

TEXAS HOUSE *of* REPRESENTATIVES

Dr. Suleman Lalani

State Representative, District 76

Lalani's Legislative Letter

Interim Edition #13 : Senior Advocacy Update - Protecting and Empowering Our Seniors

Dear Friend

As June marks both Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month and Elder Abuse Awareness Month, we are reminded of our profound duty and steadfast commitment to uphold the dignity and enhance the well-being of our senior citizens

According to the World Health Organization, global populations are aging at a rapid pace. We expect the number of individuals aged 60 years and older to grow from **900 million in 2015** to **2 billion by 2050**. This demographic shift underscores the urgency with which we must act to ensure our seniors receive the care and respect they deserve.

In this edition of the Lalani Letter, we highlight the strides we have made in advocating for and enriching the lives of our senior community members. This issue also provides vital resources to empower you and your loved ones. Our seniors are the cornerstone of our community, a testament to our shared history, and the guiding lights for our future. Our collective obligation is to ensure they live with the utmost respect and care. I invite each of you to join me in this crucial mission as we continue to forge paths that profoundly improve their lives.

Remember this is your District. You are the most important part of what happens here. Come and see it, get involved, make your voice heard.

Blessings,



Representative Suleman Lalani, M.D.





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 [@DoctorLalani](https://twitter.com/DoctorLalani)

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Dr. Suleman Lalani
State Representative, District 76



June is Alzheimers Awareness Month!

Dr. Lalani has held positions on the Alzheimer's Association board and as ambassador to the US Congress. His passion for providing the best care possible to his patients, especially the elderly, drives him to always look for answers to the typical issues that the aged in the community deal with.

<p>70% OF DEMENTIA CAREGIVERS FEEL STRESSED WHEN COORDINATING CARE</p> <p>AND MORE THAN HALF OF CAREGIVERS SAID NAVIGATING HEALTH CARE IS DIFFICULT</p> 	<p>IT KILLS MORE THAN BREAST CANCER AND PROSTATE CANCER</p> <p>+</p> <p>COMBINED</p>	<p>1 IN 3</p> <p>SENIORS DIES WITH ALZHEIMER'S OR ANOTHER DEMENTIA</p>
<p>THESE CAREGIVERS PROVIDED MORE THAN 18 BILLION HOURS VALUED AT NEARLY \$347 BILLION</p>	<p>OVER 11 MILLION AMERICANS PROVIDE UNPAID CARE FOR PEOPLE WITH ALZHEIMER'S OR OTHER DEMENTIAS</p>	

ref: alz.org Dr. Suleman Lalani, MD

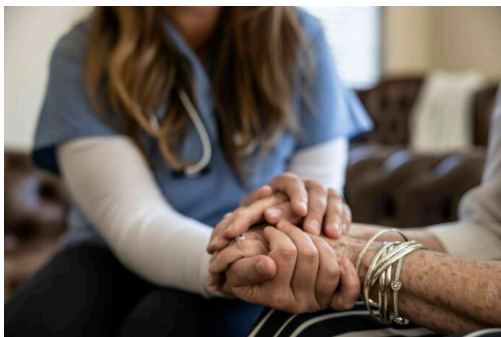
June marks Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness Month, a period focused on enhancing public understanding of Alzheimer's disease. For more information about Alzheimer's, including its warning signs, the critical role of early detection and diagnosis, and resources for care and support, please visit alz.org. Additional resources are available at www.Alzheimers.gov.



Legislative Achievements Enhancing Senior Care

In our recent legislative session, we focused closely on issues impacting our senior population, securing several vital legislative victories that enhance healthcare access, safety, and overall well-being for our elders.

Streamlining Medical Access and Enhancing Safety in Transitions and Residences: Ensuring timely access to healthcare is paramount for our seniors. **HB 755** simplifies the healthcare process by reducing the need for repeated prior authorizations, allowing seniors to receive necessary treatments more promptly. Furthermore, **SB 186** ensures that patients are only discharged to properly licensed facilities, enhancing patient safety upon discharge. Additionally, **SB 189** protects our most vulnerable citizens by imposing strict penalties on boarding home operators who fail to report known instances of abuse, thus securing a safer living environment.



Financial and Healthcare Independence: Achieving financial independence is crucial for seniors, particularly those in long-term care. **HB 54** raises the personal needs allowance for these residents, providing them with the financial flexibility to manage their expenses effectively. We also prioritize Alzheimer's care through **HB 568** and **HB 1673**, which

mandate specialized training for peace officers and assisted living facility staff, ensuring that seniors facing Alzheimer's receive comprehensive support and respectful treatment.

Senior Driver's License Conversion: HB 1275 streamlines the process for seniors to convert their driver's licenses into identification cards via online or telephone services. This measure addresses mobility limitations and simplifies routine administrative tasks, enhancing daily convenience for our elderly citizens.



Combating the Opioid Crisis Among Seniors:

The opioid crisis remains a significant concern to senior health, prompting us to take robust action. The bipartisan passage of **HB 4888**, which I proudly supported, mandates that Medicaid reimburse providers for non-opioid treatments, marking a substantial step toward safer pain management options. On the federal level, I am a staunch advocate for the "**Alternatives to PAIN Act**" (**S. 3832** and **H.R. 7142**), which aims to provide Medicare recipients with access to non-opioid, non-addictive treatments for severe pain. These

legislative measures are crucial in protecting our seniors from the devastating effects of opioid addiction. I encourage you to support these initiatives by [urging your members of Congress](#) to advocate for these critical bills as we work to strengthen protections for our seniors on both state and federal levels.

Valuable Resources for Seniors:

We are committed to providing our seniors with access to essential services and support:

- **Elder Abuse Hotline:** If you suspect an older adult or adult with a disability is being abused, neglected, or financially exploited and need to file a report, call **1-800-252-5400**.
- [Adult Protective Services](#)
- [Medicare Information](#)
- [Texas Health and Human Services Commission \(HHSC\) - Aging Services](#)

- [Fort Bend County Transportation Services for Seniors - Demand Response Service](#)
- [Fort Bend Seniors Meals on Wheels](#)

Additional Health and Welfare Resources:

- [Alzheimer's, Dementia, and Memory Care Resources](#)
- [Medicaid and CHIP Programs and Services](#)
- [Medical Transportation Program](#)
- [Social Security Administration:](#)
- [Texas Simplified Application Project for SNAP Benefits](#)
- [Supplemental Security Income \(SSI\)](#)
- [Services Office Locator](#)
- [Long-term Care Provider Search](#)
- [Long-term Care Ombudsman:](#)
- [USC Center for Elder Justice \(WEAAD\)](#)
- [National Domestic Violence Hotline](#)
- [Frame Works](#)
- [The National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life \(NCALL\)](#)
- [National Association of area Agencies on Aging](#)
- [National Adult Protective Services Association](#)

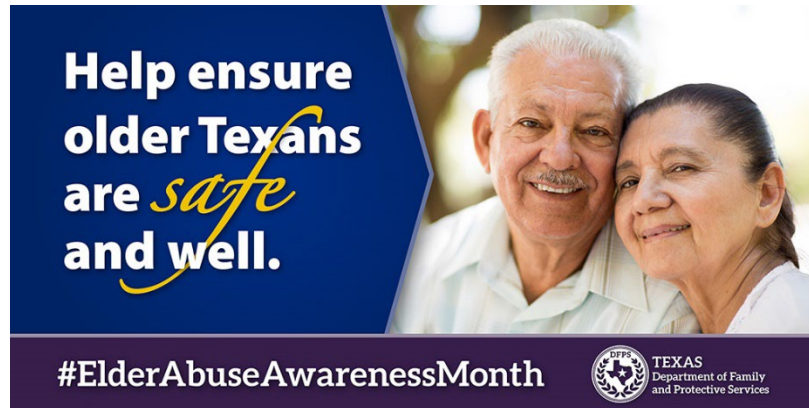
Contact Numbers for Senior Services:

- AAA and Medicare services: Call **1-800-252-9240**
 - Aging and Disability Resource Center: Call **1-855-937-2372**
-

Notable Senior Community Events:

Mark your calendars for these community events:

- **The National Senior Citizens Day Event: August 21, 2024**, at the Sunnyside Health and Multi-Service Center. A day of celebration of the seniors in our community full of Entertainment, Social Activities and informative Health and Wellness sessions. [Learn more](#)
- **2024 Fort Bend County, Tx Senior Expo & Health Fair- Theme: Fun Fiesta: September 5th, 2024**. Experience a fun fiesta-themed expo filled with essential resources for seniors, veterans, and their families. [Learn more](#)
- **Senior Expo in Sugar Land: November 6, 2024**. Attend the Senior Expo USA and Connect with dozens of local organizations dedicated to helping seniors and their families in Sugar Land and surrounding communities. [Learn more](#)



June is also designated as Elder Abuse Awareness Month, a crucial period for spotlighting the profound respect and protection our seniors deserve. As we confront the growing challenges associated with elder abuse, it is our collective responsibility to ensure the safety and dignity of the elderly. This month encourages us to elevate our understanding, identify signs of abuse, and engage in preventative measures. For comprehensive resources and support, please visit the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services at [www.dfps.texas.gov/Protect Texas Adults/](http://www.dfps.texas.gov/Protect_Texas_Adults/). Together, we can forge a community where every senior lives with the honor and security they merit.

Out and About in HD 76:

We are always active in the community, and here are a few snapshots of recent engagements.

Welcoming Our Summer Interns to District Office and Volunteering at Habitat for Humanity



Celebrating AANHPI Unsung Heroes at TXHD76



Dr. Lalani Speaks at Baylor College of Medicine



Advocating for Our Community in Washington D.C.



University of Houston at Sugar Land Tour: Empowering Future Leaders



Supporting National Gun Violence Awareness Day



Job Link*:

Connecting our constituents with meaningful employment opportunities remains a priority. Our Job Link initiative serves as a resource for finding job opportunities within and outside government sectors.

Government

- [The City of Sugar Land Jobs](#)
- [City of Meadows Place Jobs](#)
- [The City of Missouri Jobs](#)
- [The City of Stafford](#)
- [Fort Bend County](#)

Workforce Solutions

- Workforce Solutions is dedicated to keeping the Gulf Coast region a great place to do business, work, and live. As the public workforce system for 13 counties in the Houston-Galveston region, they work in tandem with the Texas Workforce Commission and the statewide Workforce Solutions network to maintain the state's largest job-match database www.WorkInTexas.com
- [Calendar of Events - Workforce Solutions \(wrksolutions.com\)](http://wrksolutions.com) This calendar is your source for online job-search workshops and virtual hiring events.

**If you are an employer and want to share hiring information, please reach out to our office at District76.Lalani@house.texas.gov and use the subject line "District Employment Opportunity" and we will share it in our newsletter.*

How to Reach Us

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