



Committees:

Veteran Affairs – Chair  
Education  
Administration  
IGR  
Health & Human Services

**DONNA CAMPBELL, MD**  
DISTRICT 25

District 25 Counties:

Bexar (part)  
Comal  
Guadalupe  
Hays  
Kendall  
Travis (part)

For Immediate Release:  
Tuesday, May 5, 2015

Contact: Jon Oliver  
512-463-0125

**Sen. Donna Campbell's Statement on Passage of SB 1735**

*"The goal is to make the benefits sustainable. That's what we've gone to great lengths to do."*

State Senator Donna Campbell, Chair of the Veteran Affairs and Military Installations Committee, released the following statement after today's Hazlewood vote, which passed the Senate 24 to 7:

"Any reforms to the Hazlewood Act must put our veterans first when it comes to guaranteeing the benefits they've earned through their service, and I am proud to say that this bill accomplishes that. In addition, today's amendment to include 120 hours of college tuition benefits for legacies improves the bill considerably, meeting the biggest concern I have heard from most veterans.

SB 1735 ensures that Texas remains at the forefront of honoring our men and women for their military service like no other state. In fact, in many ways Texas offers a more generous package to our veterans than the federal government. Not every aspect of the bill will please everyone, but Senator Birdwell should be commended for his leadership and hard work on behalf of Texas veterans and for working with veteran groups to include their feedback in the final version of the bill.

The worst thing that could happen to Texas veterans is for Hazlewood to become fiscally insolvent. The legislation passed today ensures that Hazlewood will always be there for our veterans and that Texas will continue to put veterans first.

I am committed to making sure that we study the effects of these changes going forward and share the data with our veterans. If there is room for improvement that would benefit more veterans in the long-term, let's not hesitate to implement those findings. Texas veterans and their families deserve no less."

###

*Senator Donna Campbell is a practicing emergency room physician who represents Senate District 25, including parts of Austin and San Antonio. She serves as the Chair of Veteran Affairs and Military Installations and lives in New Braunfels with the youngest of her four daughters.*