



The Senate of The State of Texas

Senator José Menéndez

District 26

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Senator Menéndez Disappointed the DEA Chose Outdated Stigmas Over the Care of Medical Patients

San Antonio, Texas - Today, the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) failed to recognize the many medical benefits of cannabis by refusing to reclassify it as a Schedule II Drug. State Senator José Menéndez, author of Texas' first comprehensive medical cannabis bill, took serious issue with the DEA denying treatment to veterans, parents of children with epilepsy, cancer patients, and the thousands of Americans who use the drug to treat medical afflictions.

"I'm extremely disappointed the DEA chose outdated stigmas over the care of medical patients. For years, I've heard veterans share horror stories of psychotropic drugs being over prescribed to treat PTSD and TBI. Veterans want out of this vicious cycle of prescribing dangerous drugs. They want to treat their trauma with safe medical cannabis," said Senator Menéndez. "I don't know how the DEA can look a cancer patient in the eye and say you don't deserve cannabis to ease the chemotherapy and reduce your nausea."

Despite the DEA's decision, Senator Menéndez hopes Texas will become the next state to allow medical cannabis. The legislation he plans to file next session will build on Senate Bill 339 and the Compassionate Use Program, which currently only allows low-thc for epileptic patients.

"Twenty-five states already recognize the many medical uses of cannabis," said Senator Menéndez. "Next session, I hope Texas will join these ranks and ensure patients get access to the safe medicine they need and deserve."

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State Senator José Menéndez is Vice-Chair of the Senate Hispanic Caucus and represents Senate District 26 in San Antonio, Texas. He currently is a member of the Senate Committees on Higher Education, Criminal Justice, and Intergovernmental Relations.