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**Sen. Bettencourt Commends State Health Department's
Proposed Rule Changes Regarding the Remains of the Unborn**
Senator praised the agency's work to update current rules with "rational and humane improvements"

AUSTIN – Sen. Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) today commended the Texas Department of State Health Services' (DSHS) work to update current rules regarding the disposition of human remains originating in an abortion facility.

In today's letter to DSHS, Sen. Bettencourt said of the proposed rule update: **"It is a much needed and proper way to affirm the value and dignity of some of the most vulnerable members of the Texas population – unborn children."**

Texas health officials in July proposed updates to 25 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 1, §§1.132 – 1.137 concerning abortion providers' treatment and disposition of fetal remains. Sen. Bettencourt joined his colleague Sen. Don Huffines in support of the proposed new administrative rules.

"I truly believe that the common sense, faith-based reasoning of the vast majority of Texans would ... agree that the dignity of life has to be maintained, even in the face of death," Sen. Bettencourt concluded the letter. **"Therefore, I commend the Department of State Health Services on working to update these rules with rational and human improvements, so that Texas may continue to ensure that all members of her population are treated with dignity and respect."**

DSHS will hold a public hearing to accept public comments on the proposed new rules from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on Thursday, Aug. 4, 2016, in the Moreton Building, Room M-100, located on 1100 West 49th Street in Austin. The public hearing will be structured for the receipt of oral or written comments by interested persons.

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**FOR A COPY OF SEN. BETTENCOURT'S LETTER TO DSHS,
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