The Network of Texas IAF Organizations

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Dear Commissioners:

COPS/ Metro Alliance San Antonio

Dallas Area Interfaith

> AMOS, Arlington

TMO, Houston

Valley Interfaith, Rio Grande Valley

EPISO and Border Interfaith, El Paso

Austin Interfaith

The West Texas Organizing Strategy

The Border Organization, Del Rio / Eagle Pass

San Antonio Sponsoring Committee As the largest network of faith and community-based organizations in Texas, with 10 broad-based coalitions representing hundreds of thousands of families statewide, The Texas IAF is extremely concerned about the physical and financial impact of COVID-19 on working families. With aggressive containment efforts of COVID-19 underway, including "Shelter in Place" requirements across the State, Dallas Area Interfaith and the 10 Texas IAF Organizations are calling the Texas Public Utility Commission to take the following steps to keep Texas citizens safe during this pandemic:

- Cease all utility cutoffs/shutdowns (water, phone, electricity) until 30 days after the State ends its Emergency Declaration
- Waive any late fees that have or will accrue from the start of the Emergency Declaration until 30 days after it ends
- Extend payment due dates with no down payment required during this same period.
- Reduce down payments and defer balances over five equal installments
- Enact additional bill-payment assistance by PUC to citizens in need through utility aid program.
- Require local utility companies to have assistance plans in place if a customer is unable to pay their bill

COVID-19 is causing uncertainty and many hardships, and during this time, DAI/IAF of Texas doesn't want Texas citizens to have their physical or financial health put in danger unnecessarily. To fight the spread of COVID-19 access to water, communications, and electricity are basic necessities.

Sincerely,

Rev. Joon Ostitum SR

Rev. John Ogletree The Metropolitan Organization

Daris & Price

Rev. Davis Price West Texas Organizing Strategy

Bishop Greg Kelly Dallas Area Interfaith

Doloris De Avila

Dolores De Avila EPISO/ Border Interfaith

Revi a. Collini, oni

Rev. Kevin Collins, OMI Valley Interfaith

Sandra Fuentes

Sandra Fuentes The Border Organization

Walter D'heedene

Rev. Walter D'heedene COPS/Metro Alliance

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Fr. Miles Brandon Central Texas Interfaith

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Rev. Daniel Kelly Arlington-Mansfield Organizing Strategy

*The Network of Texas IAF Organizations are nonpartisan, institutionally based community organizations whose purpose is to train leaders to organize families around issues which affect their quality of life. The network includes <u>Communities Organized for Public Service and The Metro Alliance</u> and ICAN in San Antonio, The Border Organization, <u>Valley Interfaith</u> in the Rio Grande Valley; <u>TMO</u> in Houston; <u>EPISO and Border Interfaith</u> In El Paso; <u>Austin and Central Texas Interfaith</u>; ACT in Fort Worth; <u>Dallas Area Interfaith</u>; AMOS- Arlington , The West Texas Organizing Strategy; and Beaumont, Port Arthur and Orange.