

FROM THE OFFICE OF  
**STATE REPRESENTATIVE RUTH JONES MCCLENDON**

**For Immediate Release**

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**Representative McClendon  
Keeps Her Promise To  
Texas Public Schools**

AUSTIN -- State Representative Ruth Jones McClendon (District 120, San Antonio) voted for House Bill 2, which ensures that the public schools will receive the funding they were promised during the third Special Session in May.

“The harsh reality is that we either pass HB 2, or cut funding 13 percent across the board: education, healthcare, environmental protections, everything. I am not willing to cut critical care programs when we have the money to save those programs and lower taxes. Passing House Bill 2 provides tax relief to homeowners (more than \$300 for most of my constituents), honors our commitment to school districts, increases public education funding and saves important programs. Voting in favor was the only vote I could cast in good conscience,” said Representative McClendon.

During the Special Session, the legislature directed the school districts to provide a significant property tax reduction to homeowners, decreasing their collections for the funding of local public schools. The language in the bill included a hold harmless to ensure school districts were not hindered by the reduction in local collections and provided that the state would make up the difference in funding. HB 2 enables the funding of the hold harmless by appropriating funds from the property tax relief fund or general revenue to public schools. Without HB 2, funding to the school districts would be cut dramatically.

Currently, the average homeowner's property tax statement in House District 120 (at \$1.50 per \$100 valuation) is \$942. With the enactment of property tax relief, the property tax rate will be reduced in 2008 to \$1.00 per \$100 valuation to \$628, resulting in an average decrease of \$314.

The reductions in local collections will include: San Antonio, \$50 million; East Central, \$7 million; Judson, \$23 million; and Northeast, \$114 million.

Representative McClendon serves on the House Committee on Appropriations, Pensions & Investments (on which she holds a seniority appointment and serves as Chief Budget Officer). Additionally, she is Chair of the House Committee on Rules & Resolutions. She also serves on the Sunset Advisory Commission, which oversees all agencies under the auspices of the State of Texas. Representative McClendon invites constituents with comments on legislative issues, or who may have ideas for legislation, to contact her at the Capitol office at 512-463-0708. The District office will remain open during the 80<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session and may be reached by calling 210-225-2107.