



SENATOR JOSÉ MENÉNDEZ

DISTRICT 26

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Senator José Menéndez Issues Statement Urging Congress to Pass Voting Rights Legislation

San Antonio, Texas - State Senator José Menéndez issued the following statement on urging Congress to pass voting rights legislation.

^Senator José Menéndez released the following statement:

“This morning, I joined 8 of my Senate Democrat Colleagues and the House Democrats to advocate for passage of the *John Lewis Voting Rights Act* and the *For the People Act*. In Texas, Senate Bill (SB) 1 is an attack on the people of Texas' right to vote. This bill is a solution in search of a non-existent problem. SB 1 empowers partisan poll watchers to intimidate voters and would make the jobs of election officials even harder than they currently are. The Texas Secretary of State, our top election official, stated that the 2020 elections were safe and secure. If history has shown us anything, it is that any type of restrictions or limitations at the ballot is used to suppress the vote of minority communities. The legislature should not be working to limit the fundamental right that we are all given. Instead, we must focus on making voting more accessible for our fellow Texans through policies such as universal mail-in-ballots, countywide polling, and 24-hour and drive-thru voting.

We have much more pressing issues that should have been addressed during the regular session yet are still missing from the Governor's priorities during this special session. Priority issues should include fixing our electrical grid, expanding Medicaid, and equitable COVID-19 recovery. Instead, our state's top elected leaders reconvened lawmakers with the purpose of restricting our right to vote, the rights of transgender children, and the reproductive rights of women. While foster care funding and a thirteenth check for our retired teachers are on the call, these issues should have been addressed during the full 140 days of the regular session; our legislative leadership chose not to work on these problems. We will continue to fight for these issues, but foster children, retired teachers, and legislative employees should not be used as pawns or held hostage to push an agenda that devastates many of our fellow Texans.

Our office remains committed to serving the people of District 26. We will continue to listen to our constituents and provide a voice for you here at the Texas Capitol, as you have entrusted us to do."

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