The Texas State Teachers Association today announced its endorsement of Senator Leticia Van de Putte for lieutenant governor.

“Senator Van de Putte knows the classroom is the heart of public education, and she has worked tirelessly to free teachers to teach and give every student the opportunity to succeed,” said TSTA President Rita Haecker.

“While Leticia Van de Putte keeps fighting to restore education cuts that forced underpaid teachers to spend their own money to buy classroom supplies, the Republican candidates for lieutenant governor are scrambling to supply our classrooms with extremist ideology that will not prepare a single child for good jobs in the new economy,” Haecker added.

Van de Putte fought the devastating cuts to public schools during the 2011 legislative session and was instrumental in the Senate in restoring much of the lost funding last year. She also worked to reduce standardized testing and give students new curriculum choices that will better prepare high school graduates for college and the work place.

A member of the Senate Education Committee, Van de Putte has represented San Antonio and Bexar County in the Senate since 1999 and served in the Texas House for 10 years before that.

TSTA previously endorsed Senator Wendy Davis for governor.

“Wendy and Leticia are the true education candidates for the state’s top two offices,” Haecker said. “They will listen to educators and parents and work with them to offer much more than lip service to support our neighborhood schools.”