



The Senate of The State of Texas

Senator José Menéndez

District 26

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Senator Menéndez Denounces Racist Textbook

San Antonio, TX — State Senator José Menéndez (D-San Antonio) finds flaws and serious racial prejudice in the proposed Mexican-American Studies textbook titled *Mexican American Heritage*. The textbook is currently being vetted by the Texas State Board of Education.

"As a United States Citizen who is very proud of his Mexican heritage, I find some of the passages in this textbook to be egregious and racist," said Senator Menéndez. "It is appalling this textbook would claim Chicanos want to destroy society. If a student turned in this textbook as a research paper, it would be graded an F."

[Page 415 of the sample textbook](#) states, "Chicanos, on the other hand, adopted a revolutionary narrative that opposed Western civilization and wanted to destroy this society."

He also took issue with the characterization and false statements about undocumented immigrants. [On page 454 of *Mexican American Heritage*](#), the book alleges immigrant neighborhoods are hotbeds for crime, exploitation, and hostile views toward America.

"We already have a presidential candidate spewing vile, hateful, and untrue rhetoric toward the immigrant community. These same lies must not be cemented into our education system," said Senator Menéndez. "Immigrant communities are safe and productive contributors to American society."

Senator Menéndez slams the State Board of Education for proposing a textbook about the history and contributions of Hispanics in Texas without consulting Mexican-American scholars.

"It is reprehensible that Texas would consider a textbook from Momentum Instruction rather than reputable Latino scholars," said Senator Menéndez. "I would urge all school districts to choose a textbook other than *Mexican American Heritage* when teaching this important subject. My office is currently researching alternative textbooks and will present that list to interested schools."

In Texas, school districts are allowed to bypass the State Board of Education suggested materials and choose textbooks that accurately reflect history. As vice-chair of the Senate Hispanic Caucus, Senator Menéndez is currently reaching out to his colleagues and the Mexican American Legislative Caucus in the Texas House to ensure this textbook is never formally adopted by the State Board of Education.

"By offering Mexican-American studies, we have the unique opportunity to teach our students, the majority of which are Hispanic, the unique contributions of Latinos in Texas history," said Senator Menéndez. "Students must be empowered with textbooks that embrace our cultural heritage. Sadly, this textbook would deny our unique legacy and whitewash history."

Parents, students, educators, and the public at large have until September 2, 2016 to comment on this proposed textbook. Senator Menéndez urges Texans to submit feedback by [clicking here](#) or emailing review.adoption@tea.texas.gov.

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