



# **BORRIS L. MILES**

## **STATE SENATOR DISTRICT 13**

**COMMITTEES:** Criminal Justice, Health and Human Services, Natural Resources and Economic Development and Nominations

### **OFFICIAL STATEMENT** **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 2, 2019

**Media Contact:** Justin Concepcion  
Office: 512-463-0113  
[Justin.Concepcion@senate.texas.gov](mailto:Justin.Concepcion@senate.texas.gov)

## **Senator Miles Statement on SB 17 and SB 22**

### ***Attacking the Most Vulnerable in Our Communities***

"This session began with calls for unity and the end of divisive legislation. Well, today was just politics as usual as the Texas Senate advanced two dangerous bills, SB 17 and SB 22.

SB 17 would allow state licensed professionals to deny services based on their "sincere religiously held belief." This bill give professionals with a state license the ability to freely discriminate against people they don't like. It specifically targets the GLBT community, but it goes much further. It would open the doors to discrimination and would have a dangerous impact on our community. SD 13 is the most diverse district in Texas, with more languages spoken and faiths worshiped than any other. As I said during my questioning of this bill, you can put lipstick on pig, but it is still a pig. This is still a discrimination bill.

SB 22 would ban local governments from partnering with healthcare providers that provide abortion services. It continues the Republicans efforts to limit a woman's ability to make their own healthcare decisions. This bill takes those efforts a step further, by limiting local jurisdictions ability to make the most efficient use of taxpayer dollars to provide healthcare services. This bill would prevent the City of Houston from partnering with healthcare providers like Planned Parenthood to provide much needed services to low-income neighborhoods or give emergency assistance during a natural disaster. Partnering with local healthcare organizations to provide services is not only fiscally smart, but good for the overall health of poor and minority communities."

SB 17 and SB 22 will now move to the Texas House for consideration.

###

**Capitol Office**  
3.E12  
P.O. Box 12068  
Austin, TX 78711  
512-463-0113

**Central Houston Office**  
5302 Almeda, Suite A  
Houston, TX 77004  
713-665-8322

**Fort Bend Office**  
2440 Texas Pkwy, Suite 110  
Missouri City, TX 77489  
281-261-2360

**Northeast Office**  
3300 Lyons Ave. Suite 301  
Houston, TX 77020  
713-223-0387