



**STATE SENATOR BEVERLY POWELL**

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**PRESS RELEASE | For Immediate Release | April 10, 2019**

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**Powell Passes Legislation to Create Postsecondary Opportunities for Texas Students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities**

**Austin, TX**—Today, the Texas Senate unanimously passed Senate Bill 1017 by Senator Beverly Powell. SB1017 by Powell creates an advisory council on postsecondary education for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). The advisory council will be tasked with raising awareness about postsecondary opportunities for students with IDD and make recommendations on how to remove existing barriers to higher education for these students.

*"The importance of the creation of the first advisory committee at the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board solely focused on students with disabilities cannot be overstated. This committee will ensure an experienced group of professionals and disability experts fully explore existing barriers for higher education participation and make practical and thoughtful recommendations on how to remove those barriers to create more opportunities so more students with disabilities can go to college and live out their dreams,"* **stated Chris Masey, Director of Texas Coalition of Disabilities.**

*"Autism Speaks is proud to stand with Sen. Powell as she addresses the important issue of school to work transition for our students with disabilities,"* **said Larry Gonzales, a representative of Autism Speaks.**

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