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### **Governor Abbott Signs School Safety Legislation**

June 6, 2019-(Austin, Texas) Today, Governor Greg Abbott signed Senate Bill 11 by Senator Larry Taylor (R-Friendswood) into law during a ceremony at the State Capitol.

The landmark school safety legislation will in part assist school districts in hardening their infrastructure, identifying and addressing the mental health needs of their students, and developing plans to handle emergencies or threats on campus. SB 11 offers a grant for one time school hardening and creates a school safety financial allotment for schools to address ongoing safety expenses.

The bill also creates the Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium, which will bring together Texas academic institutions to collaborate on ways to better identify those at risk of mental health issues, improve access to mental health care for children and address the state's urgent mental health needs. The consortium will emphasize increasing the availability of early intervention services for children at risk of suicide, substance abuse or violence.

Senator Taylor was joined at the signing ceremony by Representative Greg Bonnen, who sponsored the bill, and Senator Jane Nelson, whose Senate Bill 10 was added as an amendment to SB 11.

*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 currently serves as the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Education and as a member of the Finance, Higher Education, and Water and Rural Affairs Committees. He is also a member of the Legislative Budget Board.*

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