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Senator Angela Paxton Files "Every Mother Matters Act"

Austin, TX - Today Texas State Senator Angela Paxton filed Senate Bill 802, the "Every Mother Matters Act," also known as EMMA.

"Knowledge is power," emphasizes Senator Paxton, "and EMMA empowers women by creating a mechanism to connect those facing unexpected pregnancies with resources for which they might not know they are eligible."

EMMA expands upon information currently required to be provided to women seeking an abortion by matching them with local and state resources that can provide for specific socioeconomic and family needs. Additionally, EMMA provides a screening for family violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking to ensure the woman is not a victim of these crimes.

"This bill focuses on women who are at a critical juncture in their lives and equips them with practical, compassionate, real help as they contemplate, oftentimes alone, the practical realities of an unplanned pregnancy." said Senator Paxton. "The Every Mother Matters Act is one element of the larger conversation we need to have as a culture about protecting and promoting human dignity. At a minimum, acknowledging a woman's dignity requires recognizing that many women consider abortion only because they don't see any other way out of their situation because they lack support, are unemployed or underemployed, or don't have a home. EMMA takes all of these factors into consideration and also determines if the woman has been the victim of a crime so appropriate actions can be taken."

In addition to Senator Paxton, joint-authors of this bill include Senators Paul Bettencourt, Donna Campbell, M.D., Bob Hall, Bryan Hughes, Eddie Lucio, Jr., and Charles Perry.

"Every mother matters, and research indicates that a majority of women seeking an abortion would choose to give birth if their circumstances were different. By matching specific needs with specific resources, Texas will be making a priceless investment in promote dignity and life for both mother and child," concluded Senator Paxton.

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