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STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 140

October 24, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my strong support of the Ben Taub expansion plan as unanimously approved by the Harris Health Board of Trustees. This critical expansion will ensure Harris Health's ability to meet the health care needs of Houston, Harris County, and the larger southeast Texas region for decades to come. Located in the heart of the world-class Texas Medical Center, Ben Taub Hospital consistently operates at or above its 402-bed capacity, and the demand for its healthcare services will only increase in the long, medium, and even short term.

With federal cuts to Medicaid and expiring premium subsidies for coverage through the Affordable Care Act, thousands of Texans will lose health insurance and, with it, sorely needed access to health care. Additionally, due to Harris County's current and projected population growth, Ben Taub expects demand to grow as much as 18,000 emergency visits over the next 10 years, making its expansion a clear necessity.

Through my work during the 88th Legislative Session, the State of Texas, with the approval of its voters, invested more than \$1 billion in the acquisition and conservation of parkland through the Centennial Parks Fund. I fully support the continued expansion of parkland in Texas; however, it is equally important to ensure that such investments are balanced with the region's critical need for accessible healthcare services. The proposed plan is a thoughtful way to address the critical need in a manner that minimizes the impact to adjacent parcels of land.

Throughout the process Harris Health has committed to robust community engagement and communication with all affected stakeholders, and it will continue to make good on that commitment long after the first shovel breaks ground.

I fully support Harris Health's Ben Taub expansion plan, ensuring the Texas Medical Center will remain open to vulnerable patients and especially those with complex trauma needs for decades to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "A.L. Walle".

State Representative Armando Walle
House District 140
Harris County, Texas

DISTRICT 140 • HARRIS (PART)

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