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TEXAS SCHOOL ALLIANCE STATEMENT

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TEXAS SCHOOL ALLIANCE ANNOUNCES STATEMENT ON SENATE BILL 2 AND HOUSE BILL 2- PROPERTY TAX REVENUE CAP BILLS

The Texas School Alliance (TSA) today announced a preliminary statement regarding two property tax reform bills recently filed in the Texas House and Texas Senate. On Thursday, January 31, Rep. Dustin Burrows (Lubbock) filed House Bill 2 and simultaneously Senator Paul Bettencourt (Houston) filed an identical bill (Senate Bill 2). Both bills attempt to provide Texas property owners with property tax relief.

The Texas School Alliance appreciates the Texas Legislature recognizing what many school boards and school leaders have recognized for many years. Texas school district leaders have been keenly aware of the growing financial burden state leaders have placed on local property tax payers to cover the costs of education. Each year the state has increasingly relied more and more upon the local property tax payer to cover a far greater portion of public education funding than the state.

We are very appreciative that our state leadership is finally responding to this growing problem. Local school district tax payers have been the most dependable and consistent supporters of our public schools. A concern we have is the potential impact of both bills on local control. Communities elect their local officials to make important local decisions about their local school districts, cities and counties. Local voters already have the power through local elections to govern themselves.

At this time, there are far too many unanswered questions regarding HB 2 and SB 2 for TSA to voice support or opposition. While we find portions of these two bills that have little to do with property tax relief problematic, we are certain of one thing: Texas can't discuss local property taxes without discussing how the state funds public education. These two critical issues can't be addressed on their own. They both must be addressed at the same time.

As many will do, TSA will monitor and respond accordingly as this important issue proceeds through the legislative process.

The Texas School Alliance is made up of 37 of the most prominent districts in Texas.

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