



# The Senate of The State of Texas

## Senator José Menéndez

District 26

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Contact: Dwight Clark 512-463-0126

### **Senator José Menéndez: Budget Is Big Win For San Antonio Families**

Austin, Texas - Today, State Senator José Menéndez voted for House Bill 1 which details the budget for the next biennium. Senator Menéndez was encouraged by the strategic investments the budget will make in his 26th Senatorial District.

Menéndez remarked, "Every budget takes a lot of hard work and there is never enough money to do everything, but my colleagues and I in the Senate worked diligently to secure funding for many of our critical needs like an additional \$1.2 billion for public schools, over \$1 billion for transportation and \$20 million for Veterans' mental health."

Under HB1, Alamo Colleges will receive \$9 million for Veteran Initiatives that includes funding for a Veteran's Training and Assistance Center at San Antonio College. The center will serve as a conduit for information and services for San Antonio veterans. The center will be able to accommodate injuries and disabilities in a manner traditional colleges may not be equipped to handle.

"Thousands of Veterans take the initiative to further their education after separation from the military, and community colleges are often their first step. I look forward to working with Alamo Colleges to create immersive resource centers for our nation's heroes. We owe it to our men and women in the armed forces to build centers that support their educational needs, career development, and assist with any mental or physical health needs," Menéndez said.

The state made a much needed and necessary investment in the Alamo. The General Land Office received over \$30 million to renovate and develop the Alamo in San Antonio.

"The Alamo is the cradle of Texas freedom and a beacon of liberty for the world. I'm proud that I was able to work with leadership to secure a large investment for this icon and the City of San Antonio. We need to develop an interactive and museum-like atmosphere to tell the story of the Alamo and its place as the shrine of Texas history," Menéndez said.

The San Antonio Life Sciences Institute (SALSI) received more money than any other time in recent history. The \$8 million investment means San Antonio can train more nurses and more doctors to fight infectious diseases and treat illnesses.

"In the budget process, you never get everything you want. I would have like to have seen a pay raise for teachers and state employees. Our retired teachers deserve a 13th check and a cost of living increase but did not receive one. In addition, we are obligated to keep our promises to Texas veterans and their families by adequately funding our Hazlewood commitments. Overall though, this budget makes investments in our schools, roads, and infrastructure - not as much I would have liked, nor as much as the state needs, but it was progress. I voted for this budget because it does a good job addressing the needs of people who live in District 26," Menéndez concluded.

#### Budget Highlights for San Antonio

- \$32 million for the Alamo - Largest Appropriation ever made to the General Land Office for the Alamo
- \$9 million for Veteran Resource Centers at Alamo Colleges - First Time Appropriation
- \$8 million for San Antonio Life Science Center - Largest Funding in a Decade
- \$30 million for Defense Economic Adjustment Grants to Military Communities Like San Antonio  
First Appropriation in 2 sessions

CAPITOL OFFICE:  
P.O. Box 12068  
Austin, Texas 78711  
512-463-0126  
Fax 512-463-2114  
1-888-279-0648

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DISTRICT OFFICE:  
101 W. Nueva St., Suite 809  
San Antonio, Texas 78205  
(210) 733-6604  
Fax: (210) 733-6605

E-MAIL: [jose.menendez@senate.state.tx.us](mailto:jose.menendez@senate.state.tx.us)  
Committees: Criminal Justice • Higher Education  
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