



**BRANDON CREIGHTON**

Texas State Senator

District 4

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## **Senator Creighton Joint-Authors Governor Abbott's Priority Mental Health Legislation**

**AUSTIN, TX** – Senator Creighton (R-Conroe) has joined Senator Jane Nelson (R-Flower Mound) supporting Senate Bill 10 establishing a partnership among Texas health institutions on statewide mental health initiatives. Senate Bill 10 will foster cooperation among health-related institutions, promote mental health research and strengthen judicial training on juvenile mental health.

"The State of Texas continues to take action on mental health with no greater examples of need than recent school violence examples," said Senator Creighton. "I asked Lieutenant Governor Patrick to appoint me to the Senate Select Committee on School Violence & School Safety. After the hearings throughout the summer the Committee understood the urgency of identifying at-risk youth and getting them the help they need to fully rehabilitate. It's one of the most important issues we have to address this session and I am committed to prioritize mental health initiatives."

Senator Creighton has always placed a high priority on this issue and is committed to coordinate state mental health initiatives across health-related institutions of higher education. As Chairman of the Higher Education Committee, Senator Creighton understands the large role that mental health plays in the lives of college students. Our academic health-related institutions offer a wealth of expertise that can be leveraged to address gaps in Texas' mental health system. Senate Bill 10 will establish the Texas Child Access Through Telemedicine (TCHATT), which will connect at risk students with behavioral health assessments and intervention programs via telemedicine to serve as a resource for students.

Over the past several sessions the Texas Senate leadership has made significant progress on mental health – which accounts for \$7.6 billion in the current state budget -- an increase of \$750 million. However, with recent school shooting incidents and an increase in youth suicide rates, S.B. 10 will not only help curb these issues, but continue to protect Texas students.

In addition to S.B. 10, Senator Creighton is authoring other school safety legislation including Senate Bill 243, modifying the manner in which school marshals may store their firearm, and Senate Bill 244, giving local schools the ability to appoint additional school marshals.

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*SENATOR BRANDON CREIGHTON represents District 4, which encompasses parts of Montgomery, Harris, Chambers, Jefferson and Galveston Counties.*