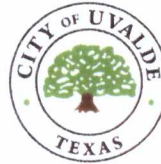




TEXAS STATE SENATOR
ROLAND GUTIERREZ



UVALDE MAYOR
DON McLAUGHLIN

July 4, 2022

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor of Texas
P.O. Box 12428
Austin Texas 78711

Dear Governor Abbott:

Nearly a month ago, you announced the opening of the Uvalde Together Resiliency Center (UTRC) that was to provide information, support, and resources to residents directly affected by the Robb Elementary School shooting, including financial support in victim's compensation funds. In order to provide these victims services, the Governor's Public Safety Office (PSO) made an initial \$5 million investment to establish the long-term UTRC. In addition, you empowered the District Attorney Christina Mitchell Busbee to oversee victim's compensation in addition to other services.

In the past month, we have heard numerous troubling reports from our constituents about the UTRC and the District Attorney, including the failure to timely deliver victim's compensation resources to those in need. One Uvalde family was in danger of having their power cut off in their home at the same time they were praying and caring for their daughter in the hospital. Other families have been offered a meager bereavement benefit for only two-weeks of pay. This, simply, is insufficient. These families cannot begin to heal unless they are given time to grieve free from financial worry. There is no worse pain imaginable than losing a child. This pain is made all the more severe because of the way these children were killed and injured. In short, the State of Texas ought to use every available resource in law to make these families whole.

We, the undersigned, request that you remove District Attorney Mitchell Busbee from her oversight of the UTRC. The District Attorney's Office is not equipped or staffed to provide these services. Instead, we ask that you place the Texas Department of Emergency Management in charge of this important and valuable service. These victims deserve maximum compensation and they deserve it immediately.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Roland Gutierrez".

Roland Gutierrez,
State Senator – SD 19

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Don McLaughlin".

Don McLaughlin,
Mayor of the City Uvalde