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Senator Larry Taylor Files SB 11, A Bill to Strengthen School Safety

March 4, 2019- (Austin, TX) Senator Larry Taylor (R-Friendswood) has filed Senate Bill 11, a bill to strengthen school safety and security. The bill was filed after the Senate Select Committee on Violence in Schools and School Security released a number of recommendations on the topic in the summer of 2018.

Upon the filing of the bill, Senator Taylor released the following statement:

Though nearly a year has passed since a shooting at Santa Fe High School took the lives of eight children and two teachers, it is critical that the Legislature keeps the topic of school safety at the forefront of our hearts and our conversations.

This bill represents the culmination of hours of testimony from survivors, security experts, mental health professionals and school administrators. They came to us in Governor Abbott's round table discussions and our select committee hearings in need of help and this bill will show them that their stories and recommendations were given the grave consideration they rightfully deserved.

The shooting at Santa Fe has been the most emotionally trying event I have encountered as a legislator and it continues to weigh heavily on me. It exposed flaws in our school security system but it also brought to light the tremendous spirit of the people in our area, and I want to thank them for lifting up the people of Santa Fe in an impossibly challenging time.

It is my hope that the passage of this bill will help our schools prevent and prepare for similar events.

SB 11 addresses topics including infrastructure hardening, mental health counseling, trauma informed care, training for school district employees and emergency protocol. The bill will be heard in the Senate Education Committee tomorrow, March 5th, at 9am. The hearing will be streamed at <https://senate.texas.gov/av-live.php>. Senate Bill 11 can be read in full at <https://capitol.texas.gov/BillLookup/History.aspx?LegSess=86R&Bill=SB11>

Senator Larry Taylor is a lifelong Texan and Baylor University graduate raised in Friendswood. Before his election to the Texas Senate in 2012, he served five terms in the Texas House of Representatives. Senator Taylor was appointed Chairman of the Senate Education Committee in 2015. In 2018, he was appointed Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Violence in Schools and School Security.