



TSTA NEWS

TEXAS STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TSTA supports teacher pay raise proposal

Texas State Teachers Association President Noel Candelaria issued the following statement in support of Senator Jose Menendez's teacher pay raise proposal.

"Texans overwhelmingly support and appreciate their public school teachers, but in recent years, that appreciation has not been echoed in the decisions made by Texas policy makers.

"At a time when our state has billions available for important priorities, legislators have been busy dedicating our tax dollars to highways and tax cuts, while offering very little, if anything, for our teachers and the schools where they work tirelessly to educate our children.

"Based on the most recent state rankings, the average Texas teacher salary lags roughly \$6,920 below the national average. In a poll of 800 Texas voters conducted this March, 83 percent of Texas voters, and 76 percent of Republican primary voters, favored increasing teacher pay by \$7,000 to meet the national average. When teachers are seeing take home pay cuts due to the cost of rising health care premiums, it is time to act, now.

"We urge Texas lawmakers to align their priorities with those of Texas voters of both parties."