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**Senate Unanimously Passes Bettencourt Bill To Expands Protections For Private Schools**  
*SB1230 will eliminate the "passing of trash" from public schools to private schools in Texas*  
*Follows up on SB7, the inappropriate student teacher relationship bill from last session*

**Austin, Texas** - Senator Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) and 30 other Senate colleagues unanimously passed Senate Bill 1230 out of the Texas Senate to protect private school students from student-teacher misconduct. This bill is expanding on the success of SB7, authored by Senator Bettencourt in the 85th Legislative session, that sought to stamp out the growing plague of inappropriate student-teacher relationships. In some cases, educators who engaged in this misconduct were allowed to resign and return to the classroom in private schools. This bill will close those loopholes and ensure a safe environment for all Texas students. Co-authors on this bipartisan legislation include Senator Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham) and Senator Eddie Lucio (D- McAllen).

**SB 7 prevented inappropriate student teacher relationships in public schools and SB1230 will stop "passing the trash" from public schools to private schools,"** said Senator Bettencourt. **"Texas students who have chosen to attend a private school deserve the same protection from sexual predators that students in public schools now have,"** he added.

SB 1230 was requested by the Texas Council of Catholic Bishops and the Private School Association because the "trash" was being passed to them in private schools. This bill is the result of thoughtful work by the Senate Education committee, chaired by Senator Larry Taylor (R-Friendswood). **"People that harm children are not welcome in ANY school in Texas,"** Jennifer Allmon, Executive Director of Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops, said during her testimony in support of SB 1230 in the Senate Education Committee hearing last month.

This bill will make sure private school administrators have access to reports of misconduct and also place stricter guidelines for administrators to follow if acts of misconduct do occur. The private school administrator must report any findings of misconduct to The State Board of Educator Certification (SBEC) as well as the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS).

**"Inappropriate relationships between students and educators must be stamped out. We're talking about the health and safety of our kids. We cannot afford to turn a blind eye or sweep these issues under the rug anymore,"** said Bettencourt. **"This next legislative step will result in a safer learning environment for all Texas students,"** he added.

This legislation ensures that anyone who participates in this behavior will be removed from Texas classrooms. This bill is included in a larger package of education reform bills including SB933, SB1231, SB1256, and SB1476 by Senator Bettencourt that are moving through the Texas Senate.

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