Opening Comments to Texas Commission on Public School Finance

By Senator Paul Bettencourt, District 7
2006-2016 Property Tax Levy Growth

Source: Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts; 2016 data is subject to revision
Taxpayer’s Ability to Pay

Property Tax Bills grew 2.33 times faster than Median Income

- Property Tax Bill Growth on a Median Valued Home from TTARA based on data from Texas Real Estate Research Center and Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts
- American Community Survey (ACS) Median Real Estate Taxes Paid 2010-2015
Takeaways:

- The goal of Senate Bill 1 was to bring the Property Tax levy growth rate of cities, counties, and special districts closer to that of ISD’s.

- Governor Abbott has proposed a 2.5% yearly revenue cap. If that cap had been in place for the previous 10 years, the Property Tax levy growth rate would have been a minimum 28%, not counting new growth or voter approved increases.

- The Taxpayer’s ability to pay needs to be a priority. It is bad public policy for tax bills to be increasing twice as fast as Texans’ paychecks. Property taxpayers are paying 100% of the local property tax bill, regardless of any funding splits.

- During the course of these hearings, important items for discussion include: Best Practices from around the Nation, Classroom Pay versus Administrative Expenses, Performance Based Pay and Alternative Funding Scenarios other than just a Weighted Average Daily Attendance (WADA) models.