

<u>Media Advisory:</u> Monday, January 27, 2020 **Contact:** Cynthia Cabral, Communications Director O: 210-733-6604 | C: 210-639-8686 | Cynthia.Cabral@senate.texas.gov

Senator José Menéndez Proudly Recognizes Holocaust Remembrance Week Taking Place Jan. 27 - 31 throughout Texas Public Schools

San Antonio, Texas –Senator José Menéndez passed SB 1828 during the 86th Legislative Session establishing 'Holocaust Remembrance Week' which begins today and continues through Friday (Jan. 27-31). This law positions Texas as one of 12 states requiring some form of Holocaust education in public schools.

Holocaust Remembrance Week (SB 1828) not only educates students on the atrocities of the Holocaust, but also encourages a sense of responsibility allowing them to recognize and uphold the value of tolerance and diversity, helping to prevent future atrocities.

Senator Menéndez helped identify the need to protect the Jewish community from acts of hatred and anti-Semitic attacks when local Jewish neighborhoods and synagogues were publically vandalized with racial symbols and offensive graffiti in 2015. Through his continued efforts to reject these cynical acts and focus on strengthening our community through inclusion and equality, Menéndez was able to pass this education law.

Senator José Menéndez released the following statement:

"I am very proud of the support received for this bill that was brought to my attention by four San Antonio women dubbed 'Four Ladies in a Car' – *Ginny Wind, Varda Ratner, Sharon Scharff Greenwald, and Lisa Barry* - who worked tirelessly with my office to ensure that this horrible part of history is not questioned or forgotten."

"I hope that this week's activities will inspire schools throughout the state to implement a robust curriculum that helps our younger generations recognize the history of this profound tragedy, and provides a deeper understanding of the dangers of hatred and the importance of human rights," adds Menéndez.