



SENATOR JOSÉ MENÉNDEZ DISTRICT 26

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Senator José Menéndez Issues Bill to Restore Critical Medicaid Funding to Help Children with Disabilities after Devastating Cuts

Austin, Texas – State Senator José Menéndez has filed Senate Bill 102 to help restore funding for critical therapies for some 60,000 children living with disabilities, one of our state’s most vulnerable populations. Despite efforts by parents to stop \$350 million in cuts to reimbursements for speech, occupational and physical therapy, those devastating cuts went into effect last December, sparking an outcry from desperate families, service providers and lawmakers from around the state. Earlier this year, the legislature managed to restore 25% of these funds for the 2018-19 budget, but that was far from enough. Families struggled to find providers, pay for services and obtain equipment that helps keep their children healthy and in some cases, able to survive without constant care. SB102 would fund the remaining 75% of the therapy cuts by taking \$112 million from the Economic Stabilization Fund (also known as the Rainy Day Fund) and \$148 million from federal funds.

The following quote is attributed to Senator José Menéndez:

“We can no longer stand by and watch innocent children with disabilities suffer because the state has taken away access to the medically necessary therapies families depend upon. These cuts hurt special needs children who have every right to expect their leaders to stand up for them. Since this issue began, I have met with countless parents who did their jobs as caretakers and advocates to crusade for their kids. It’s time we do our jobs and take care of our most vulnerable constituents.”

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