



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

April 25, 2018

The Honorable Blake Farenthold
U.S. Representative, District 27
U.S. House of Representatives
1027 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-4327

Dear Mr. Farenthold:

On behalf of voters in the 27th Congressional District and as Governor of the State of Texas, I am writing to demand that you cover all costs for the called special election to fill the seat now vacated following your resignation.

While you have publicly offered to reimburse the \$84,000 in taxpayer funds you wrongly used to settle a sexual harassment claim, there is no legal recourse requiring you to give that money back to Congress.

I am urging you to give those funds back to the counties in your district to cover the costs of the June 30, 2018, special election.

All counties contained within this district continue to be under the state disaster declaration related to the devastation of Hurricane Harvey, making it imperative that we fill this vacancy as soon as possible.

Hurricane relief efforts depend heavily on action at the federal level, which can only occur if Texans residing in disaster zones have full and effective representation in Congress.

This seat must be filled, and the counties and taxpayers in the 27th Congressional District should not again pay the price for your actions.

I request a response by May 2.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Abbott".

Greg Abbott
Governor

GA:mhd