



The Senate of The State of Texas

Senator José Menéndez

District 26

Media Advisory:

Date: August 22, 2016

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Senator Menéndez Announces Interim Hearing on Cyberbullying and David's Law

AUSTIN, TX - At the urging of State Senator José Menéndez, the Senate Criminal Justice Committee will hold an interim hearing, on August 23 at 1:30pm, to discuss cyberbullying and David's Law. This will be the first opportunity for the Molak Family and the Vasquez family to share their stories with Texas legislators about the horrific cyberbullying their sons experienced. The hearing will also feature experts on bullying to discuss what the legislature can do to prevent and combat online harassment through David's Law.

Prior to the hearing, Senator Menéndez, the Molak family, and the Vasquez family will hold a press conference to discuss their efforts to pass David's Law. The press conference will take place at 12:00pm in the Senate Press Conference Room.

Background:

On December 14, 2015, Senator Menendez and Representative Ina Minjarez met with the Vasquez family. Their son, Matt, had been repeatedly harassed online through anonymous social media accounts. The vitriolic language spewed was simply appalling. Among other attacks, Matt was bullied for having leukemia and encouraged to kill himself. Both offices worked with school officials and law enforcement but were told current law was not sufficient.

Then on January 4th 2016, the ultimate tragedy struck a family in San Antonio. After extensive, inescapable, and vile online harassment directed at David Molak, a 16 year-old student with all the potential in the world, took his own life. David's family has been resilient in the face of unspeakable anguish. In honor of their son, they have called on the Texas Legislature to pass David's Law, a bill to prevent and combat bullying.

Press Conference Information:

WHAT: Press Conference on David's Law and Cyberbullying
WHO: State Senator José Menéndez, Molak Family, and Vasquez Family
WHEN: Tuesday, August 23 at 12:00pm
WHERE: State Capitol of Texas, Senate Press Conference Room, 2E.9

Senate Criminal Justice Hearing Information:

WHAT: Senate Criminal Justice Hearing on Cyberbullying
WHO: State Senator José Menéndez, Molak Family, Vasquez Family
WHEN: Tuesday, August 23 at 1:30pm
WHERE: State Capitol of Texas, Room E1.016 - 1100 Congress Ave, Austin, Texas 78701

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