



THE SENATE OF TEXAS
MORGAN LAMANTIA
DISTRICT 27

**A Statement from Senator Morgan LaMantia on the
Texas State Budget for the 2024-25 Biennium**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AUSTIN, TX - Senator Morgan LaMantia (D-South Padre Island) issued the following statement regarding the Committee Substitute for House Bill 1 (CSHB 1), expressing her unwavering dedication to investing in the future of Texas, while highlighting concerns over insufficient investments.

Senator LaMantia commends the collaborative efforts of Chairwoman Huffman, Chairman Bonnen, Senate Finance and House Appropriations Committee members and staff in formulating CSHB 1, a meticulously crafted state budget aimed at addressing the diverse needs of Texans.

Reflecting on her support for CSHB 1, Senator LaMantia emphasized the appreciation for allocations in the budget specific to Senate District 27 that will yield benefits for our current infrastructure, communities, and families. However, she expressed reservations regarding specific provisions that diverge from the priorities shared by her constituents. These concerns include the prohibition of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) programming in higher education institutions, the diversion of public school funds to private vouchers or ESAs, and the absence of comprehensive healthcare and family planning services.

“While acknowledging the considerable investments in our state's future within this budget, I must express my deep disappointment that, in time of record surplus, our current budget falls short in adequately supporting our public schools, our hardworking teachers, adequate mental health funding, a real cost-of-living adjustment for retired teachers, and the alarming rates of maternal mortality in Texas,” stated Senator LaMantia.

Senator LaMantia’s decision to support CSHB 1 is based on her commitment to fulfilling the essential needs of Texans. The budget presented efficiently addresses funding for critical state infrastructure, an investment plan for property tax cuts, funding for our retired educators through the Teacher Retirement System (TRS), mental health services, broadband access, water, state parks, and public/higher education.

“Our children’s education and the overall prosperity of our state demand our unwavering commitment. Our communities urgently need the benefits of the resources that our state can provide through funding. While this budget falls short in certain areas, I believe it represents a step forward for Texas progress and I am hopeful that we can continue working on the issues that unite all Texans and address the concerns that currently divide us,” Senator LaMantia concluded.

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