



# **BORRIS L. MILES**

## **STATE SENATOR DISTRICT 13**

COMMITTEES: Agriculture, Water & Rural Affairs, Health and Human Services, Natural Resources and Economic Development and Nominations

**PRESS RELEASE**  
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## **Senator Miles Renews Commitment to Women's Health**

*Files bills to address the skyrocketing maternal mortality rates in Texas*

Senator Borris L. Miles renews his commitment to women's health and files legislation to combat the problem of maternal mortality for the special session.

"During the 85th Legislative Session, I successfully passed SB 790 to extend the Women's Health Advisory Committee for another two years and SB 1599 to improve maternal mortality reporting. Unfortunately, Governor Abbott vetoed SB 790, stating it was no longer needed. Although I disagreed with his veto of SB 790, the addition of maternal mortality to the special session agenda offers us an opportunity to address the surging number of pregnancy-related deaths in Texas."

Texas has the highest number of pregnancy-related deaths in a developed world. For black women, the numbers are even worse.

"This special session gives us another bite of the apple and truly tackle maternal mortality and help Texas mothers. Today, I filed legislation to address this issue and offer more healthcare options to our moms," said Senator Miles.

Senator Miles filed the following bills for the special session:

- SB 26 will improve the tracking of neonatal abstinence syndrome caused by the opioid epidemic and will create materials and prevention strategies to address this public health crisis, which is contributing to maternal mortality in Texas.
- SB 27 will allow for the automatic enrollment of eligible women into the Texas Women's Health Program so that they can continue to receive access to preventive health care and family planning services.

In addition, the Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition also awarded the senator with the 2017 Legislative Champion award for his dedication to women's health initiatives.

"I'm incredibly humbled to receive this award," said Senator Miles. "For the past ten years, I have worked diligently in the Texas Legislature to put women's health at the top of my priorities. I plan on continuing that work as we move into the special session."

The Special Session of the Texas Legislature begins on July 18, 2017.

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"Keep the Faith, Keep the Fight"

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