

STATEMENT: Winter Storm Uri Reminds Us To Put Kids and Families First This Legislative Session

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Dallas - Last week was hard for all of us; it was heartbreaking and traumatizing for Texans. We hope you and your loved ones are faring well after what seemed like a week that would never end.

As the beautiful weather ushers out the intense cold of last week, many of us are fortunate enough to put these hardships behind us. While many of us can ease back into some stability and normalcy, maybe with an anecdotal story about the hardships or inconveniences we experienced, they are likely different than the stories of families that were in an existing storm of what surely feels like insurmountable challenges.

Too many Texans who are already experiencing a too-wide disparity gap and who have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19 will see the aftermath of the winter storms compound already record-high levels of stress and trauma.

This crisis reminds us there is a clear and urgent need to put children and their families first in this legislative session.

We need to ensure the immediate safety and protection of children who are survivors of child abuse and neglect. We must work with the Legislature on smart solutions to invest in upstream programs that prevent child abuse and neglect and mitigate the negative impact of events like Winter Storm Uri.

Although Texas families are experiencing back-to-back, once-in-a-lifetime events, we at TexProtects recognize that these hardships do not define families nor lead to child abuse. But what we do know is that thousands of little precious lives and families need our help and support more than ever. It's our collective responsibility to ensure we have networks in place for families to turn to.

Here are ways you can help:

1. Look for ways to help your community by donating or volunteering.
2. [Learn](#) to recognize the signs of child abuse and neglect and how to help families in need.
3. [Encourage policymakers](#) to listen to their constituents' stories and work across the aisle for the common good of children and the state. You can even share your own story!

Thank you for your support and your dedication to helping us build safer childhoods for all children to secure Texas's future.

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