



## Input on HB 117

Regarding establishment of the governor's task force on the governance of early childhood education

**March 27, 2025**

The **Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE)** offers the following input on HB 117 by Rep. Schoolcraft:

We want to acknowledge and thank Rep. Schoolcraft for his interest in studying the challenges faced by early childhood providers in this state. Early childhood education lays the foundation for a child's social, emotional, and academic success, and research consistently shows that children who attend quality early childhood education programs tend to perform better academically throughout their school years. Students who attend early childhood programs enter school with stronger foundational skills in literacy and numeracy, which sets them up for success in later grades. Early exposure to these basic academic skills helps them become better readers, writers, and problem solvers, leading to better performance on standardized tests and an overall improved academic experience.

Our primary concern about this bill is that Section 455.003 of the bill does not propose that any educators be part of the task force. Educators, particularly early childhood educators, are key partners in a student's early development, and as such are important contributors to the task force. ATPE recommends that 455.003(b)(4) be amended to specifically recommend at least one early childhood educator as a member of the task force. ATPE also recommends that the task force solicit feedback from early childhood educators as they go through the process and before making any policy or budget recommendations.

For additional information, contact ATPE Governmental Relations at (800) 777-2873 or [government@atpe.org](mailto:government@atpe.org).