



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Senate Health and Human Services committee to discuss foster care system and impact of refugee relocation

El Paso – The Senate Committee on Health and Human Services will have hearings tomorrow and Thursday to review interim charges related to the current state of the foster care system and the impact of refugee relocation. The interim charges to be discussed are as follows:

Wednesday (April 20, 2016)

- Study the increase in higher acuity children with trauma and mental illness in the state foster care system, and recommend ways to ensure children have timely access to appropriate treatment and placement options.
- Examine the frequency, causes, and effects of disrupted foster care adoptions and make recommendations to improve the long-term success of adoptive placements. Study and make recommendations on ways to ensure a smooth transition for foster care children who are exiting the system.
- Examine the current process that Child Protective Services uses to track recurrence of child abuse and neglect, and make recommendations to improve data tracking and the use of that data to assist in preventing recurrence. The study should examine the differences in recurrence among families who received services, families who received no services and had their cases closed, and families who had their children removed from the home

Thursday (April 21, 2016)

- Study the impact to the state of the increasing number of refugees relocating to Texas, including the range of health and human services provided. Examine the authority of the state to reduce its burden under the Refugee Resettlement Program, and any state-funded services.

The hearings begin at **9 a.m. CST** in Austin (8 a.m. MST in El Paso), and can be viewed live online at this following link: <http://www.senate.texas.gov/bin/live.php>

José Rodríguez represents Texas Senate District 29, which includes the counties of El Paso, Hudspeth, Culberson, Jeff Davis, and Presidio. He represents both urban and rural constituencies, and more than 350 miles of the Texas-Mexico border. Senator Rodríguez currently serves as the Chairman of the Texas Senate Democratic Caucus, and is a member of the Senate Committees on Education; Health and Human Services; Veteran Affairs and Military Installations; Nominations; and Agriculture, Water, and Rural Affairs.

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