



SENATOR JOSÉ MENÉNDEZ
DISTRICT 26

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**Senator José Menéndez Proud to Work with State Rep. Andrew Murr to Pass HB
3582 Preventing Repeat DWI Offenses**

San Antonio, Texas – State Senator José Menéndez issued a statement in response to the passage of HB 3582 which he sponsored, was authored by State Representative Andrew Murr, and was signed by Governor Greg Abbott on June 14, 2019. Senator José Menéndez partnered with State Representative Andrew Murr and Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) to further protect those using state roads and highways from senseless tragedies caused by drivers who receive their second, or more, Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) offenses.

As the law stood before the passage of this bill, drivers charged with their first DWI could plead to a lesser crime, such as obstructing a highway, in order to avoid jail time. Unfortunately, this law prevented prosecutors from addressing repeat offenders since they were unable to accurately track reoccurring DWI violations under this system.

House Bill 3582 solves this issue by holding the repeat offender accountable for the initial charge, allowing harsher penalties and a chance for rehabilitation.

Senator José Menéndez released the following statement:

"Driving while intoxicated is wrong, no matter the circumstance. Drunk driving kills almost 11,000 people each year in the U.S., and injuries hundreds of thousands more. We are pleased to have worked with Rep. Murr's office and MADD by creating drunk driving deterrents that protect our communities from the reoccurrence of alcohol-related traffic injuries and fatalities."

"We would also like to thank Governor Greg Abbott for signing this bill which gives us the opportunity to save lives by fighting this leading killer on our roads," Adds Menéndez.

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