

September 14, 2023

Dear Chairman Buckley,

We call on you as the leader of the House Educational Opportunity, Accountability and Enrichment Select Committee to hold another public hearing to prioritize Texas public school parents and their solutions for the matters reflected in the Committee's charge.

Why? Because vulnerable kids are being harmed in Texas public schools right now, and no other education matter is more important than assuring Texas families that school districts will be held accountable for the actions of their employees.

Just Google "Texas teacher (or coach) accused or arrested" to see for yourself.

We've cataloged 32 Champion-A-Child stories on our <u>website</u>, and this <u>podcast</u> is exposing more heart-breaking stories from the dark side of Texas public schools every week. I know it's not pleasant to talk about, but leaders will be judged by how they cared for "the least of these little ones."

Schools need independent oversight and accountability if we are ever going to arrive at educational opportunity. These concepts are defined by *parents* in much different terms than the special interest, invited-only guests which you heard from in your July 11th & 12th Select Committee hearings. After all, whose children are they?

When parents step up to protect their kids from sexual or physical assault, bullying by teachers, coaches or other students, or retaliation by district officials, they generally face one of two things: 1) a broken grievance process that does not honor the student's or the parents' Constitutionally guaranteed due process, existing state laws or board policies, or 2) the inexcusable claim of "sovereign immunity" which only provides cover for bad apples who exploit a vulnerable, captive, student population.

Across the state, parents who DO file grievances are overrun by <u>layers of "school lawyers" and administrators</u> who enrich themselves handsomely at the taxpayers' expense. Parents are <u>belittled</u>, <u>bullied and dismissed</u>—and then face a Texas Education Agency denial of jurisdiction to even hear a complaint, if they try to appeal the injustice of the local ISD. We have the receipts and would be happy to submit our evidence into the record.

As my son's U.S. History teacher says, "If a government can rule for you in all matters, it has unlimited power."

On behalf of Texas public school parents, we are appealing to you, our elected representatives, to secure Constitutional rights in Texas education and ensure that families have a right to access the educational opportunity of a free public education for their children without surrendering their right to redress their government and the standards of evidence and due process when issues arise.

Parent advocates at Texas Education 911 have solutions. See the attached list of bills we championed in the 88th Legislative Session that provide timely and much-needed solutions to some of our state's most overlooked problems in education.

We look forward to hearing from you with an announcement for a second House Select Education Committee public hearing, and we'll gladly organize and prepare parents to testify on solutions related to Educational Opportunity, Accountability and Enrichment.

After the second hearing, we hope you'll submit an addendum to your Interim Committee Report and reflect the solutions of your constituents, Texas public school parents and taxpayers. We appreciate your public service and are praying for your conscientious discernment and consideration.

For the kids,

Aileen Blachowski & the Parental Rights Advocates of



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