



The Senate of The State of Texas

Senator José Menéndez

District 26

February 14, 2018

The Honorable
Ken Paxton, Attorney General of Texas
Office of the Attorney General
300 West 15th Street
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Mr. Paxton:

I recently became aware of a cease-and-desist letter sent by your office to an undisclosed number of school districts around the state of Texas instructing them to stop encouraging people to vote. As I see it, the Attorney General's office should not be speaking on behalf of the Legislature discouraging individuals from exercising their Constitutional rights in any form, including their right to vote. Therefore, I demand that you rescind this unlawful letter immediately and stop any further attempts to bully or coerce school districts from encouraging their communities to exercise their rights to vote.

As elected officials, we swore an oath to uphold and defend the Constitution. As defenders of this pledge, our role includes urging people to vote, not intimidating them from participating in this highly regarded democratic process. Due to the rapidly approaching primary elections, it is urgent that you act immediately in eradicating this ill-conceived letter. It is also important that I mention that I am not on the upcoming ballot.

Should you decide not to retract this letter within the next seven days, I will have no other course of action but to seek alternative resolutions, which will include third party mediations, including (but not limited to) the Department of Justice.

Throughout serving in the state legislature, I have consistently supported the Office of the Attorney General and treated it as a priority to ensure the office has all resources it needs to effectively carry out its duties. It is extremely disappointing to discover how a few of our limited resources are being exploited and misused at the expense of the citizens of Texas.

I intently await your prompt response in resolving this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "José Menéndez".

José Menéndez,
State Senator, District 26

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