

The State of Texas
House of Representatives



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BYRON COOK
State Representative
District 8

Via Hand Delivery

May 21, 2018

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor of the State of Texas
1100 Congress Avenue, Room 2S.1
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Governor Abbott:

The hearts of Texans are indeed heavy and saddened over Friday's school shooting at Santa Fe High School. We all mourn the loss of ten precious lives and grieve for the families who are suffering immeasurable heartache and pain.

I want to commend you on the immediacy of your actions on the school safety roundtable discussions beginning tomorrow. However, much more must be done. On behalf of the public school students, parents and teachers whom I represent, and the state's entire educational community, I respectfully ask you to call a special session this summer dedicated to addressing school safety.

If we act now, we can implement policy and appropriate state funding to ensure our schools will be safer before the next school year begins in August. Conversely, if we wait until the next legislative session which begins in January 2019, then another full school year will have occurred without legislative action or support.

These school shootings are happening with increasing frequency and are senseless tragedies that we must eradicate. The time to act is now, for not only our children's safety, but for the peace of mind of all Texans by restoring their confidence in our duty to protect them.

Governor Abbott, please consider this request for a much-needed special session.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Byron Cook".

Byron Cook



Anderson ★ Freestone ★ Hill ★ Navarro