



SENATOR JOSÉ MENÉNDEZ DISTRICT 26

Media Release:

Thursday, May 6, 2021

Contact: Cynthia Cabral, Communications Director

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

State Senator José Menéndez Stands Opposed to Permit-less Carry in Texas

San Antonio, Texas - Senator José Menéndez released the following statement in response to the passage of House Bill (HB) 1927:

“I joined the minority in voting against HB 1927, the so-called "permit less carry" bill, which would allow anyone—including domestic abusers, members of White supremacist groups, felons, and the mentally ill to carry a firearm without any type of training, background check, license or permit. This bill makes our communities less safe, which is why police and law enforcement professionals of all types oppose this bill. Every good-faith effort that was made to add commonsense safety measures was rejected by the majority.

My office offered an amendment to keep one of these safeguards in place by requiring a person to undergo a mental health evaluation conducted by a physician to determine whether a person’s mental health is stable to purchase a firearm. The Senate Democratic Caucus stood together and also offered the following amendments:

- State that someone carrying a handgun in public without a valid license to carry is strictly liable for any damages that are caused by that handgun.
- Expand data collection to better understand gun crimes.
- Allow local County commissioners courts to opt out of the bill and do what they feel is best for their communities.
- Require people to take a free, online Department of Public Safety (DPS) safety course at least every four years.
- Restore current law pertaining to foster parents carrying a firearm in their car.
- Grant DPS authority to deny permits at their discretion or require the department to deny licenses if they determine the person poses a public safety risk.
- Prohibit someone from carrying a handgun if they are subject to an extreme risk protective order.
- Disarm domestic abusers
- Prohibiting purchase by members of white supremacist organizations involved in an insurrection
- Prohibit those prior arrests related to alcohol or substance abuse from purchasing a firearm.
- Exclude those with class A/B misdemeanors and felonies under indictment.

I am a gun owner, along with millions of other Texans. I swore an oath to uphold the Constitution --an oath I take very seriously. This bill has nothing to do with protecting or upholding the 2nd Amendment, instead it is a solution in search of a problem, which is why nearly 2/3 of Texans oppose permit less carry.”

###