

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 10, 2022

Director Steven McCraw
Texas Department of Public Safety
5805 North Lamar Blvd
Austin, TX 78752-4431

Dear Director Steven McCraw,

On May 24, 2022, the Uvalde community was devastated by a senseless act of gun violence. As we continue to grieve this immense loss Uvalde has experienced, we also understand the importance of providing the community with transparent information. We are writing today to urge the Texas Department of Public Safety to provide all information and updates relating to the school shooting at Robb Elementary in Uvalde, Texas and subsequent events in Spanish.

As you are aware, Uvalde is a predominately Latino community, with extensive Mexican-American roots. Approximately 80% of Uvalde's population is Latino and over half of the families speak mostly Spanish at home.¹ Unfortunately, authorities in Texas have only provided information pertaining to the shooting in English and have gone as far as ignoring multiple requests to provide remarks in Spanish, including at press conferences.² It is unconscionable that public safety officials are neglecting to provide critical information in Spanish to a predominately Spanish-speaking community.

Initial claims and narratives are inconsistent, and these inconsistencies make it more crucial that accurate information is provided to all community members in their preferred language in a timely manner.³ As investigations continue, all Uvalde residents deserve to know the full details of this horrifying tragedy.

The people of Uvalde cannot be ignored, and they deserve answers in their preferred languages. This tragedy has left a stain on Uvalde and the nation at large, and we will never forget the lives that were lost or the horrific event that took place. We thank you for your time and consideration of our request to provide information pertaining to the shooting at Robb Elementary School and subsequent events in Spanish, which is echoed by Uvalde residents.

¹ [U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts: Uvalde city, Texas: United States](#)

² [Authorities ignore Spanish speakers at Uvalde press conferences \(axios.com\)](#)

³ [Uvalde shooting's evolving narrative: Here are the details police have walked back \(nbcnews.com\)](#)

Sincerely,



Raúl M. Grijalva

Member of Congress



Joaquin Castro

Member of Congress



Norma Torres

Member of Congress



Jesús G. "Chuy" García

Member of Congress



Veronica Escobar

Member of Congress

CC:

Governor Greg Abbott, State of Texas