



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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25 Groups Warn Legislature Tax Plan Could Cause More School & Health Cuts

Letter Says Huge Tax Cuts Put Children and Families One Economic Slowdown Away from 2011-Style Budget Cuts

Austin – Today 25 organizations sent a letter to legislative leaders warning that the nearly \$5 billion tax cut proposals they are considering are likely to cause a repeat of the deep cuts to education and health programs that occurred in 2011. Tomorrow the Texas House Committee on Ways and Means is scheduled to consider legislation to reduce the tax rate on businesses and other tax legislation.

The text of the letter is below:

Dear Legislature,

As organizations representing children, families, patients, teachers, people with disabilities, and other Texans, we are concerned that the nearly \$5 billion tax cut proposals you are currently considering would place the state on a path to the kind of deep, harmful cuts to basic services that were enacted in 2011.

While we believe that some of the revenue legislators have artificially placed off limits to budget-writers this session should be dedicated to underfunded state priorities over the next two years, we also believe Texans need a fiscal plan that looks beyond the next biennium. Texas must be prepared for the natural ups and downs of the economy, particularly today as sales tax growth slows and oil prices remain low. Unless legislators make the current tax proposal temporary, or restore the Economic Stabilization Fund to its original intent, the next economic downturn will leave Texas without the revenue necessary to meet the needs of our growing state and risk another round of deep cuts to basic services.

We remember the 2011 cuts all too well. We have talked to the parents who sent their children to crowded classrooms. We have talked to the Texans with disabilities and health challenges who could not access the services they needed. We have talked to the students who took on unmanageable college debt as the state cut higher education investments. We have talked to the school staff who lost their jobs. And we have talked to the legislators from both parties who regretted the cuts.

We agree with the business leaders who have told the Legislature that meeting the neglected needs of our growing state is a higher priority than cutting taxes. We do not



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believe the Legislature should provide hundreds of millions of dollars in tax breaks to multi-billion dollar corporations while key services remain underfunded. We urge you to protect basic services for Texas families, now and in the future, and reconsider the current tax cut proposals.

We appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

Association of Texas Professional Educators
Austin Voices for Education and Youth
Center for Public Policy Priorities
Children's Defense Fund - Texas
Coalition of Texans with Disabilities
Coastal Bend Center for Independent Living
Foundation Communities
Grassroots Leadership
Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF)
National Association of Social Workers - Texas Chapter
North Texas Job with Justice
Pastors for Texas Children
Rio Grande Valley Equal Voice Network
San Antonio Nonprofit Council
SEIU- Texas
Texans Care for Children
Texas AFL-CIO
Texas AFT
Texas National Nurses Organizing Committee
Texas Organizing Project
Texas Public Interest Research Group
Texas State Employees Union
Texas State Teachers Association
Voices for Children of San Antonio
Workers Defense Project



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