

SENATE RESOLUTION 1019

Senator Nelson offered the following resolution:

SR 1019, Suspending limitations on conference committee jurisdiction on HB 1.

The resolution was read and was adopted by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT ON
HOUSE BILL 1 ADOPTED**

Senator Nelson called from the President's table the Conference Committee Report on **HB 1**. The Conference Committee Report was filed with the Senate on Tuesday, May 26, 2015.

On motion of Senator Nelson, the Conference Committee Report was adopted by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 1.

Nays: Garcia.

REASON FOR VOTE

Senator Rodríguez submitted the following reason for vote on the Conference Committee Report on **HB 1**:

As members of the Texas Legislature, passing a budget is our one basic responsibility. I take that responsibility very, very seriously.

In 2011, I voted against the budget because of the draconian cuts made to education and health and human services. It turned out that these cuts weren't necessary because they were the result of flawed revenue projections.

Like last session, this session, we have the means to make up lost ground, pay down on our debts, and invest in our future.

We are blessed with abundance, but we have a lot of work to do to build upon our natural and human resources and to maintain and increase our global competitiveness. Unfortunately, we have passed up another opportunity to do so, and while I voted for this budget, I do so with deep misgivings. I believe in the process, and in something that is bigger than our current partisan divides – the institution of the Legislature, and the democratic system it represents.

It would take something draconian, as in 2011, to compel me to vote against the budget, which we must pass to keep the government moving. It is, in fact, the only bill we absolutely have to pass.

Significantly, we did not do enough for education. And we took money for this need, and threw it at what I consider a misguided want, the expansion of DPS in both size and scope.

We also failed, once again, to ensure greater access to health care, whether through expansion of traditional Medicaid, a private insurance exchange like the "Texas Way," or a Section 1332 waiver. With over five million Texans still uninsured and uncompensated care costs totaling several billion dollars every year, it is incumbent upon state legislators to find a solution.

With respect to education, I appreciate that there is \$1.5 billion dollars in new funding to the Foundation School Program, but I am disappointed that we are still very much operating under an unconstitutional school finance system.