



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CONTACT: CAITY JACKSON**

(512) 463-0109

## **Chairman Hancock Statement on Higher Education Formula Funding Workgroup**

**AUSTIN** - Sen. Kelly Hancock (R-North Richland Hills), co-chair of the Joint Interim Committee on Higher Education Formula Funding, today released the following statement regarding the committee's first workgroup session:

"I would like to thank my Senate colleagues and the university system representatives who attended today's meeting for your meaningful work. One thing is clear: This committee was not tasked with maintaining the status quo, but with finding ways to improve.

"For instance, the category of 'special items' in the budget has room for reform. Additionally, Texas' higher education formula funding should emphasize measurable outcomes that take into consideration the unique goals and priorities of each institution rather than just enrollment numbers. Formula changes cannot be one-size-fits-all, and excellent recommendations to that effect were proposed during today's meeting. We look forward to continuing this conversation and working together with all stakeholders leading up to the 86th Legislative Session."

The Joint Interim Committee on Higher Education Formula Funding was created by the 85th Legislature in Senate Bill 1, Section 62, Article III. The committee held public hearings on Feb. 21 and Feb. 27, 2018.

Today's workgroup was an opportunity for committee members and stakeholders to continue the hearing discussions in more detail. The following legislators attended: Sen. Kelly Hancock (co-chair), Sen. Donna Campbell, Sen. Chuy Hinojosa, Sen. Lois Kolkhorst, and Sen. Charles Schwertner.

The workgroup also included chancellors or presidents of six major university systems and four independent universities: The University of Texas, Texas A&M University, Texas Tech University, University of Houston, University of North Texas, Texas State University, Texas Southern University, Stephen F. Austin University, Texas Women's University, and Midwestern State University.

For more information on the committee, visit: <http://www.senate.state.tx.us/cmte.php?c=940>.

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*Sen. Hancock represents [District 9](#), which includes portions of Dallas and Tarrant Counties. He currently serves as Chairman of the Texas Senate Committee on Business & Commerce.*