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### **Senator Larry Taylor Appointed to Committee in Response to Gun Violence**

September 5, 2019 (Austin, Texas)- Today, Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick appointed Senator Larry Taylor (R-Friendswood) to the Senate Select Committee on Mass Violence Prevention and Community Safety. The committee was created after two shootings in El Paso and Odessa claimed the lives of 29 people. It is tasked with studying the community impact of gun violence, ways to keep firearms out of the hands of individuals who would not pass a background check, and the role of media, the dark web and other cultural influences in the promotion of mass violence.

Senator Taylor previously served as the Chairman of the Select Committee on Violence in Schools and School Security after the Santa Fe school shooting occurred in his district. That committee met throughout the summer of 2018 to examine ways to improve school safety. Upon his appointment to the Senate Select Committee on Mass Violence Prevention and Community Safety, Senator Taylor said:

The circumstances requiring the creation of this Select Committee are tragic and it is unfortunate that we find ourselves facing these issues. However, as the Chairman of last summer's Select Committee to Study Violence in Schools and School Security, I know that measured and diligent discussion and research can produce positive outcomes. Our work last summer resulted in Senate Bill 11 and nearly \$350 million devoted to protecting Texas children in their schools. It is my hope that the work of this committee will be equally productive.

Senator Taylor will be joined on the committee by its chairman, Sen. Joan Huffman (R-Houston), vice chair Sen. Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo), Sen. Donna Campbell (R-New Braunfels), Sen. Kelly Hancock (R-North Richland Hills), Sen. Jane Nelson (R-Flower Mound), Sen. Charles Perry (R-Lubbock), Sen. Jose Rodriguez (D-El Paso), and Sen. John Whitmire, (D-Houston). Speaker Dennis Bonnen has also created a House Select Committee on Mass Violence Prevention and Community Safety. The first meeting of either committee has not yet been determined.

*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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