



JOHN CORNYN  
United States Senator – Texas  
For Immediate Release

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## **Cornyn Priorities, COVID Relief Pass in Government Funding Bill**

**WASHINGTON** – U.S. Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) supported the passage of the targeted coronavirus relief package and FY21 Omnibus Appropriations bill, which funds the federal government through September 30, 2021 and includes many priorities important to Texas:

### **Relief for Texans During the Pandemic:**

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- **Provides direct financial assistance to Texans:**
  - Provides individuals making up to \$75,000 with a \$600 check and an additional \$600 for each eligible child. A family of four making up to \$150,000 will receive \$2,400
  - Extends the eviction moratorium until January 31, 2021 and provides \$25 billion in temporary and targeted rental assistance for those who lost their source of income during the pandemic
- **Expands unemployment insurance (UI) for Texas workers:**
  - Provides an extra \$300 weekly federal UI benefit on top of the state maximum temporarily
- **Assists the health care industry's response:**
  - Provides \$19.695 billion for the purchase, development, and production of vaccines and \$8.75 billion for vaccine distribution, administration, and monitoring
  - Provides \$22.4 billion to assist states with testing and containment
  - Reauthorizes the Community Health Centers program for three years and provides \$1.68 billion in appropriated funds.
  - Provides \$3.25 billion for the Strategic National Stockpile of PPE and other critical supplies
  - Provides \$3 billion for the Provider Relief Fund
  - Provides \$4.25 billion for substance abuse and mental health treatment and prevention
  - Supports Texans in rural areas:
    - Includes \$300 million to build out rural broadband
    - Provides an additional \$250 million for telehealth
    - Provides \$11.2 billion in funding for agricultural assistance to support farmers, ranchers, logging and timber, textile mills, and producers.
    - Provides \$1 billion in repurposed funding for agricultural losses due to previous natural disasters.

- **Provides for Texas education, childcare, and nutrition:**
  - Provides \$10 billion for childcare centers
  - Allocates \$82 billion in funding to support students, teachers, schools, and families, including:
    - \$54.3 billion to help elementary and secondary schools safely re-open or remain open;
    - \$22.7 billion to support students and institutions of higher education;
    - And \$4.1 billion as part of the Governors Fund to give states flexible funding to address students' needs from early childhood through college
    - Continues and provides additional waivers and flexibility for School Nutrition Programs, of which two-thirds of Texas school children participate in
  - Provides \$400 million in funding for the Emergency Food Assistance Program and \$1.5 billion for the purchase of food and commodities to help Texas food banks meet unprecedented demand
  - Includes a six-month increase in supplemental food benefits for low-income Texans

#### **Supporting Texas Workers & Job Creators:**

- **Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)**: Provides more than \$250 billion to replenish the program, which provides loans to allow small businesses to maintain their payroll, hire back laid-off employees, and cover interest on mortgages, rent, and utilities
- **Save Our Stages Act**: Provides Small Business Administration grants totaling \$15 billion for entertainment venue operators affected by COVID-19 stay-at-home orders in order to keep venues afloat, pay employees, and preserve a critical economic sector
- **Small Business Expense Protection Act**: Clarifies the Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) so small businesses can deduct expenses paid with a forgiven PPP loan from their taxes
- **Extension of the Donation Acceptance Program**: Provides a one-year extension of this program promoting public-private partnerships to boost staffing and make infrastructure improvements at U.S. ports of entry without adding to the national deficit

#### **Protecting Texas Children:**

- **Preventing Online Sales of E-Cigarettes to Children Act**: Blocks online sales of electronic cigarettes to children

#### **Strengthening Texas' Energy Sector:**

- **Launching Energy Advancement and Development through Innovations for Natural Gas (LEADING) Act**: Incentivizes research and development of carbon capture technology for natural gas to ensure a reliable, affordable, and environmentally sound energy supply

#### **Preserving Texans' History:**

- **National Museum of the American Latino Act**: Authorizes the Smithsonian Institution to create a museum honoring American Latinos

*Senator John Cornyn, a Republican from Texas, is a member of the Senate Finance, Intelligence, and Judiciary Committees.*

