



SENATOR MAYES MIDDLETON

DISTRICT 11

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SENATOR MAYES MIDDLETON FILES SENATE BILL 19 TO BAN TAXPAYER-FUNDED LOBBYING

AUSTIN – Today, Senator Mayes Middleton filed Lt. Governor Dan Patrick priority bill banning taxpayer-funded lobbying. The bill, Senate Bill 19, prohibits public funds from being used to hire registered lobbyists.

"For too long, taxpayers' and parents' own tax dollars have been used to lobby against them in Austin. These taxpayer-funded lobbyists have squandered millions of dollars of your hard-earned dollars to lobby against border security, election integrity, parental choice in education, teacher pay raises, and even fought against property tax relief and reform," said Senator Middleton.

"Taxpayer-funded lobbying groups, like Texas Association of School Boards, use your school tax dollars to lobby against the bill to stop men from going into girls' restrooms and locker rooms, and invited transgender advocates to train school board members on how to use pronouns. Time and time again, we have seen taxpayer-funded lobbyists advocate against Texans and against common sense."

"Nearly \$70 million per year is spent on taxpayer-funded lobbying," Senator Middleton said. "We don't need an Austin lobbyist middleman between state and local elected officials. We are elected to represent our constituents directly. Thank you to Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick for making S.B. 19 a priority this session. There is a mandate for D.O.G.E. in Texas, and taxpayers are sick and tired of government waste, fraud, and abuse. Now is the time to end this unethical practice of taxpayer dollars being used to lobby against taxpayers," said Middleton.

Senate Bill 19 will be considered in the 89th Legislative Session, which is currently underway.

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