



SENATOR JOSÉ MENÉNDEZ

DISTRICT 26

Media Release:

Wednesday, August 11, 2021

Contact: Cynthia Cabral, Communications Director

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

Senator José Menéndez Issues Statement on Absence Due to COVID-19

San Antonio, Texas - State Senator José Menéndez shared the following statement with his colleagues during the 87(2) Special Session.

Senator José Menéndez shared the following statement:

"Thank you, Mr. President and members. Members, unfortunately, I have been unable to attend committee hearings or the Senate floor this week. As many of you know, my beautiful 14-month-old granddaughter Adalisa, was diagnosed with COVID-19. Most of you met her during the regular session, and I am sure you will share in my sentiment that this child is joyous and full of laughter and love. Members, this morning we learned that additional members of my family, including myself are now positive for COVID-19. For over a year my family and I have followed all CDC protocols. We are all vaccinated. However, we contracted this virus, because someone who due to no fault of their own brought it into our home. This virus is dangerous, and we have to follow scientifically proven methods to slow the spread.

Members, during both the first and second called special sessions, we have focused on matters that are not the priorities of all Texans. Bills have been filed that will interfere with people's fundamental rights, from attacking transgender children and their parents, to the healthcare choices of women, and the way we exercise our right to vote, in these ways we have made targets out of many vulnerable Texans. Members, we have to take a good look at ourselves and ask what role we are playing in history. What precedent are we setting?

The record is clear where my office and constituents stand. Today, we still have time to do the right thing. It is my hope that we will use this time to channel our focus into important matters at hand, matters that can save lives. We should be mandating masks and use scientifically proven methods to slow the spread of COVID-19. We know that at least 18% of all Texans are under the age of 12 and ineligible for the COVID-19 vaccine. Of this percentage, we know that over 3 million school-age Texans under the age of 12 will be going into our public schools. These public schools are currently being prevented from enacting safeguards. We must take action so that small children like Adalisa are protected from this virus. We should expand Medicaid for all, because healthcare is a human right. People of color are dying at a faster rate and in larger numbers - members, these are our constituents. We should fix our grid so that our neighbors do not die in their homes for no fault of their own. Members, we have gone through these bills time and time again. We know who this is hurting. Quite frankly, it is important to recognize that transgender children did not testify against Senate Bill 2 because of the fragile state the Legislature has put on their mental health - these are children. I thank Senator Alvarado for taking the time to share my thoughts and you all for your prayers. The spread of this virus could be prevented, please take action during this second special session to do the right thing for all Texans."

###