



# TSTA NEWS

TEXAS STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION 8716 N. Mopac Expressway, Austin, TX 78759 • 877-ASK-TSTA • www.tsta.org • Fax 512-486-7049

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Contact: Clay Robison

ClayR@tsta.org

cell: 512.535.8994

## TSTA applauds House for approving anti-voucher amendment; calls Senate Bill 8 an assault on public education

Texas State Teachers Association President Ovidia Molina issued the following statement:

We applaud the House members who stood up for public education today and voted to adopt the amendment by Rep. Abel Herrero to prohibit the expenditure of public funds for private school vouchers of any kind. But with voucher bills still pending, TSTA will continue to fight any effort to take much-needed funding from under-funded public schools in order to enrich private school owners.

Later today, the Senate is expected to debate Senate Bill 8, approval of which would be an assault on public education. If not stopped, this bill would soon cost our public schools and taxpayers \$1 billion a year to enrich unregulated private schools, and that figure would continue to increase. The ultimate losers would be the vast majority of Texas students, who would remain in under-funded public schools further stripped of needed resources.

The education savings accounts in Senate Bill 8 are vouchers, and they will not help low-income families send their children to private schools. Most of the popular private schools charge tuition much more than the \$8,000 these ESAs will provide, and low-income Texans can't afford to make up the difference.

Instead, Senate Bill 8 will create a private-school subsidy or entitlement program for the well-to-do at everyone else's expense and with no public accountability.