



TSTA NEWS

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TSTA: Senate puts narrow ideology over best interests of school children

Texas State Teachers Association President Noel Candelaria issued the following statement today on the Senate's gutting of House Bill 21:

"In the early morning hours today, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick and the Senate majority hijacked House Bill 21, a school finance proposal, and put their narrow, ideological preferences above the best interests of Texas' 5.3 million public school children.

"Patrick's Senate majority slashed \$1 billion in public education funding from the House version of HB21 and added a special education voucher amendment that would serve only a handful of special needs students who would also lose important federal protections by attending a private school.

"As approved by the Senate last night, HB21 has been turned into a last-gasp, politically charged effort to force passage of any kind of private voucher bill this session, despite the bipartisan supermajority of House members who have already voted against vouchers. It's time for the lieutenant governor to put his political agenda aside and address Texans' most important educational priority, providing critically needed state funding for our public schools, where the vast majority of Texas children — including special ed students — are educated."