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August 6, 2018

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Sen. Kelly Hancock: Statement on Senate Select Committee Report on Violence in Schools and School Security

AUSTIN - The Texas Senate Select Committee on Violence in Schools and School Security today issued its [report](#) to the 86th Legislature. Senator Kelly Hancock (R-North Richland Hills), a member of the committee, released the following statement:

"The children of Texas deserve safe schools. Our hearts ached as we saw the terrible attack unfold in Santa Fe, and these acts of evil present a challenge we must tackle together - from families, school districts, churches, community organizations and local governments to the Texas Legislature.

"The Select Committee was directed to find ways to reduce security threats, harden school facilities, improve training programs, identify and intercept high-risk students, and also to review current protective order laws. The recommendations of the Committee were formed based on many hours of invited and public testimony, and the Members of the 86th Legislature should act on them.

"One of these recommendations is to expand funding for the voluntary school marshal program, which was created by HB 1009, a bill I carried in the Senate during the 83rd Legislative Session. School marshals are school personnel trained to respond to active shooter situations by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education. I would encourage more schools to take advantage of school marshal training, because the bottom line is this: Should an attack occur, the ability to respond in seconds rather than minutes can save lives."

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Sen. Hancock represents [District 9](#), which includes portions of Dallas and Tarrant Counties. He currently serves as Chairman of the Senate's Business & Commerce Committee and Co-Chair of the Joint Interim Committee on Higher Education Formula Funding. He previously served 13 years on the Birdville ISD School Board.