



Honorable Members of the Texas Senate,

We appreciate the work of the Senate as you prepare to consider the clean-up bill for last session's House Bill 3. That bill made substantial changes to the school finance system, and in making revisions to the system to address specific financial issues, we believe it is crucial to avoid adding or revising proposals that would undermine the beneficial aspects of HB 3.

The education organizations represented in this letter urge members of the Senate to **SUPPORT** any amendment to CSHB 1525 that would have the following effect:

- **Preserving the HB 3 increases to educator salaries (Lucio salary amendment)**
- **Streamlining continuing professional education and professional development requirements for educators (West SB 1267 amendment)**
- **Eliminating the requirement for districts to reserve federal funds provided for Covid-19 relief instead of using those funds for educational needs as determined by districts. (West funding reserve amendment)**

We ask members to **OPPOSE** any amendment to CSHB 1525 that would have the effect of:

- ***Creating a voucher program (such as the Taylor special education supplemental voucher)***
- ***Providing outcomes-based funding (such as the Taylor accelerated learning amendment)***
- ***Unregulated expansion of virtual education (such as the West amendment on electronic courses/programs)***
- ***Granting additional powers to the commissioner of education (such as the Taylor ESSER funds amendment)***
- ***Granting the governor or TEA discretion to spend state or federal funds to create vouchers or other programs not explicitly authorized by the Legislature (such as the Taylor ESSER funds amendment)***

Improving educational outcomes for all Texas students is the shared goal of our organizations and the Texas Legislature. We appreciate the opportunity to work together collaboratively in order to put students' needs first.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Association of Texas Professional Educators

Texas American Federation of Teachers

Texas Classroom Teachers Association

Texas State Teachers Association