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ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS FOR TEXAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

June 5, 2023

RE: SB 763 – Chaplains in Schools

Dear Charter School Leaders:

On May 29, 2023, the Texas legislature passed, and sent to Governor Abbott, Senate Bill 763 allowing public schools to employ, or accept as volunteers, chaplains to provide support, services and programs for students as assigned by the School's Board of Directors effective with the 2023-2024 school year.

Such chaplains are not required to be certified by the State Board for Educator Certification. They must comply with the existing criminal background history requirements for employees and volunteers under TEC Subchapter C, Chapter 22. A school may not employ or accept as a volunteer a chaplain who is required to register as a sex offender.

Schools may use funds allocated for use to improve school safety and security under TEC Section 48.115 to employ chaplains and develop programs provided by chaplains.

The Board of Directors of each school is required to take a record vote within six months on whether to adopt a policy authorizing a campus or school to employ or accept as a volunteer a chaplain.

There will be specific limitations and considerations for any work that is undertaken by a school chaplain. If your school is considering adopting such a policy, please reach out to our office so we can better assist with your individual needs.

Cordially,

**SCHULMAN, LOPEZ,
HOFFER & ADELSTEIN, LLP**

Joseph E. Hoffer