

TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE

EDDIE MORALES, JR.

DISTRICT 74

BREWSTER • CULBERSON • HUDSPETH • JEFF DAVIS • KINNEY • LOVINC • 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 678, which allows pharmacists to order and administer immunizations and vaccinations to patients who are at least three years of age under certain circumstances without a prior doctor's prescription.

I am proud to have co-authored this bill to give pharmacists the ability to help stop the spread of disease.



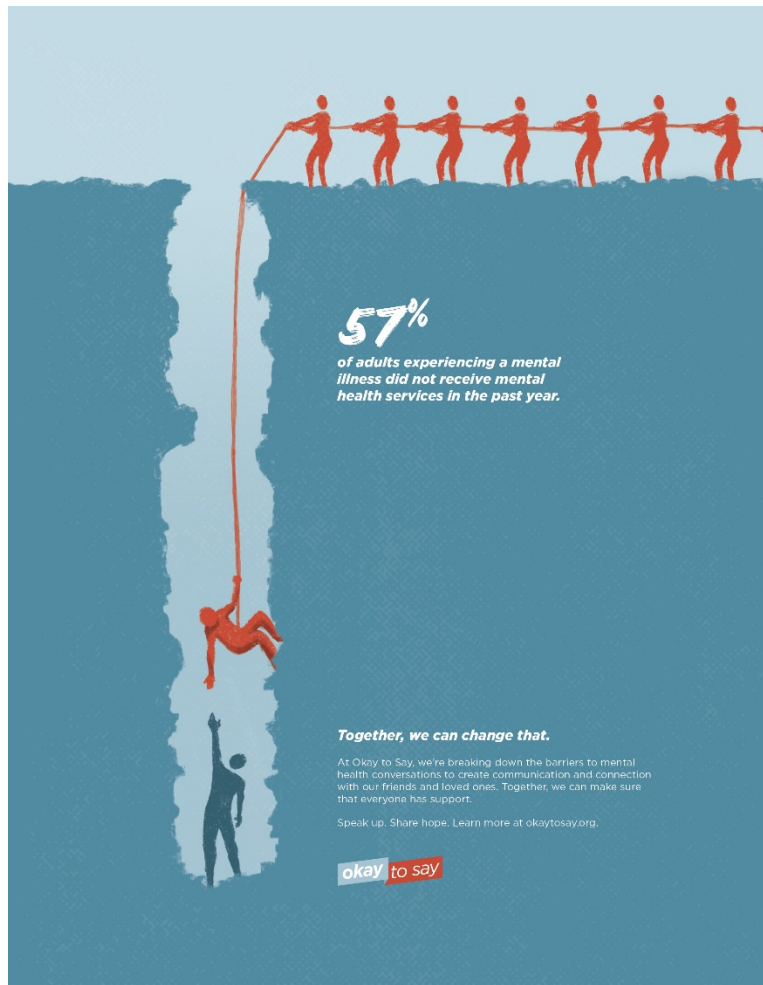
This week I passed 4 local bills through the House Chamber. They are now going to the Senate for consideration.

HB 2172 will allow Maverick County to charge a 2% hotel occupancy tax and will also allow the tax revenue to be used toward improvements to the Maverick County Airport.

HB 4305 will allow Brewster, Jeff Davis and Presidio Counties and the cities of Alpine, Presidio, and Marfa to use their hotel occupancy tax revenue for the promotion and preservation of dark skies. I plan to remove Brewster County from the bill in the Senate, at the request of local elected officials.

HB 1285 will designate state highways 118 & 166 as the Davis Mountains Scenic Loop.

HB 3324 will designate a rest area located on IH 10 in Culberson County as the US Border Patrol Agent Rogelio Martinez Rest Area.



The month of May is designated as Mental Health Awareness Month. As we have journeyed through the gauntlet that has been the past 14 months, we have undoubtedly been affected by numerous issues. Throughout this month, make an extra effort to reach out to friends and family to check-in, listen, and help in whatever way you can.

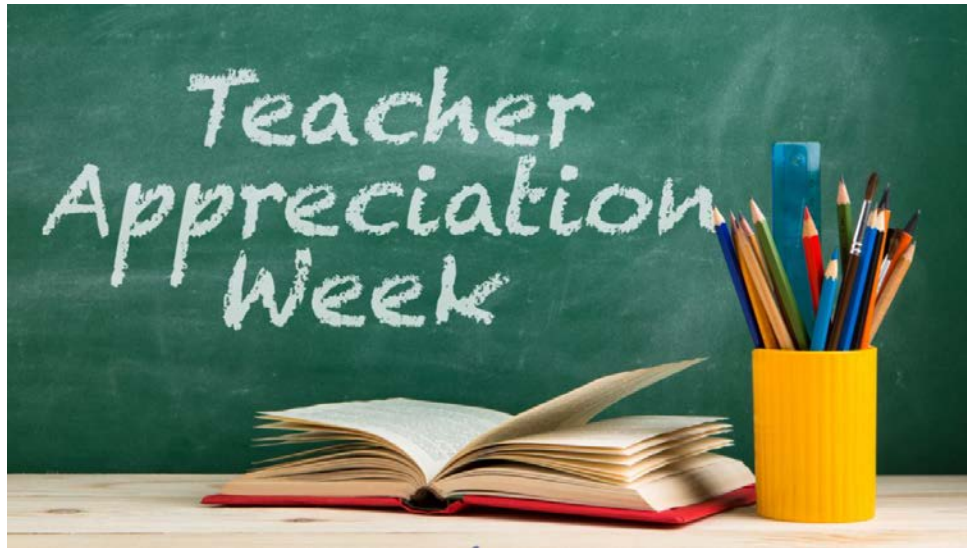
If we hope to recuperate from what the last year threw at us, we need to let each other know that it is okay to openly talk about mental health issues.

[Mental Health Resources Here](#)



Local Election Races

I would like to extend congratulations to all of the candidates who ran for local office in House District 74. Regardless of the outcome, the courage and grit it takes to put your name on the ballot is not something that goes unnoticed. I am excited to begin working with those who were re-elected, and newly elected, in making our House District 74 an even better place to live.



I want to extend my appreciation, and thanks, to educators in House District 74 as we celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week. I am a proud father of two daughters who are public educators in the state of Texas. The important role that they, and other teachers, play in shaping the minds of the future is not something that I take for granted.

I am proud to support educators by co-authoring the following bills:

- **HB 3580** which sets the minimum salary for teachers at \$70,000.
- **HB 3507** which will issue a 13th check for Texas retired teachers and those under the Teacher Retirement System of Texas.

I am proud to support special educators and the autism and ESL communities by voting in favor of:

- **HB 159** which improves training and staff development for primary and secondary educators on evidence-based inclusive practices in educator preparation and professional development programs, particularly for students with disabilities or limited English proficiency.

An advertisement for the Texas Rent Relief Program. The background is a light blue and white graphic of a house. In the top left corner is the "TEXAS RENT RELIEF" logo, which includes a stylized house icon. The main text reads "Behind on rent or utility bills?". Below this, it says "The Texas Rent Relief Program is here to help." and "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)." In the bottom left, there are two buttons: "Do I Qualify?" and "Apply Now". In the bottom right, there is the official seal of the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, which features a star in the center surrounded by a laurel wreath and the text "TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS".

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.

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 written in a cursive, flowing style.

State Representative Eddie Morales, Jr.

The House of Representatives is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you require reasonable accommodations during the application process, please call (512) 463-0865.