



Enforcement of Education Code; Due Process Protections; Parent Ombudsman

COURAGE BILLS	HB 1924 Patterson	Relating to the establishment of an ombudsman for parents of children enrolled in public school.	The SBOE-appointed Ombudsman would be a neutral party to assist parents with complaints; conduct investigations; look for trends in complaints or problems parents face. Would inform TEA and SBOE. Benefits lawmakers, taxpayers, parents, public employees, and students. <i>Funding sources could include shaving edges off of the TEA Complaints Management department and Administrative Law Judge budgets.</i>
	SB 2114 Paxton	Relating to the establishment of the office of independent ombudsman for the Texas Education Agency.	Governor-appointed Independent Ombudsman would consider allegations of parental rights violations, discouraging the practice of school boards clearing themselves of wrongdoing. Quarterly and flagrant reports go to several parties including lawmakers for continuous law-improvement and enforcement of laws. <i>Funding is from the TEA.</i>
	SB 690 Middleton	Relating to the appointment of an inspector general for education and the creation of a division of inspector general for education in the governor's office to investigate the administration of public education.	Certain sections of the Education Code are not being well-enforced. Rule of Law and best results for academic achievement of students requires strong oversight and enforcement.
	SB 1880 Hughes	Relating to the grievance procedure in public schools.	Establishes a parent review committee in a school district to hear grievance appeals.
	HB 3315-E Bell (Keith), Buckley, Harris (Cody), Hefner, Dutton	Relating to a school district's grievance procedure regarding complaints concerning a violation of parental rights.	Adds some due process to the grievance process.
OTHER PRIORITY BILLS	HB 890 Bell (Keith), Buckley, Harris (Cody), Hefner, Dutton. Senate Amendments Printing	Relating to parental rights and public school responsibilities regarding instructional materials.	We would work with lawmakers to perfect this strong bill (e.g., Section 2) so as to ensure parents and students are protected from ISD lawyer loopholes and anti-parent actions.
	SB 1309 Middleton HB 2501 Hayes (companion)	Relating to prohibiting certain nonprofit state associations and organizations from providing training and insurance and risk pool contracts to public educational entities.	Should school boards be trained on the Education Code by any organization that holds and promotes positions that <i>violate</i> the Education Code? This bill is about legality.
	SB 1575-I Middleton HB 2731 Lozano (similar)	Relating to the authority of a member of the SBOE to request an attorney general decision.	SBOE encounters legal concerns in the administration of its duties and need the ability to request a legal opinion on matters that concern tens of millions of students and their parents.



Transparency

HERO BILL	SB 2501 Middleton	Relating to the process for filling a vacancy on the board of trustees of an independent school district.	This would end hand-picking a trustee by interested parties instead of the people. An appointed trustee has the weight of incumbency that tends to squash fresh ideas and diverse community voices.
COURAGE BILLS	HB 2510-I Cain SB 392 Hall (companion)	Relating to transparency in certain legal proceedings and contracts involving a school district and a limit on legal fees that may be spent by a school district in certain legal proceedings.	School boards would know what and why legal fees are being spent. This gives them critical information to see where problems exist so that they can better govern the district. This bill is for local control, good governance, transparency and responsible spending.
	HB 201 Klick	Relating to a requirement to report through the Public Education Information Management System the number of students transported from a school district or open-enrollment charter school for a mental health emergency detention.	This simple bill shines a light in an area not well-known by lawmakers or parents.
OTHER PRIORITY BILLS	SB 933 Middleton	Relating to the definition of a governmental body for the purposes of the public information law.	Makes clear existing law that is often disputed by organizations funded primarily with public funds.
	HB 2493E Capriglione, Talarico, Leo-Wilson, Cook, Cain SB 965 Johnson (companion)	Relating to maintenance and production of electronic public information under the public information law.	Modernizes the Texas Public Information Act. Currently, very basic information can be denied to a requestor because it "requires an employee to create a report," when it is simply a couple of clicks in a database. This bill would provide existing electronic data to requestors that they can sort and search.
	SB 797 Middleton	Relating to disclosure of certain relationship with local government officers and vendors.	Increases transparency where billions of dollars are spent annually. Should reduce and prevent financial corruption in ISDs so more money is available to pay staff, educate kids.

Correcting Failed Discipline Policies

COURAGE BILL	HB 2952 Cunningham	Relating to procedures for the suspension, expulsion, or placement in a disciplinary alternative education program or juvenile justice alternative education program of a public school student enrolled in a school district.	Addresses the serious problems with lack of due process in DAEP (school jail) placement decisions.
OTHER PRIORITY BILL	Need Interim Study on School Discipline	PARENT-SUGGESTED STUDY TOPICS: Prevalence and cause of punishing <i>victims</i> of school violence, bullying; Violence against teachers; Sexual acts on campus and policies regarding; Transparency of investigation procedures; Discipline of innocent bystanders; DAEP placements without evidence; Due process protections in district policies regarding discipline; Abuse of Anonymous Tip Line to harass or target students or their parents; Adequacy of procedures to notify and involve parent of discipline issues at the earliest time; Non-enforcement of the Dress Code and its deleterious effects on discipline and learning; Dangers of "hands off" training for teachers/nonintervention; Whether schools/teachers are safer with Restorative Discipline; Retaliation and smearing of parents who file complaints; False reporting, etcetera.	



Restoring Parent & Teacher Relationship

COURAGE BILLS	HB 5107 Smithee	Relating to local school health advisory councils and health education provided by public schools. (makes SEL go through SHAC)	SHACs are being bypassed by ISDs on the mental health/SEL curricula, programs, policies. This clarifies existing law not being followed. Involving SHAC/parents helps protect teachers from accidental overstepping.
	SB 2242 Kolkhorst, Middleton	Relating to a policy adopted by school districts allowing parent volunteers on school district campuses.	Gets parents back on campus on a regular basis to volunteer, building and rebuilding parent and teacher relationships. Prevents districts from keeping parents (full partners in education) away as they've been doing.
OTHER PRIORITY BILLS	SB 1072-E Hughes, Creighton	Relating to local school health advisory councils and instruction regarding human sexuality, sexual orientation, and gender identity provided by public schools	Bill holds: Districts of Innovation cannot exempt themselves from having a SHAC. All human sexuality lessons and activities must respect the parent-child relationship. Reduces incidences of staff and parents facing conflict, enabling more positive, supportive relationships.
	Teacher pay portions of HB 100 King (Ken), Van Deaver, Dutton Howard, Buckley, et al	Relating to public education and public school finance, including the rights, certification, and compensation of public school educators, etc.	<u>Texas Ed 911 does not take a position on school choice.</u> However, we believe additional pay, particularly for veteran teachers, is in the best interest of our children, who benefit from experienced teachers.

Parental Rights & Authority

COURAGE BILLS	SB 163-E Campbell, Hughes SB 391 Hall & HB 478 Hull/Leo-Wilson, (companions)	Relating to parental approval for a student's participation in human sexuality instruction in public schools.	Keeps parental opt-in for human sexuality instruction.
	SB 421-I Paxton	Relating to the applicability of certain requirements relating to parental rights, open records, and public information to school districts designated as districts of innovation.	Bill holds: "District of Innovation" can't be used to exempt ISDs from parental rights, etc.
	SB 595-E Kolkhorst HB 1149 Swanson SB 400 Hall (similar)	Relating to requiring parental consent for psychological or psychiatric examination, testing, or treatment conducted by a school district employee.	Very popular parental authority bills to protect children.
OTHER PRIORITY BILLS	SB 981 Paxton	Relating to a handbook on parental rights in education and training requirements on parental rights in education for a member of the board of trustees of a school district.	Informs parents of their rights. Many board members and parents, let alone newcomers to Texas, don't know parental rights.
	HB 1927-E (Hull, Dutton, Lozano, A. Johnson of Harris, Landgraf)	Relating to a parent's right to intervene in the apprehension by a peace officer of a child for an emergency detention and certain requirements and restrictions applicable to an emergency detention.	A parent may be able to de-escalate a situation, and should not be prevented from trying to help their own child.
	SJR 70 Hughes	Proposing a constitutional amendment protecting the fundamental right of parents to raise their children.	



Protecting Children, including the Repeal of the Educational Exemption for Obscenities

HERO BILLS	SB 1031 Hall	Relating to studies or surveys on children's sexual behavior conducted at or by a public primary or secondary school, a public institution of higher education, a prescription drug manufacturer, a research entity, or another person; creating criminal offenses; imposing civil penalties.	Prohibits the surveying of a minor's sexual behaviors which is currently done for many health/human sexuality curricula in Texas. Provides for a state jail felony and civil penalties.
	SB 395 Hall HB 3847 Toth	Relating to defenses to prosecution for certain criminal offenses involving material or conduct that may be obscene or is otherwise harmful to children.	Currently, persons can sell, distribute, or display material harmful for children without prosecution, by asserting an "educational" purpose.
	HB 3357 Schatzline, Leo-Wilson	Relating to civil liability for obscenity	Addresses obscenity presented to or involving minors, contains enforcement.
COURAGE BILLS	HB 964-E Jetton, Leo-Wilson, Cook	relating to the applicability of sex offender registration requirements to the offense of improper relationship between educator and student	Educator convicted of sexual activity with a student would go on sex offender registry to protect other children.
	SB 1731 Hughes	relating to human sexuality instruction provided by public schools	Keeps sex education aligned only with the TEKS.
OTHER PRIORITY BILLS	HB 2673-E Hull, Capriglione, Slawson, Lozano, A. Johnson	Relating to requirements for the use and transfer of electronic devices to students by a public school	Requires parental permission to use apps, TEA to establish rules to minimize data collection on students, including the use of intrusive data-collecting apps.
	SB 959 Campbell, Creighton, Paxton	Relating to certain prohibited transactions between an open-enrollment charter school and an abortion provider or affiliate of the provider.	Holds charters to the same standard as ISDs on this matter.