



Pastors for Texas Children

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, August 24, 2015

**Pastors for Texas Children Response to Amicus Brief
Filed by Church Based Private School Operators**

Pastors for Texas Children are dismayed to see some local church leaders push for the diversion of public funds for their private, religious schools.

Fortunately, the overwhelming majority of Texans sees through this blatant self-interest to take money away from the 92% of Texas children taught in public schools, and give it to the tiny minority educated in private schools.

God's Word that is taught in our fine church schools needs no help from the State of Texas.

Government control always follows government dollars, whether in the form of vouchers or tuition tax credits. The last thing religious schools need is the oversight of governmental agencies. These schools were founded in the first place to have the freedom to teach without this regulation.

Religious liberty is a gift from Almighty God accorded to all people. This eternal and holy principle is expressed powerfully in the First Amendment of the United States Constitution, expressly prohibiting government from making an "establishment of religion."

Private school vouchers and tuition tax credits funding religious schools inevitably would support religious teaching contrary to certain individual citizens' personal convictions, whether Baptist, Catholic, Hindu, Muslim, Wiccan, or atheist.

The Texas Constitution, Article 7, Section 1 mandates universal education for all Texas children funded by the public trust: "A general diffusion of knowledge being essential to the preservation of the liberties and rights of the people, it shall be the duty of the Legislature of the State to establish and make suitable provision for the support and maintenance of an efficient system of public free schools."

Conservative Texas values support those 8500 public schools—and insist on their full and adequate funding. At present, Texas is in violation of its own constitutional mandate to "make suitable provision" for our schools. But, while we hover near the bottom in the nation in per pupil spending, our graduation rates soar near the top nationwide.

Founded in 2013, Pastors for Texas Children has attracted over 1200 faith leaders from over 500 Texas churches of all denominations. PTC connects every local church to every local neighborhood and community school in ministry and advocacy. Our website is www.pastorsfortexaschildren.com For more information, contact the Rev. Charles Foster Johnson, phone: 210-379-1066.

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