



**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CONSIDERATION REQUEST**

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TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Councilman Manny Pelaez, District 8
COPIES TO: Erik Walsh, City Manager; Debbie Racca-Sittre, Interim City Clerk; Andy Segovia, City Attorney; John Peterek, Assistant to the City Manager; Emily McGinn, Assistant to City Council
SUBJECT: Requirement that Schools and Universities Which Receive City Funding Ensure Instruction on Family Violence, Child Abuse, and Human Trafficking
DATE: October 7th, 2021

Issue Proposed for Consideration

I request your support for the inclusion of the following item on the agenda of the earliest available meeting of the Governance Committee and subsequent approval by the full City Council:

An ordinance requiring certain schools, colleges, and universities to provide its students with life-saving instruction about family violence, child abuse, and human trafficking.

Background

Perpetrators of intimate partner violence, sexual assault, sex trafficking, or child abuse never give their victims the opportunity to opt out of that violence or abuse. Ironically, the Texas Legislature and Governor Abbott, at the end of the 2021 second special session, created a parental opt-out loophole which will reduce the number of students that can receive vital information about child abuse, family violence, dating violence, sex trafficking, and the warning signs that a child may be a risk for sex trafficking.

San Antonio, compared to the country's other large cities, has witnessed higher rates of this kind of abuse - - specifically domestic and intimate partner violence. Too often, these toxic relationships result in foreseeable and preventable deaths. Every year, women and children are murdered at the hands of their abusers. Instead of thinking of new ways to help communities defeat these challenges that burden us, our Governor and Legislature have concocted loopholes to prevent students from receiving potentially life-saving information.

There is no debate that educating students on these important issues is one of the most effective ways to solve for this increasingly deadly trend. There is also no question that we must develop creative solutions to help stem the tide of increasing incidents of violence, sexual assault, and sex



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trafficking. As such, I propose an ordinance that creates an opportunity for us to increase the number of students who will receive this vital instruction at their schools.

The ordinance I propose would require that schools, colleges, and universities -- whether public or private -- provide age-appropriate and accurate instruction on the topics of child abuse, family violence, dating violence, sex trafficking, and the warning signs that a person may be a risk for sex trafficking, violence, or abuse. This ordinance would apply to all schools, universities, or colleges that:

- Choose to contract with the City of San Antonio;
- Choose to use any City of San Antonio facilities for their events; (e.g. graduation ceremonies or sporting events at the Alamodome)
- Choose to participate in the City of San Antonio's *Connected Beyond the Classroom* program; and/or
- Choose to receive any funding from the City of San Antonio.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Submitted for Council consideration by:

Councilman Manny Pelaez, District 8

Supporting Councilmembers' Signatures

District

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