



# The Senate of The State of Texas

## Senator José Menéndez

District 26

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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### **Senator Menéndez Blasts Senate Interim Hearing Targeting Teachers, Police, Firefighters, and other Public Employees**

*"The Texas Senate has better things to do than pick on community servants"*

San Antonio, Texas - Today State Senator José Menéndez released the following statement in response to the State Affairs Interim Hearing targeting public employees and their right to have union dues deducted from their paycheck.

"The state has no business telling people how they can spend their money. We allow direct deductions for dozens of things, including health savings accounts, charitable contributions, and retirement. Teachers, public safety officers, and first responders have hard jobs and rely on professional associations for training, access to legal counsel, and contract negotiations; why anyone would support a bill that makes their jobs and lives more difficult escapes me. We need to empower public employees, not erect obstacles in front of them."

"I've been a proud member of the Texas State Employees Union since 2001. Each month I have my union dues deducted straight from my paycheck. This system has worked great for decades. There is no reason to change that now. I urge my colleagues to look at the list of giant challenges we must address this session and ask yourself how going after public employees makes the top fifty. This just does not make sense. The Texas Senate has better things to do than pick on community servants, teachers, and first responders."

*State Affairs Interim Charge 2:*

Union Dues: Examine the practice of using public funds and employees for the payment processing of union dues. Make recommendations on whether Texas should end this practice.

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