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Judith Zaffirini, PhD
DEAN OF THE TEXAS SENATE
STATE SENATOR, DISTRICT 21

COMMITTEES
BUSINESS AND COMMERCE
FINANCE
REDISTRICTING
STATE AFFAIRS
LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT ON GRID RELIABILITY

March 12, 2026

Chuck Foreman
[redacted]

Dear Mr. Foreman:

Thank you for your continued service to our country and for your steadfast advocacy on behalf of patriots who have served in our nation's military forces. Thanks, too, for sharing your insight and information regarding veterans relying on SH 130, especially Segments 5 and 6 in Caldwell County, when traveling to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs hospitals in San Antonio and Temple. Whether needing specialized care, including treatment for spinal cord injuries, prosthetics, post-traumatic stress disorder, or other complex medical needs, our veterans must travel frequently and over long distances to receive care. Challenged by dealing with the consequences of serving our country, they should not have to bear the additional financial burden of toll costs related to their medical care.

Although the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) offers discounted toll programs for disabled veterans on some segments of SH 130, those discounts do not apply to Segments 5 and 6 because they are operated under a private concession agreement. Accordingly, during the 2027 regular legislative session I plan to file anew legislation that would establish a veterans' toll discount program for certain segments of State Highway (SH) 130. Identical to my Senate Bill (SB) 1256 (2025), it would address this inequity by directing TxDOT to use shared revenue from those segments to fund a veterans' toll discount program for veterans traveling along that corridor.

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My proposed legislation reflects legislators' frequent expressions of appreciation, gratitude, and respect for our veterans. Feel free to call upon my staff and me whenever we may be of assistance. My prayer is that the Lord will bless you always and inspire you to excel.

Respectfully,

Judith Zaffirini

Judith Zaffirini

Z/ks