Press Release:
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## Texas Senate Heeds Senator Menéndez's Leadership, Agrees to Investigate Cyberbullying

Austin, Texas – After receiving a letter from Senator José Menéndez (D–San Antonio) urging the Texas Senate to take up the issue of cyberbullying, the Senate Criminal Justice Committee has agreed to study bullying during the interim and provide thoughtful legislative solutions to this crisis in our schools. It will be added to the committee's list of interim charges.

"Cyberbullying is a new problem that needs new solutions. It is a statewide problem that demands statewide attention," said Senator Menéndez. "This is a major step forward for David's Law because this committee will give us a platform to hear from experts and families from across Texas on how to address online harassment."

The committee will put a special emphasis on allowing schools and law enforcement to collaborate. Law enforcement currently lacks the legal ability to issue subpoenas in cases of hateful, threatening, and harassing rhetoric on social media.

"I anticipate we will hear testimony from judges and technology companies on how we can unmask anonymous perpetrators of these heinous social media posts," said Senator Menéndez. "Our goal is not to throw all bullies behind bars, but give law enforcement and school districts more tools to provide relief to the victims."

Finally, by holding public hearings and investigating solutions to bullying, the Texas Senate will bring much needed awareness to this epidemic among young students.

"Investigating online harassment and providing legislative solutions is a critical component of giving reprieve to the children who have been bullied," said Senator Menéndez. "However, I hope by holding public hearings more parents become aware and talk to their children about bullying. It is important that families feel empowered to address bullying and develop solutions at home."

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