

TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE

# EDDIE MORALES, JR.

## DISTRICT 74

BREWSTER • CULBERSON • HUDSPETH • JEFF DAVIS • KINNEY • LOVING • MAVERICK • PECOS • PRESIDIO • REEVES • TERRELL • VAL VERDE

Friends,

Here's what happened in the Texas House this week:



This week, the Texas House of Representatives passed House Bill 1535 by Representative Stephanie Klick, a bill for medical marijuana. The bill was passed through the House and sent to the Senate.

Chairwoman Klick was the original author of the bill to allow low-THC medical marijuana in 2015.

Every 2 years she has continued to expand the medical conditions that qualify.

As introduced, HB 1535 originally expanded medical marijuana to those with cancer and veterans with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

I asked Representative Klick if she would expand this to victims of sexual assault, victims of violent crimes, and law enforcement officers who also often suffer from PTSD. She took my suggestion and expanded it to anyone diagnosed with PTSD. I'm thankful to the chairwoman for her leadership in bringing this bill and for being open to suggestions.

I am an advocate for mental health and I am so proud to have made a difference by expanding treatment options for PTSD.

This week I was proud to pass my first bill all the way through the House as a freshman Representative.

My freshman class came to stand around me and support me as I spoke about the bill on the House Floor. It passed 140-0.

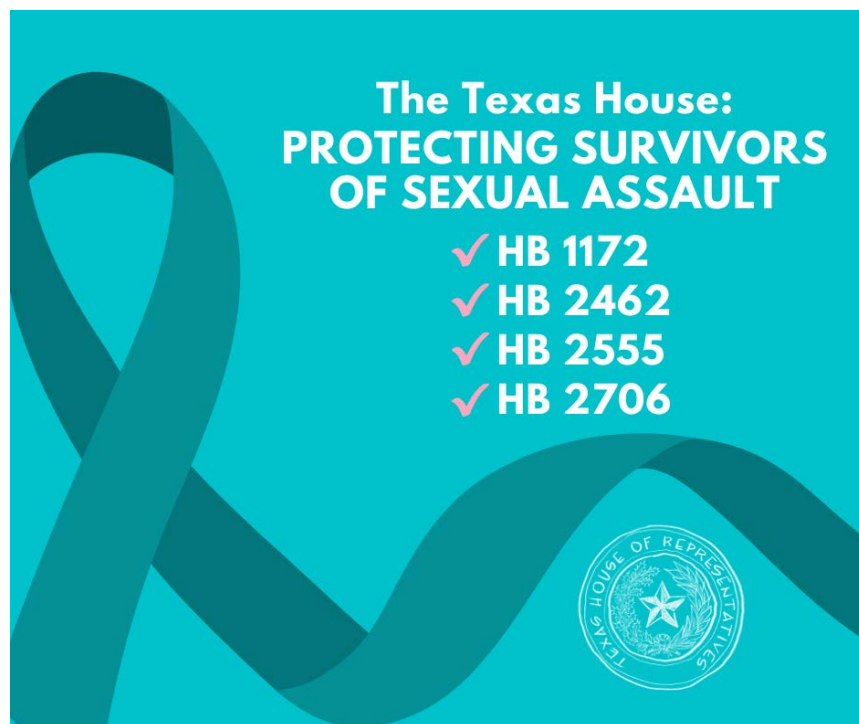




The Sexual Assault Survivor’s Task Force report was issued in November of 2020. This report contained 11 policy recommendations that were turned into four items of legislation for consideration this session, including HB 1172, HB 2462, HB 2555, and HB 2706 by Reps. Howard and Neave.

April 2021 marks the official 20th anniversary of Sexual Assault Awareness Month. This Sexual Assault Awareness Month, the Texas House took action to unanimously pass legislation fulfilling EVERY recommendation made by the Sexual Assault Survivors’ Task Force.

**I was proud to vote in favor & help Texas become a national leader in survivor-centered solutions.**





# Behind on rent or utility bills?

**The Texas Rent Relief Program is here to help.**  
COVID-19 has affected Texans across the state. We have emergency funds available to help Texas renters pay rent and utility bills (including past due and utilities).

Do I Qualify?

Apply Now



## **Texas Rent Relief Program Basics: Who is Eligible, What Does it Cover?**

**Who is eligible?** Households must have incomes at or below 80% of the Area Median Income and meet other criteria to qualify for assistance. Full eligibility details can be found at [TexasRentRelief.com](https://www.texasrentrelief.com).

**What does it cover?** The Texas Rent Relief Program can help renters with costs starting as far back as March 13, 2020:

- Past due, current and up to 2 months of expected rent costs
- Past due, current and up to 2 months of expected utility and home energy expenses
- After the initial 3 months of forward assistance, renters can apply for 3 additional months of assistance if funds are still available

### **Texas Eviction Diversion Program**

Tenants can provide eviction information within their Texas Rent Relief Program application, which will put the application in the priority group. If the landlord files for eviction after the application is submitted, the tenant can call us at 833-989-7368 to provide their court docket number, precinct number, and county of the court information so their application can be prioritized.

## COVID-19 Vaccine

As of March 29th, all people 16+ can now receive a COVID-19 vaccine in Texas. There are multiple tools to help you find a vaccine. DSHS encourages people to use a tool that works best for them. Click on the link below!

[Vaccine Locator Tools](#)



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Eddie Morales, Jr." The signature is stylized with loops and a flourish at the end.

State Representative Eddie Morales, Jr.

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