



# SENATOR CARLOS I. URESTI

## TEXAS STATE SENATE DISTRICT 19

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**For Immediate Release**

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**Attention Editors, Publishers, and Broadcasters:**

### **Funding approved for planning new San Antonio State Hospital**

San Antonio, TX — Following months of stakeholder meetings and negotiations with state officials, Senator Carlos Uresti is pleased to announce the San Antonio State Hospital, on the Southside of San Antonio, in Senate District 19, will be receiving \$14.5 million in state dollars for pre-planning and planning activities for total reconstruction of the hospital in addition to \$1.2 million for immediate repairs and expansion of the existing campus.

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission, with approval from Governor Greg Abbott and the Legislative Budget Board gave the final nod to an initial investment of \$45.2 million to renovate and reconstruct Texas' mental and behavioral health hospitals.

"The constituents I represent deserve to have a modern state hospital that delivers the best care possible to residents of Bexar County and South Texas. The current San Antonio State Hospital is full of potential, but the buildings on the campus are many decades old." said Senator Carlos Uresti who added "Mental and behavioral health treatment has come a long way since the 1940s, and this investment will help ensure our hospitals reflect the new and effective strategies for patient care we expect for our loved ones."

The San Antonio State Hospital, which served nearly 35,000 unique patients from fiscal year 2016-2017, serves 54 counties around San Antonio and South Texas. The campus is over 100 years old, creating infrastructure and staffing challenges on the property that have resulted in temporary closures over the years.

"I want to thank all of our stakeholders including Methodist Healthcare Ministries who worked hard on the initial approval of this project during the 85th Texas Legislative Session. In the months since, I have been amazed by the community collaboration that has galvanized support amongst mental health stakeholders and driven this project forward." said Uresti

The Executive Committee for the Reconstruction of the San Antonio State Hospital includes UT Health San Antonio, University Health System and other healthcare providers, local elected officials, academic institutions, and non-profits who serve Texans in SASH's 54-county region. The committee will help design the facility and oversee the seamless integration of the new San Antonio State Hospital into the local mental health continuum of care.

*Sen. Uresti represents Senate District 19, which covers more than 35,000 square miles and contains all or part of 17 counties, two international ports of entry, eleven state parks, 51 school districts, 2700 miles of highways, and more than 23,000 producing oil and gas wells in both the Eagle Ford Shale and Permian Basin. The district is larger than 12 states and 82 Nations, and contains over one third of the Texas-Mexico border. Sen. Uresti is proud to serve on the Finance, Health & Human Services, Education, and Veteran Affairs & Border Security Committees. Senator Carlos Uresti is an attorney in private practice with The Uresti Law Firm in San Antonio, and is married to Lleanna Uresti, a Realtor.*