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## TSTA OPPOSES HOUSE BILL 3 BY BURROWS

1. **HB 3 would require that at least one armed security officer** is present during regular school hours at each district campus.
  - a. HB 3 will not only increase guns on campuses, but will increase the presence of inadequately trained, non-law enforcement personnel with guns on campuses.
    - i. “Security officer” can mean peace officer, resource officer, *marshal or any other district employee* who has completed school safety training.
    - ii. Due to budgetary constraints, **most campuses will be forced to use the less expensive but lesser trained** armed employees as “security officers.”
  - b. This will have a **disproportionately negative impact on students of color** and students with special needs.
    - i. Data suggests no association between having an armed officer and decrease in school violence.
    - ii. Data shows regular presence of police in schools can undermine student success and feelings of safety and has resulted in higher arrest, exclusionary discipline practices and absenteeism rates, especially for students of color and students from low-income homes.
    - iii.
2. **HB 3 would punish districts that fail to comply with state takeover and the withholding of grant funds.**
  - a. This is undemocratic, an overreach of state government, and hostile state takeovers are not proven to be an effective solution for any decided “failure.”
  - b. Punishing schools that fail to meet state-mandated safety standards by withholding critically needed funding is arbitrary and harmful and will do nothing to improve school safety.
3. **HB 3 would require district bonds to first fund state-mandated school safety requirements before funding anything else.**
  - a. It is an overreach of state government to require local tax dollars raised through local bonds to be applied the state’s policy agenda ahead of the many needs and priorities of the individual families and taxpayers of a community.
  - b. Depresses funding that would be available for the many other practices and resources shown to promote safe and welcoming schools and that do not compromise the overall well-being of our children.
    - i. This includes mental health resources, including counselors and social workers.
    - ii. This also would include student-centered programs such as positive behavior intervention supports (PBIS) and behavior support specialists.
4. **HB 3 is expensive — nearly \$300M through the next biennium**, including 45 new TEA employees needed to monitor and punish.