



SENATOR JOSÉ MENÉNDEZ DISTRICT 26

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Contact: Cynthia Cabral, Communications Director

office: 210-733-6604 | cell: 210-639-8686 | Cynthia.Cabral@senate.texas.gov

Senator José Menéndez Applauds Judge's Ruling to Block Discriminatory Immigration Law in Wake of Hurricane Harvey

San Antonio, Texas – On Wednesday, Aug. 30, as tens of thousands of people in Southeast Texas were taking shelter and being rescued from the treacherous waters of Hurricane Harvey, Federal Judge Orlando Garcia put a much-needed pause on the state's so-called ban on sanctuary cities known as SB4, or "Show me your papers" law. This legislation, which would have allowed police officers to question the citizenship of detainees, among other troubling measures, would have gone into effect on Friday, Sept. 1, just as our state is grappling with one of the worst natural disasters the nation has seen. While it is only a temporary measure allowing a lawsuit challenging SB4 to move forward, it is the right move at the right time.

When the storm recedes, law enforcement agencies like the San Antonio Police Department will continue to keep our communities safe as long as the threat of SB4 is no longer preventing people from reporting crime out of fear of deportation or retribution.

The following quote is attributed to Senator José Menéndez:

"I want to thank Judge Orlando Garcia for this very thoughtful and fair decision. Although his rationale for blocking SB4 preceded Hurricane Harvey, it may very well save the lives of those who fear seeking shelter from the storm as water engulfs hundreds of neighborhoods in our state. Hopefully, this ruling will also help fellow Texans who are counting on the kindness of strangers through this difficult time to realize that fear and prejudice only make our nation a more dangerous place."

"We cannot allow walls like SB4 to divide but must instead unite in our common humanity to survive as a community. My thoughts are with all those who can now call for help without fear. May they find shelter soon."

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