

## Senate Committee on Veteran Affairs and Military Installations

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### **Senator Van de Putte Holds Veteran Affairs and Military Installations Committee Hearing**

The Senate Committee on Veteran Affairs and Military Installations, chaired by Senator Leticia Van de Putte (D-San Antonio), met today to hear testimony examining state veteran hiring and procurement procedures. Senator Chris Harris (R-Arlington) asked questions related to the transition of our service members back into civilian employment, particularly our Guard. Senator Ogden (R-Bryan) asked specifically if there are programs that can steer new veterans toward job shortage areas in some of our state agencies (TDCJ, DPS, CPS).

Additionally, the committee discussed legislation to improve the quality of life for military families. Members heard from Mr. Thomas Hinton and Mr. Dale Vande Hey, both with the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense. Military families encounter significant school challenges when dealing with enrollment, eligibility, placement and graduation of their children, due to frequent relocations in the course of service to our country. Most military children will be educated in six to nine different school systems in their lives from kindergarten to 12th grade.

"Educating children is the state's responsibility and privilege," stated Senator Van de Putte who plans to author the Interstate Compact Educational Opportunity for Military Children next session. The compact will allow for the uniform treatment, at the state and local district level, of military children transferring between school districts and states.

"When we enlist a service member we enlist a family," said Van de Putte. "Our dedicated service members have enough to worry about when fighting for our country and our freedom. The least we can do is let them know that we are committed to helping take care of their loved ones. Fundamental to that care is the education of their children."