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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE May 25, 2019 MEDIA CONTACT: Jesus Chavez ATPE Media Relations (956) 335-5724 pr@atpe.org

ATPE Statement on Passage of House Bill 3 by 86th Texas Legislature ATPE appreciates legislature's prioritization of school funding & will work to ensure future legislators honor promises made this session

AUSTIN, Texas—The 86th Texas Legislature unanimously passed **House Bill (HB) 3** on Saturday, May 25, sending the omnibus school finance bill to **Gov. Greg Abbott** to be signed into law.

<u>The Association of Texas Professional Educators</u> (ATPE)—the largest educator organization in Texas, which represents approximately 100,000 educators statewide—thanks members of the legislature for their work.

"ATPE is glad to see legislators prioritize school funding by passing a bill that increases the state's overall investment in public education," said ATPE Executive Director **Shannon Holmes**. "We are also appreciative of the thought given to educator compensation."

Holmes added: "Recognizing that recruiting and retaining quality educators is the single most effective way to help Texas students achieve their potential, ATPE hopes that local school leaders will use the resources that they have been given to support those who dedicate their lives to educating our children."

ATPE looks forward to working through the interim as portions of HB 3 are rolled out across the state. The association will continue to work with future legislatures to fund the promises made this session to reduce property taxes while increasing funding to public schools.

For more information about ATPE's efforts at the Capitol, visit <u>www.teachthevote.org.</u>

The Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE)

The Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE) has been a strong voice for Texas educators since 1980. It is the leading educators' association in Texas with approximately 100,000 members statewide. With its strong collaborative philosophy, ATPE speaks for classroom teachers, administrators, future, retired and para-educators and works to create better opportunities for 5 million public schoolchildren. ATPE is the voice of Texas public education. Learn more at <u>atpe.org</u>.