February 24, 2021

Rochelle P. Walensky, M.D.
Director
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road – Mailstop E-92
Atlanta, GA 30329-4027

Dear Director Walensky:

We, the members of the Texas Bipartisan Congressional Delegation, write to you regarding the formula for vaccine distribution utilized by the CDC last year, which has been determined to have disadvantaged Texas by relying on the 2018 Census population data instead of more current information. We respectfully request that the vaccine distribution formula be corrected so that the most recent census data is used to ensure that the correct doses of vaccines are delivered to the state of Texas.

We bring to your attention the fact that between 2000 and 2010, the population of Texas grew by 4.3 million people, and an additional 3.1 million were added between 2010 and 2018 resulting in a state population of 27,885,195 at the end of 2018. In 2020, according to the U.S. Bureau of Census, Texas topped all states in the nation with respect to population growth, with a population of 29,360,759, an increase of 14.1 percent and the greatest percentage increase anywhere in the nation.

Texas has seen tremendous growth over the last decade which continued into 2020. In one year, the state added nearly 374,000 residents between July 1, 2019, and July 1, 2020. So, to the extent that population is the leading factor governing the distribution of vaccines to states and territories, it is important that the CDC use the most current information available.

We respectively request that the process for determining vaccine distribution be changed to reflect the current population in the state of Texas. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Congresswoman Jackson Lee through Lillie Coney at Lillie.Coney@mail.house.gov or by telephone at (202)-870-6429 or Congressman Van Taylor through Danny Smith at Danny.Smith@mail.house.gov, or by telephone at 202-225-4201.

Thank you for your favorable consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Sheila Jackson Lee (TX-18)
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Van Taylor (TX-03)
MEMBER OF CONGRESS
Roger Williams (TX-25)  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Judge Carter (TX-31)  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Henry Cuellar (TX-28)  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Michael Cloud (TX-27)  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Lizzie Fletcher (TX-07)  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Veronica Escobar (TX-16)  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Eddie Bernice Johnson (TX-30)  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Sylvia Garcia (TX-29)  
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Filemon Vela (TX-34)  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Joaquin Castro (TX-20)  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

August Pfluger (TX-11)  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Colin Allred (TX-32)  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS