals who are interested in supporting the state's response.

We know you are committed to both the public and mental health of Texans and appreciate your attention to this matter. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our Executive Director, Jessica Magee, at [Jessica@TexasPsyc.org](mailto:Jessica@TexasPsyc.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Megan A. Mooney, PhD". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Megan A. Mooney, PhD  
Licensed Psychologist  
President, Texas Psychological Association

cc: Dr. John Hellerstedt, Commissioner, DSHS