

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HB 1348

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LAND & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Hearing Date: March 16, 2021 10:30 AM - or upon final adjourn./recess or bill referral if permission granted

Alan Seay

George I Sanchez Charter School

Byers, TX

As a charter school leader, I have had to confront the discriminatory practices of city codes and permits in the construction or remodeling of my schools. Some cities have even stated they were putting a moratorium on the building of additional charter schools. For example, Mesquite city government said they would issue no more Certificates of Occupancy for charter school buildings while approving construction projects for their local ISD. Local ISD's board of trustees are putting pressure on city government officials to delay or prohibit charter school construction. Charter schools are required to "play by a different set of rules" than other traditional public schools. As a public school of the state of Texas, I believe it is important that my schools be treated as such by local governments.

Yasmin Bhatia

Uplift Education

Not Hispanic or Latino, TX

Uplift spends meaningful time preparing for zoning cases to be approved by local city governments. Even preparing for long leads times, we have had situations where we were clearly just navigating "anti-charter politics" that almost made us miss our construction schedules.

Leonard Brannon

Cityscape Schools

Dallas, TX

In the Spring of 2019, Cityscape Schools, a Dallas charter school organization, was going to purchase a property in Mesquite, TX, to open a new charter school. Cityscape began to work with the city of Mesquite to submit a site plan for the property. At the time, the city of Mesquite did not require a special use permit (SUP) to open an ISD, charter, or public school in the city. Immediately after we began the work on the site plan, the Mesquite city council placed on their agenda to consider a law to require all schools to obtain a SUP. Within a couple of weeks, the city council approved the new law requiring a SUP for any new school to open in Mesquite. We then approached the city councilman in the council district where the property was located to see if he would support our SUP to open a charter school on the proposed property. He said he would personally support a charter school at that location, but he could not get four other votes on the council to approve the SUP. He said the Mesquite ISD did not want any more charters in Mesquite, and the Mesquite city council was going to support their local school district no matter what. After investing time and money in that property, Cityscape Schools had to find another location in the city of Dallas for its expansion.

Thomas Sage

Texas Public Charter Schools Association

Houston, TX

Almost 26 years ago, the Texas Legislature embarked on an auspicious venture of trying to develop public school choice for

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underprivileged students in the State of Texas. Over several sessions and after much debate, Texas has one of the finest school choice programs in the country through the development of State-sponsored open-enrollment charter schools. Currently, over 300,000 children attend public charter schools and the demand continues to grow with 140,000 students on waiting lists. The high quality organizations in the State are trying to answer this cry for help and meet the demands of the increasing numbers of families with students on waitlists.

The first thing that these Charters must do is to purchase, rent or build an educational facility for these future students. The process for a new facility involves applying to the State for an expansion amendment in the spring of each year. These are customarily granted around April or May. In that approval, the State of Texas has approved the placement of a State-sponsored charter school at one or more specific locations. These schools have 15 months to open (i.e. the next following August) or the approval expires.

The opponents of charter schools have employed a new tactic to impede the ability of these educators to answer the educational needs of the students of Texas. Organized special interest groups have begun to directly fund and lobby city governments to enlist these entities in slowing the growth of charters through imposing additional hurdles to charter facilities. Over the last four years, we have seen increasing disparity of the planning, zoning, building and other requirements imposed on public charter schools as compared to traditional ISDs. Where there is not an outright moratorium these local governments have learned to move very slowly and the charter amendment will expire.

For instance, most of us are familiar with the impact of drop-off and pick up around any elementary or Middle school. However, now many cities are requiring charter schools to purchase property to handle 100% on-site vehicle cueing. That is to say that they must purchase enough vacant land to hold 100% of the parent vehicles for a total of 1-hour per day. Property in urban centers is very expensive and purchasing several acres that will otherwise sit vacant often makes these projects untenable.

This is an enterprise created, approved, funded and monitored by the State of Texas. As such, it is completely improper for these cities to effectively veto the State's actions. The State is the sovereign government of Texas and it would be shocking if any locality attempted similar methods to stop or slow a State office building, highway or DPS station.

I am in favor of HB 1348 because it requires that these cities treat all public schools equally and underscores the State's authority over educating the students of Texas.

Candice Bolte

self

Lewisville, TX

I support HB 1348 to keep more money inside the classroom

Jaqueline Ramirez

Self

Pharr, TX

I support HB 1348 to keep more money inside the classroom.

Giselle Zahraoui

Self

Aubrey, TX

I support HB 1348 to keep more money inside the classroom

Pamela Baggett

self / public school teacher

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Leander, TX

I support HB 1348 to keep more money inside the classroom.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Pam Baggett, 512-568-9572

Monica McDonald

Self

IDEA Burke College Prep San Antonio, TX

I support HB 1348 to keep more money inside the classroom.

Andrea Williamson

Leadership Prep

Lewisville, TX

Let them continue as is.

Carol Jones

SELF - Administrative Manager

Lake Dallas, TX

I support HB 1348 to keep more money inside the classroom.

Esmeralda Iris Zuniga

Self-Case Manager

San Antonio, TX

I support HB 1348 to keep more money inside the classroom.

Abby Goerig

Self/retired attorney

College Station, TX

I support this bill because charter schools already have restricted funding. Local cities make opening these schools financially impossible or even unsafe (it took 8 months for us to get a school zone by our school). Please help our children have options in education.

JEREMY ALEMAN

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SELF - ATTORNEY

GARLAND, TX

I support HB 1348. My son is a charter H.S. Junior and his experience has been an excellent one, academically and socially. His school has done much to prepare him for college and adulthood and I am concerned that future charter students will not be provided the same opportunities and experiences if the charter schools are forced to divert significant sums of money away from their core missions.

Dawn Robinette

Self, Business Owner

Schertz, TX

I support HB 1348 to keep more money inside the classroom. Public charter schools are just that: public. They should not be forced to do more than any traditional public school. Please ensure that funding goes where it is needed, the classroom.

Heather Tognazzini

LPS Frisco

The Colony, TX

We support this bill to stop local governments from discriminating against public charter schools.

Juanita Rodriguez

Self

Pasadena, TX

I support HB 1348 to keep more money inside the classroom.

Susan Moses, Ms

IDEA Public Charter Schools

Mcallen, TX

IDEA Public Charter Schools, and other Charters, were able to remain open remotely and eventually in person with remote option keeping their students at pace with all curriculum during the COVID adjustments. Public Charter schools do not benefit their communities from over regulation or budget cuts. These campuses have kept families supported and students learning notwithstanding the incredible challenges. Please support Charters to keep Texas scholars in schools and achieving their goals.

Jai Brisbon

Lumin Education

Farmers Branch, TX

My name is Jai Brisbon and I'm the Director of Student Service of Lumin Education in Dallas and also as the parent of a College student who attended a great charter school. I'm writing in strong support of HB1348.

Public charter schools like mine are expanding the educational opportunities available to Texas families. Our students are thriving. Yet charter schools are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. We are subjected to delays and added costs that harm our schools and take money out of classrooms.

Charters and traditional ISDs should be held to the same local government standards applied without discrimination. HB1348 will

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achieve this basic fairness. By doing so, it will ensure more students receive the best possible education. This is smart policy for our communities.

Wendy Riley

Self

Round Rock, TX

I am in full support of HB 1348 to ensure that more families have access to quality education in their community.

Leslie Cook

SELF - Teacher

Fort Worth, TX

I support HB 1348 to ensure that parents and guardians in Texas can make the best choice possible for the individual education needs of their kids. Charter schools help their ISD colleagues to ensure that no child is left behind.

Rebecca Gieskes

Self

Houston, TX

As a former educator at an traditional ISD and a current educator at a charter school, I urge lawmakers to consider the positive impact charters have had on children. Charters should not be restricted solely because they are a charter. Not only is it illogical, it does not provide parents in underserved communities with any choice in their child's education. I have seen and been a part of true life-altering education working at a charter school. Please do not impede growth due to partisanship or a lack of understanding regarding projected outcomes of a policy.

Michael Giles

Lumin Education

Arlington, TX

My name is Michael Giles and I am the President of the Board for Lumin Education. I am writing in strong support of HB1348.

Public charter schools like ours are making significant positive impact on students, their families and their neighborhoods.

Charters and traditional ISDs should be held to the same local government standards applied without discrimination.

Travis Fell

Self, Software Product Manager

Cedar Park, TX

Dear House Land Committee,

I urge you to support and pass out of committee HB 1348 by Rep Deshotel. This bill enables charter schools by protecting them against frivolous fines and charges by local governments, which yield more money for classroom instruction.

Sincerely,

Travis Fell

Cedar Park, TX

Parent of 2 charter school children

Elizabeth Hymer

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Self

Fort Worth, TX

I support this bill so that all dailies can have access to quality education in their neighborhoods.

Richard Baumgartner

Rise Academy

Lubbock, TX

This is Rick Baumgartner with Rise Academy in Lubbock.

I strongly support HB1348 to free charter schools from added delays, obstacles, and barriers in the development of charter facilities placed by local municipalities. Charter schools operate on a tight timeline from authorization to open a new campus to the expiration of time by which the facility must actually be in operation. Added roadblocks, not typically encountered by ISDs, have often impeded the charter facility process and caused serious complications in reaching operational status as planned. Fundamentally, these impediments are not necessary, are not imposed on ISD campus development, and therefore need to be removed. HB1348 will do this.

Tracy Gardner

Self as a parent

San Antonio, TX

I support HB 1348 to keep more money inside the classroom.

Melissa Derrick

Self, Small Business Owner

San Marcos, TX

I am speaking for myself only, however I've served on City Council for five years in San Marcos, and am keenly aware that at times, local politics can be at issue. I support this bill to ensure discrimination against charter schools ends in Texas. I want to ensure that local politics don't override state public education policy that is determined by state statute, as both of my children attended a charter high school and their lives were immeasurably changed for the better - small class sizes, encouragement to explore and grow with a tight knit "family" atmosphere. There are enough financial barriers to starting a private school from the get-go, things should not be made even more difficult. I served on the Katherine Ann Porter School Board for 3 years, and our budget was TIGHT and we were housed in an old storage facility and struggled with plumbing, bus's in need of replacement, roofing issues etc. All big dollar items that were funded by donations and a nominal yearly, optional, payment for bus rides. Everything else was funded by grants.

We must have more charter options for our underserved youth, those with learning challenges, Autism and those that want to focus on arts, science etc. and to graduate early to pursue college. There are so many benefits to having these options for our children so that there is place for every type of youth to learn and be inspired to be all that they can be.

Sincerely,

Melissa Derrick

Ruth Garay

SELF

Dallas, TX

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I support HB 1348 to keep more money inside the classroom.

Jennifer Cooper

self

Cedar Park, TX

I support HB 1348 to keep more money inside the classroom.

Gabriela Rodriguez

SELF

El Paso, TX

I support HB 1348 to keep money inside the classroom

Yesika Diaz, Department of Assistants

SELF

Houston, TX

I support HB 1348 to keep more money inside the classroom

Let me know if you have any questions.

For The Children,

- Yesika Diaz 832 282 5001

Andrea Owens

Self

Dallas, TX

I support HB 1348 to keep more money inside the classroom.

For the Children

Gregory Harrington

Texas Charter Schools Parents Council

Pflugerville, TX

My daughter is on the 4th grade and goes to Harmony School of Science and I know how charter schools have to stretch ever single penny that they have. Charter schools have to continually find different ways to raise funds and apply for grants to get basic needs. So I support HB 1348 to keep more money inside the classroom. Please consider this and feel free to contact me with any question. gregory.l.harrington@gmail.com is my email and 512.799.0093 is my mobile.

Katherine Rossnagel

self human resources

FRISCO, TX

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I support HB 1348 to keep more money inside the classroom. It is critical that we all band together as Texans to support ALL schools and the children who attend them.

Eva Klassen, Mrs

Self, homemaker

Irving, TX

I support HB 1348 to keep more money inside the classroom.

Kimberly Burks

Self, teacher

Houston, TX

I support HB 1348 to ensure that more families have access to quality education in their community.

Rachel Richards

Self

Irving, TX

I support this bill for the opening of charters schools. Charters have changed the education path for the good for so many students who else would be lost in the system of public district schools. The charters school offer so much for the individual child that doesn't happen in public district schools across the state. The education level is much high then those at a public district school as well which in turn helps the student reach the goal of entering into college.

Nancy Guzman

Self

Irving, TX

I support HB 1348, because we need to keep more money in schools, in addition to in raising teacher salaries.

Diane Carpenter

3 Sons Salsa and The Carpenter Household

Irving, TX

I support HB 1348 to keep more money inside the classroom. We have been very impressed by the education that my boys have received from the charter school programs that we have had them enrolled in. My vote will always remain with the leadership in the House, Senate, and other local government areas that support charter schools. This should always be an option and it is shameful how these teachers, staff, and programs as a whole are discriminated against.

Allow them to pay educators. Allow them to purchase quality curriculum. Allow them to continue providing our next generation with an above average education. Thank you, be blessed, and God continue to bless America.

Tim Tuberville

Self

Cedar Park, TX

I fully support this proposal on the grounds of how important charter school accessibility is to the members of our communities

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as well as my family who rely on charter schools to help aid in being a safe and supportive environment for those with special needs.

William Vita

Founders Classical Academy

Corinth, TX

I definitively support HB 1348 to keep more money inside the classroom!

Sandra wardlaw, 5th & 7th grade Math teacher

Fort Worth Fine Arts Academy FWAFA (Texas School of the Arts)

Benbrook, TX

This is my second year to teach at the Fort Worth Fine Arts Academy. I teach 5th and 7th grade math.

FWAFA, Fort Worth Academy of Fine Arts is a great place to work. It is an awesome charter school, led by a wonderful principal, Jennifer Jackson, and the CEO, Paul Gravley.

I could not ask for a better place to work, therefore, I would like to dispute or speak against any negative actions against this organization led by Texas School of the Arts.

Sandra Catherine Wardlaw

Dianne Cooper, Ms

Self/ retired

Bertram, TX

I support this.

Alison Edwards, Mrs.

Self

Fort Worth, TX

I support HB 1348. We need to keep money inside the classroom to educate children.

Patricia Cherepes, Ms

Self

Jonesboro, TX

Our children deserve the best this will help to ensure they have it

Freddy Cox

Self - Parent

Katy, TX

Hello, as a parent of students attending a charter school, which sits in an excellent public school area, the differences in quality of education are still unmatched. That is why I support HB 1348 because public charter schools deserve to be treated fairly so that more students can thrive as mine have. If our children are our future, then they should have the choice to excel in a program in which enables them to do just that.

Thomas Hotze

Self

Houston, TX

My name is Thomas Hotze and I believe in the effectiveness of charter schools.

Public charter schools like the ones in my home city are expanding the educational opportunities available to all Texas families. The students are thriving, in a time when most are not. Yet charter schools are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. We are subjected to delays and added costs that harm our schools and take money out of classrooms.

Charter schools should follow the same rules and be held to the same standards as ISDs. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness. By doing so, it will ensure more students and families receive the best possible education for them. This is smart policy for our communities.

Hope Wilton

SELF

Fort Worth, TX

I support HB 1348 to ensure that more families have access to quality education in their community.

Rana Khan

self

Irving, TX

Public charter schools like mine are expanding the educational opportunities available to Texas families. Our students are thriving. Yet charter schools are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. We are subjected to delays and added costs that harm our schools and take money out of classrooms.

Charter schools should follow the same rules and be held to the same standards as ISDs. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness. By doing so, it will ensure more students and families receive the best possible education for them. This is smart policy for our communities.

Lauren Langham

Self, Licensed Vocational Nurse

Fort Worth, TX

I support HB 1348 to keep more money inside the classroom.

Brandi Braley

Self/High School Teacher

Plano, TX

I believe that stopping charter schools from opening in specific areas is a detriment to equitable education. Charter schools are able to meet the needs of diverse learners and specifically those living in underserved communities. I ask you today to support educators and charters by allowing us to continue to identify communities in need and provide them with these equitable opportunities in education.

Alejandra Murillo

Self

Houston, TX

Public charters school like mine are expanding the educational opportunities available to Texas families, we really need continue with those type the school, ours children need reach theirs dreams and this is the best way to do, please support ours schools.

SARAH VAZQUEZ

Self

Balch Springs, TX

I Support HB 1348 to keep more money inside the classroom.

Jamie Thompson-Griffin, teacher

self-teacher

Dallas, TX

I support HB 1348 to ensure that more families have access to quality education in their community.

Jordana Mortimer

Charter schools

Fort Worth, TX

I support HB 1348 to keep more money inside the classroom and allow parents the freedom to make educational choices for their children.

Clifton Wiegand

self

Fort Worth, TX

My wife and I are public charter school and public school (FWISD) parents. We love that we have this choice by child, learning style, experience, and where we think they will be most successful in growing their knowledge to prepare them for life in this world. Charter schools like the one my daughter attends raises the odds and educational experience for her, and many Texas families. She is thriving, receiving a more diverse education than her other options, and being challenge in healthy ways. We feel charter schools are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. We are subjected to delays and added costs that harm our schools and take money out of classrooms.

Charter schools should follow the same rules and be held to the same standards as ISDs. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness. By doing so, it will ensure more students and families receive the best possible education for them. This policy brightens the future for many children across our state.

Joe Hoffer, Attorney

Self Attorney

San Antonio, TX

I'm writing in strong support of HB1348. I have professionally represented many local governmental entities throughout the state and this law is needed to align with existing laws and will preserve public funds meant for education of students, will decrease

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delays and other expenses redirecting state funds away from students and is in their best interest.

Laura White
Self
Benbrook, TX

I support HB 1348 to keep more money inside the classroom

Christinn Jean
Southwest Preparatory School
San Antonio, TX

My name is Christinn Jean and I'm the Interim Superintendent of Southwest Preparatory School District. I'm writing in strong support of HB1348.

Public charter schools like mine are expanding the educational opportunities available to Texas families. Our students are thriving. Yet charter schools are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. We are subjected to delays and added costs that harm our schools and take money out of classrooms.

Charters and traditional ISDs should be held to the same local government standards applied without discrimination. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness. By doing so, it will ensure more students receive the best possible education. This is a smart policy for our communities.

Jordan Elliott, Ms.
Charter School Success
Kyle, TX

My name is Jordan Elliott, and I'm the COO of Charter School Success, a business solution provider for charter schools all over Texas. I'm writing in strong support of HB1348.

Public charter schools like mine are expanding the educational opportunities available to Texas families. Our students are thriving. Yet charter schools are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. We are subjected to delays and added costs that harm our schools and take money out of classrooms.

Charters and traditional ISDs should be held to the same local government standards applied without discrimination. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness. By doing so, it will ensure more students receive the best possible education. This is smart policy for our communities.

Rosa Ramirez
Self
Houston, TX

support HB 1348 to keep more money inside the classroom.

Celina Martinez
Self, Parent, Teacher
Irving, TX

I support HB1348 to keep more money inside the classroom.

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Deeandrea Sterns
Life School Red Oak for daughter
Desoto, TX

I support HB 1348 to keep more money inside the classroom

Cat Newlands
Self/IDEA Public Schools
Manchaca, TX

My name is Cat Newlands and I'm the Managing Director of HR of IDEA Public Schools in Texas. I'm writing in strong support of HB1348.

Public charter schools like mine are expanding the educational opportunities available to Texas families. Our students are thriving. Yet charter schools are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. We are subjected to delays and added costs that harm our schools and take money out of classrooms.

Charters and traditional ISDs should be held to the same local government standards applied without discrimination. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness. By doing so, it will ensure more students receive the best possible education. This is smart policy for our communities.

Angela McDonald, Superintendent
School
Duncanville, TX

Dallas county held us up with renovations, even after we had been at the current property for almost 20 years. Planning and zoning should not be allowed to do that, just because they don't want a charter school to grow.

Sharon Romero, Special Education Teacher
IDEA Public Schools
Floresville, TX

I support HB 1348 because public charter schools deserve to be treated fairly so that more students can thrive. Parents should be able to decide where they want their children to attend rather it is a charter school or an ISD. As a teacher and a parent, every child has a right to an education and charter schools should not be penalized with zoning, permitting or have to pay extra fees. Money needs to stay in the budget to get the often much needed supplies to teach our students especially those with special needs. On my campus we start the year earlier than the ISD's and teachers work hard and long days so that no instructional time is lost at all.

Kayleen Behrens
Charter School Success
D'Hanis, TX

My name is Kayleen Behrens and I'm an HR Specialist with Charter School Success. I'm writing in strong support of HB1348.

Public charter schools, like our clients, are expanding the educational opportunities available to Texas families. Charter students are thriving. Yet charter schools are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. We are subjected to delays and added costs that harm our schools and take money out of classrooms.

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Charters and traditional ISDs should be held to the same local government standards applied without discrimination. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness. By doing so, it will ensure more students receive the best possible education. This is a smart policy for our communities.

Soraya Prates

Self

Haslet, TX

In life we make some decisions that we may regret or be proud of later in life. Six years ago I decided to enrolled my daughter on a charter school and I confess that there were times that I doubt that she was ready for that. Coming from a public school, where she was an ordinary student, and going to a charter school with a requirement to study Mandarin and Spanish, honor classes, AP and Dual Credit, I can't recall the number of nights that she spent studying until 1-2 am. The results for long hours of studying came fast, and on her sophomore year she took Chemistry Dual Credit classes that came to be her passion, and later on her future major undergraduate goal. From an ordinary student my daughter turned to a top student. She is finishing high school and she got accepted to several great universities along with expressive scholarships. To enroll my daughter on charter school was one of my best decision ever.

Public charter schools like mine are expanding the educational opportunities available to Texas families. Our students are thriving. Yet charter schools are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. We are subjected to delays and added costs that harm our schools and take money out of classrooms.

Charter schools should follow the same rules and be held to the same standards as ISDs. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness. By doing so, it will ensure more students and families receive the best possible education for them. This is smart policy for our communities.

Andrea Perez, Mrs.

BASIS Texas

LYTLE, TX

My name is Andrea Perez and I'm the Superintendent of BASIS Texas Charter Schools. I'm writing in strong support of HB1348.

Public charter schools like mine are expanding the educational opportunities available to Texas families. Our students are thriving. Yet charter schools are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. We are subjected to delays and added costs that harm our schools and take money out of classrooms.

Charters and traditional ISDs should be held to the same local government standards applied without discrimination. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness. By doing so, it will ensure more students receive the best possible education. This is smart policy for our communities.

Christi Brumley

Self

FORT WORTH, TX

I support HB 1348 to keep more money inside the classroom.

Jennifer Noonan

Self - Writer

Austin, TX

I strongly support HB 1348 because it keeps a public charter school's money where it should be--for the students--rather than spent on bureaucratic costs that would never be considered a traditional public school's responsibility.

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Laura Ikeda
Self / art consultant
Fort Worth, TX

I support HB 1348 because I want to keep money inside the classroom. Please help the public charter schools that serve ANY children who want to enroll. Thank you.

Florence Obikwelu
Charter school parent
Fort Worth, TX

Public charter schools like the one my family attend are expanding the educational opportunities available to Texas families. Our students are thriving. Charter schools should be treated fairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. By doing so, they will be able to serve more families, and more students will receive best education. Most importantly, charter schools are doing their best in training present responsible kids and future responsible adult.

Thank you.

Lisa Stanley, Dr
North Texas Collegiate Academy
Justin, TX

My name is Dr. Lisa Stanley and I'm the Superintendent of North Texas Collegiate Academy in Denton County. I'm writing in strong support of HB1348.

Public charter schools like mine are expanding the educational opportunities available to Texas families. Our students are thriving. Yet charter schools are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. We are subjected to delays and added costs that harm our schools and take money out of classrooms.

Charters and traditional ISDs should be held to the same local government standards. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness. By doing so, it will ensure more students receive the best possible education. This is smart policy for our communities. I appreciate your support of our schools and our students.

Lindsey McKnight
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I support HB 1348 to keep more money in the classrooms.

Darla A Jones, Mrs.
SELF
Fort Worth, TX

I support HB 1348 to ensure that more families have access to quality education in their community and that open-enrollment charter schools do not face discrimination.

Laura Jandle

Charter School Success

Leander, TX

My name is Laura Jandle and I'm the PEIMS Director at Charter School Success. I'm writing in support of HB1348.

Public charter schools are expanding the educational opportunities available to Texas families. Our students are thriving. Yet charter schools are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. We are subjected to delays and added costs that harm our schools and take money out of classrooms.

Charters and traditional ISDs should be held to the same local government standards applied without dissemination. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness. By doing so, it will ensure more students receive the best possible education.

Please let me know if you need any assistance. Thank you!

Sharon Kroll

Charter School Success, Financial Specialist

Waco, TX

My name is Sharon Kroll and I work for Charter School Success. I am a Finance Specialist who works very closely with A+ Unlimited Potential Charter School in Houston, Texas. I am writing to solidly support HB1348.

I see how A+ Unlimited Potential Charter Schools and the other we serve are expanding the customized education experiences to every Texas family. What a difference these charter schools have made. The charter school students are flourishing. Why are charter schools treated differently by local governments with fees, zoning and permitting? This costs money that is directly taken away from our classrooms. This is detrimental for our students, teachers, and the schools themselves.

Traditional ISDs and Charter Schools should be kept to the same government standards. These should be applied comparatively. To achieve this basic right HB1348 must be approved. This will mean many more students, who are often the most at risk students, will receive the funding needed to achieve the education and services they deserve. This will, without a doubt, change the course of these students' lives to the best we can give. This is so vital for our communities. Please think of the difference you can make as you vote.

Christina da Silva, Mrs.

self

LAVON, TX

My name is Christina da Silva, and I am an English teacher at the International Leadership of Texas charter school in Garland, Texas. I am writing to urge you to pass HB 1348. Public charter schools like mine are expanding the educational opportunities available to Texas families. Our school has been recognized as an innovator in language education as our program instructs students in Spanish and Chinese from kindergarten to twelfth grade. Our school motto "Others before Self" is lived out by our students, staff, and faculty as we work in the community through outreach and volunteering activities. We offer something very special to both families and our communities.

Our school, like so many other charter schools, provides Texan families with the right to choose what is best for their children. However, charter schools such as ours are sometimes treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. Charter schools have been subjected to delays and added costs that harm our schools and take money out of classrooms.

Charter schools should follow the same rules and be held to the same standards as ISDs. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness. By doing so, it will ensure more students and families receive the best possible education for them. This is smart policy for our communities.

Support the right of Texans to choose the best school for their children by passing HB 1348.

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Respectfully,
Christina da Silva

Erica Jones, TEACHER

Self

Spring, TX

Public charter schools like mine are expanding the educational opportunities available to Texas families. Our students are thriving. Yet charter schools are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. We are subjected to delays and added costs that harm our schools and take money out of classrooms.

Charter schools should follow the same rules and be held to the same standards as ISDs. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness. By doing so, it will ensure more students and families receive the best possible education for them. This is smart policy for our communities.

Robert Davison, CEO

Heritage Academy Charter Schools

Schertz, TX

My name is Robert Davison and I'm the CEO of Heritage Academy Charter Schools. I'm writing in strong support of HB1348.

Public charter schools like ours are expanding the educational opportunities available to Texas families. Our students are thriving. Yet charter schools are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. We are subjected to delays and added costs that harm our schools and take money out of classrooms.

Charters and traditional ISDs should be held to the same local government standards applied without discrimination. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness. By doing so, it will ensure more students receive the best possible education. This is a smart policy for our communities. Thank you.

Beth Zemkoski

Self - mother

Fort Worth, TX

I support HB1348 to keep the money with our schools.

Rebecca Good, Superintendent

Legacy Preparatory Charter Academy

Allen, TX

My name is Dr. Rebecca Good and I'm the Superintendent/CEO/Founder of Legacy aPreparatory Charter Academy in the Dallas area. I'm writing in strong support of HB1348.

Public charter schools like mine are expanding the educational opportunities available to Texas families. Our scholars are thriving. Matter of fact, not only are we a majority minority district, but we have a B labeled district. Yet charter schools are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. We are subjected to delays and added costs that harm our schools and take money out of classrooms.

Despite the misinformation out there, we don't make as much per child as an isd. We must be especially frugal with costs. So we ask that Charters and traditional ISDs be held to the same local government standards applied without discrimination and extra

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costs. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness. By doing so, it will ensure more children receive the best possible education. This is smart policy for the communities we serve.

Staci Weaver, Senior director of school operations

Legacy Preparatory Charter Acade

Little Elm, TX

My name is Staci Weaver and I'm the Senior Director of School Operations of Legacy Preparatory Charter Academy in Mesquite Texas. I'm writing in strong support of HB1348.

Public charter schools like mine are expanding the educational opportunities available to Texas families. Our students are thriving. Yet charter schools are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. We are subjected to delays and added costs that harm our schools and take money out of classrooms.

Charters and traditional ISDs should be held to the same local government standards applied without discrimination. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness. By doing so, it will ensure more students receive the best possible education.

Danielle Clinscales

Self

Belton, TX, TX

Bill Number HB 1348 (it will select the bill)

Keith Brainard

self

Georgetown, TX

I support HB 1348 ! This bill will keep more money in public school classrooms. Public charter schools have been vital in providing an appropriate education for my children. Public charter schools should receive the same treatment that other public schools receive. Thank you for your consideration.

Mark Rogers

Self

Austin, TX

Why would school districts and open-enrollement charter schools be treated differently for land use, zoning, and permitting?

Amanda Hoshino

Self

Fort Worth, TX

I support bill HB 1348 to keep the money in the classroom. We love our charter school!

Ryan York

self

San Antonio, TX

Hi, my name is Ryan, I'm the co-founder and co-leader of The Gathering Place, a public charter school in San Antonio dedicated to nurturing and celebrating the inner-brilliance of every child. I'm writing in strong support of HB1348.

Public charter schools like mine are expanding the educational opportunities available to Texas families. Our students are thriving and yet we are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. We are subjected to delays and added costs that harm our schools and take money out of classrooms and ultimately money away from the children and families we are here to serve..

Charters and traditional ISDs should be held to the same local government standards applied without discrimination. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness. By doing so, it will ensure more students receive the best possible education. This is smart policy for our communities.

Please let me know if you need any assistance.

Peggy Rodriguez

Self

San Antonio, TX

Charter Schools help children get their education and have more involvement with scholars and yet the charter schools do not get the funding needed. Independent school districts do not offer the education to help students succeed and I have not come across a teacher to want to help a student succeed especially when the student is 504/Special Education. I speak from experience. That is why I choose charter schools to ensure my child does not get left behind and to get her away from bullying. Ever since I took my child out of public school and put her into charter schools she is getting the help she needs and not being bullied. All I ever heard from the public schools were excuses "We don't have the Funding to provide services" but yet public schools get million/billion bond and cannot share with charter schools. The state is failing parents and students and that is why more and more are choosing charter schools. The state knows this.

Charter schools should follow the same rules and be held to the same standards as ISDs. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness. By doing so, it will ensure more students and families receive the best possible education for them. This is smart policy for our communities.

Stephanie Bunn

Self

Fort Worth, TX

In support of Bill and funds continuing to support charter schools.

Dusti Jones

Self

San Antonio, TX

As a parent, I have firsthand seen the benefit of charter school education. Schools like ours is expanding the opportunities for children to thrive and grow into citizens who will positively contributed to our society. This policy is a beneficial one, as it will seek to provide equal incredible education for more students and families.

Larry Newcomb, Mr

Harmony Science Academy

San Antonio, TX

It is imperative for parents to have the opportunity to choose the best possible school for their children. My geographic location limits the choices I could have made for my son, and be able to get to work. I have a Master's degree and my wife a PhD. Simply, Harmony Science Academy offered our son the best opportunity and challenge as a Charter School. His local public school had poor results. Sorry this is the situation that we faced. V/R Larry Newcomb

Mollie Vineyard

Self

Jarrell, TX

Charter schools are much needed with so
W children with special needs that public education can't offer

Trace Vineyard

Self

Jarrell, TX

Children need these schools to get the education that public schools can't give them

Shea Lewis

Self, parent of Arlington Classics Academy students

Arlington, TX

Hi, I am Shea Lewis, Parent, Volunteer, Board Member for Arlington Classics Academy. I am writing and encouraging HB 1348.

Charters schools like the one I am involved in are expanding opportunities for Texas Families. Our students are thriving. However charter schools are still be treated unfairly by local governments through zoning, permitting & fees. We are subjected to delays & fees whichnjust take money from our schools and in turn to our students.

Charters & traditional ISDs should be treated equally, all providing what is ultimately best for the student. HB1348 will provide the fairness.After all we want the best possible education for our students.Thank you!

Jacy Daniels

Texas Public Charter School Parent

San Antonio, TX

My name is Jacy Daniels and I am in support of
HB 1348. Public Charter Schools deserve the right to be treated just as ISDs. Public Charter Schools like Great Hearts Monte Vista South, where my 4th grader and Kindergartner attend school education is outstanding. My Kindergartner has learned to read and even recite poems weekly. My 4th grader is excelling in literature and mathematics. My children as well as other scholars are thriving. Even though they are thriving they are not treated fairly as the ISD students. We are subjected to extra costs that take away from our children's education. Public Charter Schools should be given the same opportunities as ISDs. Please support HB 1348. If this is passed our government is saying " YES" to all children having equal educational opportunities in our community. Thank you for reading my comment as a supportive Texas Public Charter School Parent.

Frank Gracia

self

San Antonio, TX

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I support HD1348 to keep more money inside the classroom for the children.

Laura Wright

Legacy Prep Charter Academy

Parker, TX

Hello, my name is Laura Wright and I am the Community Engagement Manager at Legacy Preparatory Charter Academy in Plano, Texas. I'm writing in strong support of HB1348.

Public charter schools like LPCA are expanding the educational opportunities available to Texas families. Our students are thriving. Yet charter schools are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. We are subjected to delays and added costs that harm our schools and take money out of classrooms.

Charters and traditional ISDs should be held to the same local government standards applied without discrimination. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness. By doing so, it will ensure more students receive the best possible education. This is smart policy for our communities and is the right thing to do. Thank you!

Paul Castro

A+UP Charter School

Houston, TX

My name is Paul Castro and I am the founder and superintendent of A+UP Charter School. Our school serves the children of taxpayers from across the Houston area who deserve the equal protection under the law as those in traditional ISDs. Almost a third of our middle schoolers have special needs and two-thirds are from low-income families. Money that should serve them is instead spent overcoming local bureaucratic obstacles that ISDs don't face.

Texans value freedom from unnecessary regulation and wasteful spending. Please support this important piece of legislation.

Brandy Schott

Winfree Academy Charter Schools

Coppell, TX

My name is Brandy Schott and I'm the Superintendent of Winfree Academy Charter Schools. I'm writing in strong support of HB1348.

Public charter schools like mine are expanding the educational opportunities available to Texas families. Our students are thriving. Yet charter schools are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. We are subjected to delays and added costs that harm our schools and take money out of classrooms.

Charters and traditional ISDs should be held to the same local government standards applied without discrimination. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness. By doing so, it will ensure more students receive the best possible education. This is smart policy for our communities.

Finn Simmens

self -- charter school staff member

Rowlett, TX

Please advance HB 1348. Let Texas education policies reflect the will of the public as manifested in the Education Code, not the factional hostility of local officials who block charter projects with discriminatory zoning and permitting requirements and fees while protecting entrenched ISD bureaucracies.

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The people of Texas, through their legislators, repeatedly have supported charter schools to secure the benefits of innovation, variety and choice for coming generations of Texans. Charter schools are keeping students safe. They are closing disparity gaps. They adapted quickly to the SARS-CoV-2 Pandemic – some had mitigation procedures and virtual instruction up and running in little more than a week. Charter schools evolve rapidly, adjusting their priorities to match those of the families who enroll students.

Local official bias against charter schools is contrary to state education policies as codified in state law. It is anti-school-choice, anti-taxpayer, anti-democratic, pro-monopoly, pro-insider, pro-elite, and contrary to the good sense of Texans. For the sake of those who have the most to gain from well-applied public education funds, it's time to stop the favoritism. Move on. Move HB 1348 forward and pass it!

Ida Joiner

Self

Houston, TX

I am a parent of two kids and can tell you from personal experience that charter schools MAKE A MEASURABLE DIFFERENCE. Please listen to parents and students who have benefited from charter school experience and provided our family with the right education outcomes.

Paulina Aguirre

Great Hearts Irving

Irving, TX

Please allow our charter schools to keep more money inside the classroom . I fully support bill HB1348.

Anne McClellan

A+ Unlimited, Houston

Houston, TX

My name is Dr. Anne McClellan and I'm the Board President of A+ U limited, Houston, Texas]. I'm writing in strong support of HB1348.

Public charter schools like mine are expanding the educational opportunities available to Texas families. Our students are thriving. Yet charter schools are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. We are subjected to delays and added costs that harm our schools and take money out of classrooms.

Charters and traditional ISDs should be held to the same local government standards applied without discrimination. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness. By doing so, it will ensure more students receive the best possible education. This is smart policy for our communities.

Teana Harrington

Self

PFLUGERVILLE, TX

I support HB 1348 to keep more money inside the classroom.

Yolonda Dawson

Arlington Classics Academy

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Mansfield, TX

Greetings and Salutations. My name is Yolonda Dawson and I serve as the principal at Arlington Classics Academy Middle School. I am so thankful for giving so many students educational opportunities. Our school is thriving. Yet we are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permits, and fees. This has often caused delays and added costs that are harming our school and taking money out of the classrooms.

I would like to see that charters and traditional isds be held to the same local government standards applied without discrimination. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness. This is a smart policy for ALL communities.

Rosy Hernandez De Lara

Self

Fort Worth, TX

I support HB 1348 to keep more money inside the classroom.

Katie Amber

Katie Amber Photography

Austin, TX

My name is Katie Amber. I am a business owner and single mother in Austin, Texas. Both my children attend NYOS Charter School, and I wish to strongly support HB 1348

Dee Carney

Texas School Alliance

Austin, TX

Texas School Alliance Position on HB 1348

March 15, 2021

The Texas School Alliance comprises 43 of Texas' largest school districts, serving over 2 million students or nearly 40 percent of the state's total pupil enrollment. Our students represent 44 percent of the state's economically disadvantaged student population, 50 percent of its English Language Learners, and 43 percent of all at-risk students in the state. The organization works on issues that will improve educational quality for Texas students, particularly those in large and urban districts.

The Texas School Alliance OPPOSES HB 1348 – as drafted – and looks forward to working with Chairman Deshotel to ensure consistency of local ordinances and fees that may be imposed by municipalities, as well as the broader issues surrounding charter school approval and expansion.

For further information, please contact Dr. Curtis Culwell, Executive Director, at curtis@texasschoolalliance.org or by telephone at 512.485.7878.

Brent Wilson, Dr.

Life School of Dallas

Red Oak, TX

My name is Dr. Brent Wilson and I'm the Superintendent / CEO of Life School of Dallas. Life School was established in 1998 and currently serves 5,500 students in Dallas & Ellis Counties. I'm writing in strong support of HB1348.

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Public charter schools like Life School are expanding the educational opportunities available to Texas families. At Life School, we believe parents are the primary educator of their child and have the right to choose what they believe is the best educational fit for their student. Students at our Life High School Oak Cliff (UIL 3A) and Life High School Waxahachie (UIL 4A) campuses consistently have a 100% graduation rate. Yet charter schools are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees either out of mal intent or out of ignorance of not knowing charters are Texas public schools. Therefore, charter schools find themselves subjected to delays and added costs that harm our schools and divert money away from classroom instructional resources.

Charters and traditional ISDs should be held to the same local government standards applied without discrimination. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness by providing clarity to municipalities that charter schools are public schools. By doing so, this bill will ensure more students receive the best possible education. This is smart policy for our communities and good financial stewardship with tax payer monies.

Thank you for championing HB 1348!

Regards.
Brent Wilson, Ed.D

Denise Pierce, Attorney at Law
Schulman, Lopez, Hoffer, & Adelstein, LLP
Austin, TX

I support this bill. It provides a path for public school charter growth by removing imprudent hurdles from local governments. Further, the bill creates parity in development between all public schools in our state, traditional school districts and public charter schools.

Kathleen Zimmermann
NYOS Charter School
Austin, TX

My name is Kathleen Zimmermann and I'm the Executive Director of NYOS Charter School in Austin. I'm writing in strong support of HB1348.

Public charter schools like mine are expanding the educational opportunities available to Texas families. Our students are thriving. Yet charter schools are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. We are subjected to delays and added costs that harm our schools and take money out of classrooms.

Charters and traditional ISDs should be held to the same local government standards applied without discrimination. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness. By doing so, it will ensure more students receive the best possible education. This is smart policy for our communities.

Gary Short, Dr.
Southwest Preparatory School
San Antonio, TX

Charter schools are public schools and should not be treated differently and unfairly by municipal governments and agencies. Specifically, SAWS charters with hookup fees but does not charge ISDs.

Katie P. Stellar, CEO/Superintendent
High Point Academy

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Fort Worth, TX

My name is Katie P. Stellar and I'm the CEO / Superintendent of High Point Academy in Fort Worth. I'm writing in strong support of HB1348.

Public charter schools like mine are expanding the educational opportunities available to Texas families. Our students are thriving. Yet charter schools are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. We are subjected to delays and added costs that harm our schools and take money out of classrooms.

Charters and traditional ISDs should be held to the same local government standards applied without discrimination. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness. By doing so, it will ensure more students receive the best possible education. This is smart policy for our communities.

Thank you for advocating on behalf of all Texas students and the schools they attend.

Leigh Blake

SELF

Coppell, TX

I support HB 1348 to keep more money in the classroom.

Christine Grudecki

Self

Grand Prairie, TX

I support HB 1348 to keep more money in the classroom and stop discrimination against charter schools.

Jodi Campbell

Lumin Education

Dallas, TX

I ask that you support this bill. We have had Dallas City Council turn down our zoning request because we were a charter. We had public support and comment from parents in the neighborhood attending the meeting, but because we were a charter school (specifically stated by one of the council members) they denied our Special Use Permit. This was unfair to the children and families in the neighborhood who wanted to make an educational choice. Public charter schools should receive the same treatment as ISDs for zoning, permitting, and fee decisions. Treating public charter schools the same as ISDs will allow them to focus their limited funds on their students, instead of red tape.

Mark Blake

Self

Coppell, TX

I support HB 1348 to keep more money in the classroom.

Johna Hemphill

Self / Executive Assistant

Houston, TX

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My name is Johna Hemphill, and I am a proud parent of two children who are currently enrolled in public charter schools. Public charter schools like mine provide many opportunities for educational growth and excellence, parental involvement and community engagement. However, charter schools are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. These practices take precious resources such as funding from our schools which negatively impacts our classrooms.

I support NB 1348 because public charter schools deserve to be treated fairly so that more students can thrive. Charter schools should follow the same rules and standards as ISD's. HB 1348 will achieve this basic fairness. This ensures that more students and families receive the best possible education for them.

Thank you for your time.

Deborah Garton, Dr.
Life School Lancaster
Midlothian, TX

My name is Dr. Deb Garton, and I'm the principal of Life School Lancaster. I'm writing in strong support of HB1348.

Public charter schools like mine are expanding the educational opportunities available to Texas families. Our students are finding hope and a future through their public education at Life School. Yet charter schools are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. We are subjected to delays and added costs that harm our schools and take money out of classrooms.

Charters and traditional ISDs should be held to the same local government standards applied without discrimination. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness. By doing so, it will ensure more students receive the best possible education. This is smart policy for our communities.

I appreciate consideration in this matter,

Dr. Garton

Ciro Guerra, Mr.
Self Teacher
ROUND ROCK, TX

Public charter schools like mine are expanding the educational opportunities available to Texas families. Our students are thriving. Yet charter schools are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. We are subjected to delays and added costs that harm our schools and take money out of classrooms.

Charter schools should follow the same rules and be held to the same standards as ISDs. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness. By doing so, it will ensure more students and families receive the best possible education for them. This is smart policy for our communities

Nicole Lopez
Self
San Antonio, TX

Public charter schools like mine are expanding the educational opportunities available to Texas families. Our students are thriving. Yet charter schools are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. We are subjected to delays and added costs that harm our schools and take money out of classrooms.

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Charter schools should follow the same rules and be held to the same standards as ISDs. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness. By doing so, it will ensure more students and families receive the best possible education for them. This is smart policy for our communities.

Brenton White, Dr.

A+ Charter Schools

Dallas, TX

My name is Dr. Brenton White, and I am the Superintendent / CEO of A+ Charter Schools, which operates in the greater Dallas area. I am writing in strong support of HB1348.

Public charter schools like ours are expanding the educational opportunities available to Texas families, and our school is working to serve more students in the greater Dallas area. We believe our students, many of whom come from significantly disadvantaged populations, are thriving and making great progress. However, we have experienced delays and added costs in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees, which have taken money out of our classrooms and impacted our ability to offer top-notch facilities to our students in a timely manner. For instance we have an ongoing project for an athletic facility that has experienced delays of approximately 493 days thus far; much of this delay is linked to issues related to inspections and other activities by local permitters and plan reviewers. We also recently completed an early education center more than 180 days behind schedule, with much of that delay also due to issues related to local permitting. Our school has invested millions of dollars into our local communities, all while having to deal with zoning and permitting issues that our traditional school district counterparts have not had to encounter.

We sincerely believe that our charter school should be held to the same standards as traditional districts when it comes to zoning, permitting, and fees. We believe HB1348 will help achieve this basic fairness, and help to ensure that our students benefit from the best facilities we can provide.

Jalaine Ballou

Beatrice Mayes Institute Charter School

Houston, TX

Hello,

My name is Jalaine Ballou and I have two grandchildren and a niece and nephew who attend a public charter school. Public charter schools like the one that my grandkids, niece, and nephew attend offer valuable educational opportunities. Our students are doing exceptionally well, and I've seen phenomenal growth in all of them. I have learned; however, that charter schools are treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting and fees. This takes valuable resources from our classrooms.

Charter schools should follow the same rules and be held to the same standards as ISD schools. I support HB 1348 because it will achieve the fairness that charter schools deserve so that our students can continue to thrive.

Thank you.

Richard Gilliam

Self

San Antonio, TX

Public charter schools like mine are expanding the educational opportunities available to Texas families. Our students are thriving. Yet charter schools are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. We are subjected to delays and added costs that harm our schools and take money out of classrooms.

Charter schools should follow the same rules and be held to the same standards as ISDs. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness.

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By doing so, it will ensure more students and families receive the best possible education for them. This is smart policy for our communities.

Dawn Gent

Legacy Preparatory Charter Academy

Plano, TX

My child has exceptionally excelled at Legacy Preparatory Charter Academy. Due to his high academic performance, his needs were never met in the Public School setting, he was labeled problem student and began to shut down emotionally and academically. Since his arrival in the 4th grade, his academic needs were recognized as not being challenged, proper testing was provided, and an individualized plan was developed and has been addressed every year, allowing his acceleration 1-2 years beyond his peers, while also allowing Dual Credit College courses at age 14. His exceptional math, science, and reading levels were noted immediately, and we were referred to the proper steps to take to allow his advancement. The STEM structure is strongly preparing him for college and career readiness

Danielle Dillard, Principal

Life School

Red Oak, TX

My name is Danielle Dillard, and I am the principal of Life School Red Oak, an elementary school within Life School. Life School is a charter school serving students and families in Ellis, Dallas, and Denton counties in North Texas. This is my eleventh year working for Life School. I started as a teacher and have been poured into by district leaders every year I've served at Life School. As a district, we pride ourselves in developing leaders through strong academics, character training, and partnering with parents and the community. We live out this purpose each day as we serve our families and work to grow future leaders. I support HB1348, so we can continue to serve our families with fairness and equality, while providing them an opportunity to choose the education that is right for their student.

Jim Neal, President

Southwest Winners Foundation, Inc.

San Antonio, TX

Bill 1348

I am the President of Southwest Winners Foundation, Inc., a 501 c 3 that founded Southwest Preparatory School in San Antonio. As a charter school, we have been penalized over the years by paying the SAWS Impact fee while the ISD's in San Antonio are not required to pay this fee. In 2017 we hired an attorney to fight the 27k impact fee charged by SAWS when we added a modular building to one of our campuses. In spite of our efforts, SAWS turned a deaf ear to us. Two years ago we added a gymnasium to one of our campuses and paid over 80k for the SAWS impact fee. I am writing to say this fee charged impacts our cost of construction which is paid in long term financing costs when the cost could have been lowered or the funds could have been spent directly to benefit the students we serve.

Please consider passage of this bill to give relief to charter schools.

Thank you.

Jim Neal

Jamie Cole

SELF

Trophy Club, TX

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I support HB 1348 to keep more money inside the classroom to benefit students.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jamie L Cole
Parent of 3 students of International Leadership of Texas Keller K-8

Leslie Lindeen
Self
Corpus Christi, TX

I support this to keep money for the school and students

zongxian zhu
self
Irving, TX

My name is Zongxian Zhu and I'm the CFO of Arlington Classics Academy. I'm writing in strong support of HB1348.

Public charter schools like mine are expanding the educational opportunities available to Texas families. Our students are thriving. Yet charter schools are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. We are subjected to delays and added costs that harm our schools and take money out of classrooms.

Charters and traditional ISDs should be held to the same local government standards applied without discrimination. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness. By doing so, it will ensure more students receive the best possible education. This is smart policy for our communities.

Wendy Casas
Great Hearts Arlington
Arlington, TX

We all work hard for our money. A portion of our money is taxed to pay toward public schools whether we like that or not. The least government can do is allow a choice of different charter philosophies for schools operate equally to traditional public schools. Charter schools should receive equal treatment to traditional public schools and not have to operate at a disadvantage.

Greyden Barnett, Director of Human Resources and Student Services
Arlington Classics Academy
Arlington, TX

I am Greyden Barnett, Director of Human Resources for Arlington Classics Academy. I am in strong support of this bill.

annissa peterson, Mrs
Self
Cedar park, TX

Our niece's charter school is so vital to her education and we want these charter schools to have what they need to continue to provide these services and education.

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Susan Tuberville

Self

Alvin, TX

This bill is critical for charter schools for the epileptic children. My granddaughter has proven to excel in a charter school where she wouldn't have in a public school. All children with medical issues such as epilepsy should have options for education such as the charter schools.

Karen Belknap

Belknap Ministries Inc, dba Inspired Vision Compassion Center

Mesquite, TX

I support "HB1348". Please vote to give Charters equal treatment with ISD's. Money should be spent on our students, not lawyers and red tape.

Yesika Diaz, Dept. Assistant

SELF

Houston, TX

Hello My Name is Yesika and I am resident of Texas and my children attend to Charter School and have done so for the last 3 years.

I have seen my children excel since attending their Charter School because they are able to be given more attention and one-on-one. My Kids has excel beyond his grade level and is even able to take Engineering and Advanced Courses since having attended to Charter School. The Charter School offer kids and advantage that the public schools can't. Resources, however are limited and make it difficult to compete public schools, so they can get more founding, the advancement and level of competitiveness would be even greater. I have seen my children perform in regular school versus Charter School and improvement in their learning is indescribable since going to The Charter School. They also offer kids with special needs a special setting in which they thrive, free of bullying, which happens in large public schools. In The Charter School setting, the children are free of bullying and hence able to thrive and advance and ultimately learn better. Please send money and all the support for The Texas Charters Schools which are doing a phenomenal and amazing work.

Let me know if you have more questions

For The Children ??????????????????

-Yesika Diaz 832 282 5001

-

Lisa Smith

Self

Fort Worth, TX

i support HB 1348 to ensure that more families have access to diverse options for their children's education in their community. Charter schools have the same accountability as any other school district. They are a viable option for children who need accommodated curriculum that larger districts do not provide. Our school offers a robust arts education as well as rigorous academic education. Charter schools are vital and just good business. They are worth the investment. Our kids are worth the investment. They are a school of choice. IF a lot of students are flocking to Charter Schools, then that means their larger districts are not meeting their needs and they can't afford private school. Charters are not just beneficial, they are necessary.

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Gabriela Resendez

Self

Irving, TX

This bill would add an undue burden on public charter schools by siphoning money out of the classrooms. My children's education is a priority for our family as well as all other parents that work together to supplement funding for our inclusive classical liberal arts education. In our public charter schools, parents came together to fundraise directly to build a library and now we are working on building a gym. So much is done with so little. It's inspiring and rooted in a belief in truth, beauty and community. DO NOT support this bill that reduces funding out of classrooms.

Alison Band

Great Hearts Western Hills

Hollywood Park, TX

Please protect our Charter schools

Craig Sims

Arlington Classics Academy

Midlothian, TX

Charter schools are being forced to use taxpayer funds to pay large fees imposed by local authorities to try to prevent charters from providing educational choice to parents. Additionally, local governments are imposing unfair practices to keep charters from providing educational opportunities to local students. Please help prevent this unfair practice and additional cost to taxpayers by supporting this bill.

Gary Cooper, Retired

Self/ retired 1384

Bertram, TX

I support this bill

Adriana Tellez

Self

Fort Worth, TX

I support HB 1348 to keep more money inside classroom.

Joaquin Ramirez

Self

Mesquite, TX

I support HB 1348 to keep more money inside the classroom.

Adam Coleman, Officer

Self Police Officer

Fort Worth, TX

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I support HB 1348 to keep more money inside the classroom. It is so important that charters be able to compete on a level playing field, not with one hand tied behind our back. Before finding GH, we were in a school District that was beginning to teach curriculum that completely violates our values & already teaching sex Ed that COMPLETELY violates our religious beliefs. But we had no other options since we can't afford private education. Since finding Great Hearts classical charter school, we are no longer dreading middle & high school. But excited that WE get to be the ones to discuss hot topics with our kids. And that we can send them to school & not worry about what propoganda they will be taught.

Please pass this bill so that Charters like GH can continue to meet a need for families like me.

Jehan Blanton
Great Hearts
Arlington, TX

Great Hearts Charter school has been a blessing to our family. My children are thriving and it's something that sadly we couldn't find on public schools. We are grateful to be part of a charter school.

Amanda Coleman
Great hearts lakeside
Fort Worth, TX

I support hb 1348 to keep more money in the classroom. Charters already have an uphill battle financially with how we have to pay property taxes when normal public schools don't. Please help charters thrive by giving them the same opportunities as public schools to thrive.

We loved our former school, but were dreading the thought of finding a high school that we felt comfortable sending our three kids. So many high schools have disciplinary issues as well as a lack of classroom management plus a lack of dress code enforcement which all creates a difficult learning environment for our teens.

I'm so grateful for GREAT HEARTS, that they require a modest dress code (that's actually enforced) through high school & provides the right amount of discipline/guidance so that the kids can actually learn. I no longer am dreading The process of choosing a high school! I'm so grateful that GH goes through 12th grade!

It's so important, for families who need an alternative, but can't afford a private education, to have another option. The future of their children depend on it.

Jennifer Villavaso
Life School Carrollton
The Colony, TX

My name is Jennifer Villavaso and I'm the Principal of Life School Carrollton in Carrollton, TX. I'm writing in strong support of HB1348.

Public charter schools like mine are expanding the educational opportunities available to Texas families. Our students are thriving. Yet charter schools are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. We are subjected to delays and added costs that harm our schools and take money out of classrooms.

Charters and traditional ISDs should be held to the same local government standards applied without discrimination. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness. By doing so, it will ensure more students receive the best possible education and close the opportunity gaps that divide our communities. This is smart policy for our communities.

Angelica Collazo

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Yes Prep Southwest

Houston, TX

I support HB 1348 to keep more money inside the classroom.

William G. Moll

KIPP San Antonio Public Charter Schools

San Antonio, TX

As Chair of the Board of KIPP San Antonio and a member of the board of KIPP Texas, I support HB1348 for the following reasons: Charter Schools expand educational opportunities and choice for children and their families. Our KIPPsters are thriving despite COVID restrictions. Yet Charters are often discriminated against by local governments with zoning restrictions, fees, permitting. We experience delays and costs which take funds out of our classrooms, and harm our schools and our kids. All schools should follow the same rules and be held to the same standards -- charters and ISDs alike. I believe HB1348 will accomplish this basic fairness and urge adoption. Thank you. WG Moll

Lena Key

Self

Fort Worth, TX

I support HB 1348 to keep more money inside the classroom. My child went to two schools before Great Hearts charter school. After my child started Great Hearts charter school she has improved in so many subjects. The teachers offer extra help in all the areas of struggle. We have seen so much progress this year!

Amy Masseo

Self Homemaker

Benbrook, TX

I believe charter schools should be exempt from zoning fees, etc in the same way that other public ISDs are. That money should be kept in The classroom.

My 5 year old daughter has blossomed at Great Hearts America! She is reading after only 6ish months of school and is an engaged, respectful little girl who is a pleasure to be around. We are so thankful for our charter school, and we would like to see it continue to succeed with the help of public resources and help.

JoAnne Natividad

self

Houston, TX

I am JoAnne Natividad a parent of a 5th grader who tells me he is learning more than he did in the Private school he use to go to. It is his first year at the charter school. Money was not the issue but of favoritism and not acknowledging the eagerness of my son to learn when he asked questions.

Public charter schools like mine are expanding the educational opportunities available to Texas families. Our students are thriving. Yet charter schools are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. We are subjected to delays and added costs that harm our schools and take money out of classrooms.

Charter schools should follow the same rules and be held to the same standards as ISDs. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness. By doing so, it will ensure more students and families receive the best possible education for them. This is smart policy for our

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communities.

Jennifer Taylor

Self

Dallas, TX

I support HB 1348 to keep more money inside the classroom.

Frances Smith

Self

Houston, TX

My name is Frances smith and I support HB 1348 and charter schools because these institutions should be treated fairly so that they can continue to succeed and more students can thrive.

Brittany Gardner

Self

Houston, TX

I support HB 1348 because public charter schools deserve to be treated fairly so that more students can thrive

Jamie Johnson

Self

Austin, TX

Parent's and kids should have many choices for education. Not every kid fits in a "standardized " world. No child should be left behind or forced to go to huge public schools where many times those kids and their specific needs fall through the cracks.

Elizabeth Salazar

Self

Austin, TX

Our schools shouldn't be spending money on lawyers and red tape -- that money belongs in the classroom

Courtney Boswell, Coordinator

Arlington Classics Academy

Bedford, TX

My name is Courtney Boswell and I'm the Coordinator of Special Programs and Assessment of Arlington Classics Academy. I'm writing in strong support of HB1348.

Public charter schools like mine are expanding the educational opportunities available to Texas families. Our students are thriving. Yet charter schools are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. We are subjected to delays and added costs that harm our schools and take money out of classrooms.

Charters and traditional ISDs should be held to the same local government standards applied without discrimination. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness. By doing so, it will ensure more students receive the best possible education. This is smart policy for

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our communities.

Leticia Gomez

Self

Burleson, TX

I support HB 1348 to keep more money inside the classroom.

Starla Condes

Swlf

San Antonio, TX

I support HB 1348 to keep more money inside the classroom.

Diane Wolff

Self

Fort Worth, TX

I support HB1348 to keep more money in the Classroom. Having the ability to send my child to a Public Charter School has been the answer to my educational prayers. Prior to finding Great Hearts Lakeside it was a struggle to get my child excited about school. She was always bored or frustrated because of the material was either too easy or the manner in which they taught material did not work for my daughter. At Great Hearts they teach a Classical education through Truth, Beauty and Goodness. They teach a love of learning and life long learning. Please don't hurt these amazing educational institutions with economic penalties. Please keep the funding in the classrooms helping prepare our most precious resources to be the leaders of tomorrow. Thank you.

James Hamilton

SELF

El Paso, TX

I support HB 1348 to ensure that more families have access to quality education in their community.

Jan Carden, Mrs.

Self - elementary teacher

Fort Worth, TX

Charter schools are a valuable resource in educating our children. They compliment public schools by offering a specific area of study and interest. There is room for both! Please support us!! I support HB 1348!

Miguel Condes

Self

San Antonio, TX

I support HB 1348 to keep more money inside the classroom

Shane Copelin

Self - Attorney

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Houston, TX

I'm in support of HB 1348. It will relieve the unnecessary and discriminator burden placed in Charter Schools here in Texas. There is no reason charter schools should have different treatment than ISDs when it comes to zoning requirements and permits. We should be enabling better education for all and allowing charter schools to commit their resources to doing so, rather than offering a competitive advantage to ISDs.

Terry Ford, Ms.
Lumin Education
Dallas, TX

As the Executive Director of Lumin Education in Dallas, Texas, I am writing to express my strong support of HB1348.

Lumin Education is recognized nationally as an innovator in public education, specifically in early childhood education and public Montessori. As a public charter school, we are proud to be part of the public school system of Texas.

Lumin Education has three campuses in Dallas and had the opportunity to expand to a fourth location in 2014. The Texas Education Agency approved an amendment to our charter granting Lumin permission to expand by opening a charter campus at this location. Parents in this low-income neighborhood were enthusiastic about the new campus. Because of discrimination based on our being a charter school, we were denied the zoning that was required to open our fourth charter campus.

Public charter schools and traditional ISDs should be held to the same local government standards applied without discrimination. In order to achieve this basic fairness, I support HB1348.

Sincerely, Terry N. Ford, The Mrs. Orien Levy Woolf Executive Director of Lumin Education

Megan Bennett
Great Hearts Lakeside
Fort Worth, TX

I support 1348 to keep more money in the classroom

Taryn Anderson
Great Hearts Irving
Grapevine, TX

I support fair treatment of charter schools and equal funding for public schools.

Benjamin Warren, Individual
Self
Houston, TX

I support the passage of HB 1348 belief g that the scales need to be balanced in favor of choice and our children.

Vicente Delgado, Dr.
Golden Rule Charter School
DeSoto, TX

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Our public charter school supports the passing of this bill.

Harold Oliver

New Frontiers Public Charter Schools

San Antonio, TX

In Support. Do not wish to testify.

LouAnn Phillips, School Board President

AW Brown Leadership Academy

Red Oak, TX

My name is Lou Ann Phillips and I'm the Chair of the Board of Directors of A W Brown Leadership Academy a Charter school on Dallas, TX. I'm writing in strong support of HB1348.

Public charter schools like mine are expanding the educational opportunities available to Texas families. Our students are thriving. Yet charter schools are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. We are subjected to delays and added costs that harm our schools and take money out of classrooms.

Yessica Martinez

Self

Irving, TX

I support 1348

Andrea Reynolds, Mrs.

Self- educator

Center Point, TX

Charter schools provide a needed option in many areas for families to assure an excellent education fir their children. These public schools should not be impeded from helping families, but should be afforded all the opportunities of any public school.

Jami Taylor

Self.

Fort Worth, TX

I support Hb 1348 to keep more money in the classroom. School choice has been a huge blessing to our children. They are thriving and learning! The teachers and administrators work very hard to provide the best education possible with reduced pay compare to public schools. Please keep the hard earned money inside the classroom of Great Hearts.

shanta Horton

Golden Rule Charter Inc

Desoto, TX

n/a

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JUDE BENYEOGOR

Harmony Science Academy Carrollton Tx

Dallas, TX

Public charter schools like mine are expanding the educational opportunities available to Texas families. Our students are thriving. Yet charter schools are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees

Bruce Tabor, Dr.

Goodwater Montessori School

Georgetown, TX

My name is Dr. Bruce Tabor and I am the Superintendent/CEO of Goodwater Montessori School located in Georgetown, Texas. I am writing in strong support of HB1348.

Public charter schools like mine are expanding the educational opportunities available to Texas families. Our students are thriving. Yet some charter schools are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. They are subjected to delays and added costs that could harm those schools and take money out of classrooms.

Charters and traditional ISDs should be held to the same local government standards applied without discrimination. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness. By doing so, it will ensure more students receive the best possible education. This is a smart policy for our communities.

Kindest Regards,
Bruce Tabor, EdD.

Brock Cooper

Self

Cedar Park, TX

I support bill 1348.

Elizabeth Rosa, Mrs.

Self

Austin, TX

I support HB 1348 to keep more money inside the classrooms.

Bob Densmore, Asst. Supt.

Education Center International Academy

Terrell, TX

My name is Bob Densmore and I'm the Asst. Supt. of [school name and Education Center International Academy located at 302 North Town East Blvd. Sunnyvale, Texas 75182. I'm writing in strong support of HB1348.

Public charter schools like mine are expanding the educational opportunities available to Texas families. Our students are thriving. Yet charter schools are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. We are subjected to delays and added costs that harm our schools and take money out of classrooms.

Charters and traditional ISDs should be held to the same local government standards applied without discrimination. HB1348 will

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achieve this basic fairness. By doing so, it will ensure more students receive the best possible education. This is smart policy for our communities.

Please let me know if you need any assistance.

Norma Cotton, Director
Director
Tyler, TX

We have been unfairly treated beginning in 1998 with not getting speed zones, threats of not giving us certificate of occupancy after the building was built if we did not redo traffic studies after one had already done. Delaying permits that cost the school because steel increased during the time because of tariffs.

Jeffrey Richards
Self
Irving, TX

I support Bill HB 1348 to keeping the money in the classroom for charter schools.

SHAWN THOMAS
Life School
WAXAHACHIE, TX

My name is Shawn Thomas and I'm the Director of Operations for Life School located in the DFW area. I'm writing in strong support of HB1348.

Public charter schools like Life School are expanding educational opportunities for Texas families. Our students are thriving. Yet charter schools are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. We are subjected to delays and added costs that harm our schools and take money out of classrooms.

Charters and traditional ISDs should be held to the same local government standards applied without discrimination. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness. By doing so, it will ensure more students receive the best possible education. This is smart policy for our communities.

Jerry Newman
Legacy Prep Charter Academy
Plano, TX

My name is Jerry Newman and I am a teacher at Legacy Preparatory Charter Academy in Plano. I am writing in strong support of HB1348. Charter schools like Legacy are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. I believe that Charter schools and traditional ISDs should be held to the same local government standards applied without discrimination. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness, and it is the right thing to do. Thank you.

Anne Beckman, Principal
Life School
Dallas, TX

My name is Anne Beckman. I am principal at the Oak Cliff campus of the charter district, Life School. I'm writing in strong support of HB1348.

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Public charter schools like mine are expanding the educational opportunities available to Texas families. Our students are thriving. Yet charter schools are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. We are subjected to delays and added costs that harm our schools and take money out of classrooms.

Charters and traditional ISDs should be held to the same local government standards applied without discrimination. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness. By doing so, it will ensure more students receive the best possible education. This is smart policy for our communities.

Florence Leopold-George
Legacy Preparatory Charter Academy
Garland, TX

My name is Florence Leopold-George and I am a teacher at Legacy Preparatory Charter Academy in Plano or Mesquite. I am writing in strong support of HB1348. Charter schools like Legacy are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. I believe that Charter schools and traditional ISDs should be held to the same local government standards applied without discrimination. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness, and it is the right thing to do. Thank you.

Beatrice Cordova
Legacy Preparatory Charter Academy Plano Campus
Wylie, TX

My name is Beatrice Cordova and I am a Parent of 2 students at Legacy Preparatory Charter Academy in Plano or Mesquite. I am writing in strong support of HB1348. Charter schools like Legacy are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. I believe that Charter schools and traditional ISDs should be held to the same local government standards applied without discrimination. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness, and it is the right thing to do. Thank you.

Oliver Perez
SELF
Dallas, TX

I support HB 1348 to ensure that more families have access to quality education in their community.

Sherry Wright, Teacher
Self
Plano, TX

My name is Sherry Wright and I am a _teacher at Legacy Preparatory Charter Academy in Plano or Mesquite. I am writing in strong support of HB1348. Charter schools like Legacy are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. I believe that Charter schools and traditional ISDs should be held to the same local government standards applied without discrimination. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness, and it is the right thing to do. Thank you.

Mary Kahama, Dr.
Legacy Preparatory Charter Academy
Mesquite, TX

My name is Mary Kahama and I am the Federal Compliance Officer at Legacy Preparatory Charter Academy. I am writing in strong support of HB1348. Charter schools like Legacy are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. I believe that Charter schools and traditional ISDs should be held to the same local government standards

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applied without discrimination. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness, and it is the right thing to do. Thank you.

Irma Carabajal, Teacher/facilitator

Legacy PCA Mesquite

Rockwall, TX

We should not be discriminated against because we teach students and they pass their STARR tests.

Cynthia Ferguson, School Medic

Legacy Preparatory Charter Academy

Balch Springs, TX

My name is Cynthia Ferguson and I am a school medic at Legacy Preparatory Charter Academy in Plano or Mesquite. I am writing in strong support of HB1348. Charter schools like Legacy are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. I believe that Charter schools and traditional ISDs should be held to the same local government standards applied without discrimination. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness, and it is the right thing to do. Thank you.

Rebecca Weber

Self

San Antonio, TX

Please keep education money in the classroom. Please don't make schools pay for things that belong to the city responsibilities.

Brent Walker

Legacy Preparatory Charter Academy

Mesquite, TX

My name is Brent Walker and I am a Facilitator at Legacy Preparatory Charter Academy in Plano or Mesquite. I am writing in strong support of HB1348. Charter schools like Legacy are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. I believe that Charter schools and traditional ISDs should be held to the same local government standards applied without discrimination. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness, and it is the right thing to do. Thank you.

Larry Haygood, M.S.

Legacy Preparatory Charter

Dallas, TX

My name is Larry Haygood and I am a Administrator/ Teacher/Coach at Legacy Preparatory Charter Academy in Plano or Mesquite. I am writing in strong support of HB1348. Charter schools like Legacy are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. I believe that Charter schools and traditional ISDs should be held to the same local government standards applied without discrimination. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness, and it is the right thing to do. Thank you.

Yorelys Jordan

Legacy Preparatory Charter Academy Mesquite

Mesquite, TX

My name is Yorelys Jordan and I am a teacher at Legacy Preparatory Charter Academy in Mesquite. I am writing in strong

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support of HB1348. Charter schools like Legacy are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. I believe that Charter schools and traditional ISDs should be held to the same local government standards applied without discrimination. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness, and it is the right thing to do. Thank you.

Juan Amaya

Legacy Preparatory Charter Academy

Mesquite, TX

My name is Juan Amaya and I am an instructional coach at Legacy Preparatory Charter Academy in Plano or Mesquite. I am writing in strong support of HB1348. Charter schools like Legacy are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. I believe that Charter schools and traditional ISDs should be held to the same local government standards applied without discrimination. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness, and it is the right thing to do. Thank you.

Ronda Burns, Teacher

Legacy Preparatory Charter Academy

Greenville, TX

My name is Ronda Burns and I am a teacher at Legacy Preparatory Charter Academy in Plano or Mesquite. I am writing in strong support of HB1348. Charter schools like Legacy are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. I believe that Charter schools and traditional ISDs should be held to the same local government standards applied without discrimination. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness, and it is the right thing to do. Thank you.

Vera Sewell

Legacy Preparatory Charter Academy

Denton, TX

My name is Vera Sewell and I am a teacher at Legacy Preparatory Charter Academy in Plano. I am writing in strong support of HB1348. Charter schools like Legacy are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. I believe that Charter schools and traditional ISDs should be held to the same local government standards applied without discrimination. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness, and it is the right thing to do. Thank you.

Melissa Scott

Legacy Preparatory Charter Academy

Rowlett, TX

My name is Melissa Scott, and I am a Special Education Tutor at Legacy Preparatory Charter Academy in Mesquite. I am writing in strong support of HB1348. Charter schools like Legacy are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. I believe that Charter schools and traditional ISDs should be held to the same local government standards applied without discrimination. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness, and it is the right thing to do. Thank you.

Danielle Branch, Teacher

Self

ARLINGTON, TX

My name is Danielle Branch and I am a teacher at Legacy Preparatory Charter Academy in Plano or Mesquite. I am writing in strong support of HB1348. Charter schools like Legacy are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. I believe that Charter schools and traditional ISDs should be held to the same local government standards applied without discrimination. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness, and it is the right thing to do. Thank you.

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Laura Montoya, Mrs.

Legacy PCA

Flower Mound, TX

My name is Laura Montoya and I am a School Counselor at Legacy Preparatory Charter Academy in Plano or Mesquite. I am writing in strong support of HB1348. Charter schools like Legacy are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. I believe that Charter schools and traditional ISDs should be held to the same local government standards applied without discrimination. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness, and it is the right thing to do. Thank you.

Aidee Heras-Medina

Legacy Preparatory Charter Academy

Addison, TX

My name is Aidee Heras-Medina and I am a teacher at Legacy Preparatory Charter Academy in Plano. I am writing in strong support of HB1348. Charter schools like Legacy are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. I believe that Charter schools and traditional ISDs should be held to the same local government standards applied without discrimination. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness, and it is the right thing to do. Thank you.

GILDA BROWN

LEGACY PREPARATORY CHARTER ACADEMI

LANCASTER, TX

My name is Gilda Brown and I am a Administrative Assistant at Legacy Preparatory Charter Academy in Plano or Mesquite. I am writing in strong support of HB1348. Charter schools like Legacy are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. I believe that Charter schools and traditional ISDs should be held to the same local government standards applied without discrimination. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness, and it is the right thing to do. Thank you.

Peter Owuori, Facilitator

Legacy Charter Preparatory Academy, Mesquite TX

Denton, TX

I am writing in strong support of HB1348. Charter schools like Legacy are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. I believe that Charter schools and traditional ISDs should be held to the same local government standards applied without discrimination. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness, and it is the right thing to do. Thank you.

Mariela Medina, Ms

Legacy Preparatory Charter School

Crandall, TX

My name is Mariela Medina and I am a teacher at Legacy Preparatory Charter Academy in Mesquite. I am writing in strong support of HB1348. Charter schools like Legacy are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. I believe that Charter schools and traditional ISDs should be held to the same local government standards applied without discrimination. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness, and it is the right thing to do. Thank you.

Kathy Nguyen

Self/Teacher- Legacy PCA

Wylie, TX

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My name is Kathy Nguyen and I am a Teacher at Legacy Preparatory Charter Academy in Plano or Mesquite. I am writing in strong support of HB1348. Charter schools like Legacy are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. I believe that Charter schools and traditional ISDs should be held to the same local government standards applied without discrimination. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness, and it is the right thing to do. Thank you.

Joseph Jones

Legacy Preparatory Charter Academy

Mesquite, TX

My name is Joseph Jones_____ and I am a __facilitator_____ at Legacy Preparatory Charter Academy in Plano or Mesquite. I am writing in strong support of HB1348. Charter schools like Legacy are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. I believe that Charter schools and traditional ISDs should be held to the same local government standards applied without discrimination. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness, and it is the right thing to do. Thank you

Lilly Chacon, HR Manager

Legacy Preparatory Charter Academy District

Mesquite, TX

Let's be fair to one and all.

Jennifer Goodman, Dr.

Odyssey Academy

Galveston, TX

My name is Dr. Jennifer Goodman, and I am the Superintendent of Odyssey Academy. We serve over 1,400 students throughout Galveston and Harris Counties. I am writing in strong support of HB1348.

Public charter schools like mine are expanding the educational opportunities available to Texas families. Our students are thriving. Yet charter schools and their students are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. We are subjected to delays and added costs that harm our schools and take money out of classrooms.

Charters and traditional ISDs should be held to the same local government standards applied without discrimination as we are both part of the public school community. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness. By doing so, it will ensure more students receive the best possible education. This is smart policy for our communities and for Texas.

Oscar Tapara

Legacy Preparatory Charter Academy in Mesquite

McKinney, TX

My name is Oscar Tapara and I am a Spanish teacher at Legacy Preparatory Charter Academy in Mesquite campus. I am writing in strong support of HB1348. Charter schools like Legacy are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. I believe that Charter schools and traditional ISDs should be held to the same local government standards applied without discrimination. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness, and it is the right thing to do. Thank you.

Candace Johnson

Self

Ovilla, TX

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I am a principal of a charter school. I have been in education for 20 years both public and charter. There is a definite need for both in our state. Parents choose charters because they are not happy with their public schools. We serve all kids. I have 1,000 students at my high school. We have all kinds of students.

Karen WilliamsonJohnson, Dr.

Self/Legacycpca

DESOTO, TX

Year-round school is fine!

Jennifer Rower

BRAINATION, Inc. dba Inspire Academies

San Antonio, TX

My name is Jennifer Rower, and I'm the CEO of BRAINATION, Inc. I am in full support of HB1348. Our students at Anne Frank Inspire Academy are thriving. Charter schools like ours are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning and permitting. Charter schools are subject to delays and added costs which reduce spending for learning. Charters and traditional ISDs should be held to the same local government standards applied without discrimination. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness. This is a smart policy for our communities.

Samara Lowe

Legacy preparatory charter academy

Richardson, TX

Charter school viewed the same as independent school districts

Christopher McCammon

self

San Antonio, TX

My name is Chris McCammon and I'm the Director of Southwest Prep. I'm writing in strong support of HB1348.

Public charter schools like mine are expanding the educational opportunities available to Texas families. Our students are thriving. Yet charter schools are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. We are subjected to delays and added costs that harm our schools and take money out of classrooms.

Charters and traditional ISDs should be held to the same local government standards applied without discrimination. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness. By doing so, it will ensure more students receive the best possible education. This is smart policy for our communities.

Chanda Cordova

Legacy Preparatory Charter Academy

Sachse, TX

My name is Chanda Cordova and I am a Special Education Specialist at Legacy Preparatory Charter Academy in Mesquite. I am writing in strong support of HB1348. Charter schools like Legacy are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. I believe that Charter schools and traditional ISDs should be held to the same local government standards applied without discrimination. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness, and it is the right thing to do. Thank you.

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Tom Koger, CEO
Jubilee Academies
San Antonio, TX

My name is Tom Koger and I'm the CEO of Jubilee Academies, campuses operating in San Antonio, Austin, Kingsville, Brownsville, and Harlingen, Texas in order to serve students and families from a broader segment of the community based on leadership and academic excellence. I'm writing in strong support of HB1348.

Public charter schools like mine are expanding the educational opportunities available to Texas families. Our students are thriving. Yet charter schools are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. We are subjected to delays and added costs that harm our schools and take money out of classrooms.

Charters and traditional ISDs should be held to the same local government standards applied without discrimination. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness. By doing so, it will ensure more students receive the best possible education. This is a smart policy for our communities.

MIKE SCOTT
Erath Excels Academy
Stephenville, TX

My name is Mike Scott and I'm the Superintendent of Erath Excels Academy in Stephenville. I'm writing in strong support of HB1348.

Public charter schools like ours are expanding the educational opportunities available to Texas schoolchildren and their families. Our students are thriving. Yet charter schools are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. We are subjected to delays and added costs that harm our schools and take money out of classrooms.

Charters and traditional ISDs should be held to the same local government standards applied without discrimination. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness. By doing so, it will ensure more students receive the best possible education. This is smart policy for our communities.

Jackie Hardy, Mrs.
Self
Keller, TX

I strongly support charter schools having equitable treatment with respect to the process ISD's are given. Our children have thrived at the charter school they are attending and one big reason is charter schools celebrate diversity and it is reflective in their staff as well as in their curriculum. Because of that, our children are able to see as well as learn about important and significant individuals that look like them, which ultimately stimulates the thought that I can also make a difference and contribute to this world in that child's own unique way. By supporting this Bill, you are supporting yourself, your community and your world. The positive results to provide open-enrollment for charter schools will render significant gains for Texas beyond this current generation of children.

Carrie Sandlin, Ms.
Charter School Success
Fentress, TX

My name is Carrie Sandlin and I work for Charter School Success. Currently, I am a Finance Specialist who works very closely with several charter schools in Texas, but have worked in a charter school the last 22 years. I am writing to solidly support

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HB1348.

I see how the charter schools we serve are expanding the customized education experiences to every Texas family. What a difference these charter schools have made. The charter school students are flourishing. Why are charter schools treated differently by local governments with fees, zoning and permitting? This costs money that is directly taken away from our classrooms. This is detrimental for our students, teachers, and the schools themselves.

Traditional ISDs and Charter Schools should be kept to the same government standards. These should be applied comparatively. To achieve this basic right, HB1348 must be approved. This will mean many more students, who are often the most at risk, will receive the funding needed to achieve the education and services they deserve. This will, without a doubt, change the course of these students' lives to the best we can give. This is so vital for our communities. Please think of the difference you can make as you vote.

Saira Lentz

GHLS

Fort Worth, TX

I support HB 1348 in keeping more money in our charter schools! Before I found Great Hearts, my daughter attended PreK in the public school district. While she learned a lot in pre-K, she also learned some things that conflicted & violated my family values. One day she came home from preK & started talking to me about how her teacher read her a book about little boys & girls switching parts. That left me in complete & utter shock! She was 4!!! I started looking at alternatives! & I am so grateful I came across our charter school because those discussions are left to the parents! It is a strong belief in their school community that the children receive a safe space to just learn & be children without the worries of this world! & without all the outside noise & stress so that they are able to provide an optimum learning environment! I cannot express how much better I feel & the weight that has been lifted off my shoulders because now I can rest knowing that my now 5 year old can go to school to learn scholarly material! & not all the random political propaganda that has no place in school but is the parents' job instead! I am for school choice & for them to be able to keep their limited school funds without any more hurdles!! Thank you for hearing our voice!!

Jean Cornelius

Charter School Success

Blessing, TX

My name is Jean Cornelius and I'm a Federal Grants Manager with Charter School Success. I'm writing in strong support of HB1348.

Public charter schools are expanding the educational opportunities available to Texas families. Students are thriving. Yet charter schools are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. They are subjected to delays and added costs that harm the schools and take money out of classrooms.

Charters and traditional ISDs should be held to the same local government standards applied without discrimination. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness. By doing so, it will ensure more students receive the best possible education. This is smart policy for our communities.

Brittany Perkins, COO

Trinity Charter Schools

Austin, TX

My name is Brittany Perkins and I'm the COO/CFO of Trinity Charter Schools. I'm writing in strong support of the HB1348 for public charter schools.

Public charter schools are expanding across the state to help give Texas families other opportunities and/or options when selecting the right school for their children. Our students are thriving. However, charter schools are often treated unfairly by local

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governments in terms of zoning, permitting and fees. We often face delays and added costs that inhibit our ability to finish projects on time and on budget. This takes time and money out of our classrooms.

We would like for ISDs and charter schools to be held to the same local government standards. HB1348 will help achieve this goal. This is smart policy for our Texas communities.

Samuel Lowe

Self

Rowlett, TX

It's a good proposal I don't know why it wasn't already a thing

Vince Vittatoe, MR

Legacy Prep Charter Academy

McKinney, TX

Public charter schools for which I serve on the Board of Directors are providing educational opportunities across Texas to students who may otherwise be lost in the public educational system. Families are looking for options to provide a great educational experience to their children so why are charter schools being treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. Unfair delays result in added costs that harm students by taking money out of classrooms.

The ultimate goal is to educate children so why are charter schools forced to waste money needlessly to pay for attorneys when it could go to assist another child instead?

Kriselda Marmolejo

Legacy Preparatory Charter Academy

Dallas, TX

My name is Kriselda and I am a teacher assistant at Legacy Preparatory Charter Academy in Plano or Mesquite. I am writing in strong support of HB1348. Charter schools like Legacy are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. I believe that Charter schools and traditional ISDs should be held to the same local government standards applied without discrimination. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness, and it is the right thing to do. Thank you.

Roxana Marmolejo

Legacy Preparatory Charter Academy

Dallas, TX

Please keep charter schools open. A lot of people depend on them. They provide a lot for low income students.

Jana Rogers

Self

Frisco, TX

I support HB 1348 to keep more money inside the classroom.

Rachel Garcia

self

San Antonio, TX

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I support HB1348 to keep more money inside the classroom
Let me know if you have any questions.
For the children ,
Rachel Garcia 2104525418

Casey Ballard, Director of Community Relations
Life School
Midlothian, TX

My name is Casey Ballard and I am the Director of Community Relations for Life School. We are a network of charter schools that serve approximately 5500 students and their families.

The mission of Life School is to develop leaders through strong academics, character training, and partnerships with parent and the community.

We believe that parents deserve the right to choose the best educational fit for their students. Education is not a one-size-fits-all solution. By having choices, we provide the best educational opportunities for students in need while also strengthening neighborhood schools. Cities should be required to provide the same regulations for all public schools, including charters. Not doing so is only hurting the families who desire the best education for their students.
We thank you for your support of HB 1348.

Karalei Nunn, Founder & COO
Meridian World School
Georgetown, TX

Dear Representatives, My name is Karalei Nunn and I'm the Founder and COO of Meridian World School located in Round Rock. I'm writing in strong support of HB1348.

Public charter schools like ours expanded opportunity to families in Williamson County. Our students are thriving. Our school is highly rated. Yet, initially, the Round Rock city government tried to keep us from locating thereby using zoning laws unfairly. We were subjected to delays and added costs that took money from the classroom. We do not want this to happen to us again should we expand.

Charters and traditional ISDs should be held to the same local government standards applied without discrimination. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness. By doing so, it will ensure more students receive the best possible education. This is smart policy for our communities.

Carlos Paredes
Life School
Red Oak, TX

My name is Carlos Paredes and I am the Director of Technology for Life School of Dallas. Life School was established in 1998 and currently serves 5,500 students in Dallas & Ellis Counties.

I'm writing in strong support of HB1348.

Public charter schools like Life School are expanding the educational opportunities available to Texas families. At Life School, we believe parents are the primary educator of their child and have the right to choose what they believe is the best educational fit for their student. Students at our Life High School Oak Cliff (UIL 3A) and Life High School Waxahachie (UIL 4A) campuses consistently have a 100% graduation rate. Yet charter schools are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees either out of mal intent or out of ignorance of not knowing charters are Texas public schools. Therefore, charter schools find themselves subjected to delays and added costs that harm our schools and divert money away from classroom

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instructional resources.

Charters and traditional ISDs should be held to the same local government standards applied without discrimination. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness by providing clarity to municipalities that charter schools are public schools. By doing so, this bill will ensure more students receive the best possible education. This is a smart policy for our communities and good financial stewardship with taxpayer monies.

Thank you for championing HB 1348!

Regards.
Carlos Paredes

Julia Xeros
Educator/ self
Sunnyvale, TX

I support HB 1348 to ensure that more families have access to quality education in their community.

Ruth Cude, Ms
St. Mary's Charter School
Beeville, TX

My name is Ruth Cude and I am the Assistant Superintendent of St. Mary's Charter School in Beeville Texas. I'm writing in strong support of HB1348.

Public charter schools like mine are expanding the educational opportunities available to Texas families. Our students are thriving. Yet charter schools are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. We are subjected to delays and added costs that harm our schools and take money out of classrooms.

Charters and traditional ISDs should be held to the same local government standards applied without discrimination. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness. By doing so, it will ensure more students receive the best possible education. This is smart policy for our communities.

John Armbrust
Austin Achieve Public Schools
Austin, TX

My name is John Armbrust and I'm the Founder and CEO of Austin Achieve Public Schools. I'm writing in strong support of HB1348.

Public charter schools like mine are expanding the educational opportunities available to Texas families. Our students are thriving. Yet charter schools are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. We are subjected to delays and added costs that harm our schools and take money out of classrooms.

Charters and traditional ISDs should be held to the same local government standards applied without discrimination. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness. By doing so, it will ensure more students receive the best possible education. This is smart policy for our communities.

Shawn Raymond

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KIPP Texas

Houston, TX

I serve on the KIPP Texas Executive Committee and have been a longtime supporter of this remarkable organization because of its consistent and long-standing ability to provide children from low-income backgrounds the opportunity to receive a high-quality public school education.

For our public school system to continue to deliver top-flight academic results for our deserving students, we need to make sure that KIPP and other public charter schools are treated fairly in terms of zoning and permitting. Unfortunately, that's not the case right now.

Last year, we recognized we did not have the political support to obtain the necessary permits to build a new campus for a relocation of an existing high school in southern Dallas. So KIPP Texas announced an exciting plan to move the high school onto the campus of Paul Quinn College. This was going to be a win-win situation. Paul Quinn College had available facilities, and our KIPPsters would be able to be able to study on a college campus. But even this announcement was met with public opposition by the Dallas City Council. These are obstacles not experienced by Dallas ISD when it opens new campuses. This is not right, fair, or the Texas way.

HB 1348 provides a reasonable mechanism to help ensure local municipalities do not treat public charter schools differently than public ISD schools in terms of zoning and permitting. Our 25,000+ KIPPsters throughout Texas will benefit from this common-sense legislation, as will the untold number of students across the Lone Star State who attend high-quality public charter schools.

Joey Thompson

NYOS Charter School

Austin, TX

My name is Joey Thompson and I work for NYOS Charter School in Austin Texas and I am writing today in support of HB 1348.

Public charter schools like mine are expanding the educational opportunities available to Texas families. Our students are thriving. Yet charter schools are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. We are subjected to delays and added costs that harm our schools and take money out of classrooms.

Charters and traditional ISDs should be held to the same local government standards applied without discrimination. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness. By doing so, it will ensure more students receive the best possible education. This is smart policy for our communities.

Carmin Lopez

Great Hearts Lakeside

Fort Worth, TX

We love our school and funds are always needed to better serve my son who is in special ed.

Jennifer Hoag

Legacy Preparatory Charter Academy

Ennis, TX

I have worked in charter schools as a teacher and school administrator in the Dallas areas since 2003 and seen firsthand the harm to students and families when cities impose road blocks to schools that the Texas Education Agency and State Board of Education have authorized to open or expand. Public charter schools like Legacy Preparatory Charter School in Plano and Mesquite are expanding the educational opportunities available to Texas families. Our students are thriving with our authentic project based learning curriculum. Yet charter schools are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees.

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We are subjected to delays and added costs that harm our schools and take money out of classrooms.

Charter schools should follow the same rules and be held to the same standards as ISDs. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness. By doing so, it will ensure more students and families receive the best possible education for them. This is smart policy for our communities.

Deborah d'Angelo

Self

Fort Worth, TX

Public charter schools like mine are expanding the educational opportunities available to Texas families. Our students are thriving. Yet charter schools are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. We are subjected to delays and added costs that harm our schools and take money out of classrooms.

Charter schools should follow the same rules and be held to the same standards as ISDs. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness. By doing so, it will ensure more students and families receive the best possible education for them. This is smart policy for our communities.

Amanda Chapa

KIPP Academy

Houston, TX

Public charter schools like KIPP are provide more educational opportunities to their surrounding families. Those in enrolled are exceeding their peers, yet charter schools still aren't receiving the same treatment by local governments in terms of fees, zoning and permitting.

Charter schools should follow the same rules and be held to the same standards as ISDs. HB1348 will achieve just that. It will ensure more students and families receive the best possible education.

Carl Tanton, Executive Director of School Operations

Richard Milburn Academy

San Antonio, TX

My name is Carl Tanton, and I'm the Executive Director of School Operations of Richard Milburn Academy, San Antonio, TX. I'm writing in strong support of HB1348.

Public charter schools like mine are expanding the educational opportunities available to Texas families. Our students are thriving. Yet charter schools are often maltreated by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. RMA has been subjected to delays and added costs that harm our schools and take money out of classrooms.

Charters and traditional ISDs should be held to the same local government standards applied without discrimination. HB1348 will achieve this fundamental fairness. By doing so, it will ensure more students receive the best possible education. HB1348 is an intelligent policy for our communities.

Jennifer Wilson

Life School

Waxahachie, TX

My name is Jennifer Wilson and I am the Chief Culture Officer of Life School of Dallas. Life School was established in 1998 and currently serves 5,500 students in Dallas & Ellis Counties. I'm writing in strong support of HB1348.

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Public charter schools like Life School are expanding the educational opportunities available to Texas families. At Life School, we believe parents are the primary educator of their child and have the right to choose what they believe is the best educational fit for their student. Students are thriving at Life School, yet charter schools are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. We are subjected to delays and added costs that limit opportunities for students and take money out of classrooms.

Charters and traditional ISDs should be held to the same local government standards applied without discrimination. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness. By doing so, it will ensure more students receive the best possible education. This is a smart policy for our communities.

Blair Chappell

self

Fort Worth, TX

I support HB 1348 to keep more money inside the classroom.

Tasha Dennis

KIPP Texas Public Schools

Houston, TX

My name is Tasha Dennis and I support HB 1348 because public charter schools deserve to be treated fairly so that more students enjoy a safe learning environment.

What HB 1348 says is – local city councils have no authority over the political debate specifically related to zoning, permitting, code compliance and development. We understand that there is opposition to the concept of public charter schools, but we are really tired of our kids becoming a political football just to score points about how "anti-charter" a legislator can be. This legislation will eliminate this particular form of bullying that targets some of the most vulnerable students and families in this state. As a KIPP alum and a KIPP parent, this issue is really frustrating for me because it is very apparent that there are life and death consequences; for example, if a school is unable to secure a proper speed zone in front of a campus.

Thank you for your service and thoughtful consideration of this matter.

Kara Jimba

Self

Fort Worth, TX

I support hb 1348 to keep more money in the classroom. Charters already have an uphill battle financially with how we have to pay property taxes when normal public schools don't. Please help charters thrive by giving them the same opportunities as public schools to thrive.

We loved our former school, but were dreading the thought of finding a high school that we felt comfortable sending our three kids. So many high schools have disciplinary issues as well as a lack of classroom management plus a lack of dress code enforcement which all creates a difficult learning environment for our teens.

I'm so grateful for GREAT HEARTS, that they require a modest dress code (that's actually enforced) through high school & provides the right amount of discipline/guidance so that the kids can actually learn. I no longer am dreading The process of choosing a high school! I'm so grateful that GH goes through 12th grade!

It's so important, for families who need an alternative, but can't afford a private education, to have another option. The future of their children depend on it.

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Jackie Hernandez

self

Boerne, TX

Hi, I'm writing in support of HB1348.

I understand that not everyone likes or prefers Charter Schools. I don't think it's a matter of which is better, and I think it's unfortunate that groups or people feel like they have to choose one over the other. I am in favor of the public school system as well as the Charter School system. Charter Schools provide parents and students the opportunity to have a choice. As members of a community, parents, and stewards to society, shouldn't we encourage our children to want to have a choice in their education. This gives them ownership to their choices and decisions.

I think it is purely common sense to have a school zoned as such, and it's a shame that Charters are still fighting rules and laws to be zoned as a school, or penalized monetarily because they are a charter. Our job is to protect our children, so why is zoning a school a matter of opinion when it is clearly in the best interest of the children?

Thanks for your time,
Jackie Hernandez

Florence Mbogning

Self

Frisco, TX

My name is Florence Mbogning, I have 3 kids who are thriving in a charter school in Frisco, Tx. I am in support of HB 1348 because public charter schools deserve to be treated fairly so that more students like my kids can have a fair chance to succeed.

Kenneth Eastwood II

self

McGregor, TX

I support HB1348. Charters and ISDs should be held to the same standards and local regulations.

Carole Morris, Mrs.

Self parent and teacher.

Irving, TX

I support HB 1348 to keep more money in the schools.

ashleigh Barcuch

Self - business owner

Austin, TX

I support HB 1348 to keep more money inside the classroom.

Kevin Waters

Self

Waco, TX

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My name is Kevin Waters and I'm the accounts payable person servicing Richard Milburn Academy. I'm writing in support of HB1348.

Public charter schools like RMA are expanding the educational opportunities available to Texans. Charter schools are being treated differently by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. We are subjected to delays and added costs that harm our schools.

Charters and traditional ISDs should be held to the SAME local government standards. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness. By doing so, it will ensure more students receive the best opportunities to learn and grow.

Kind Regards,
Kevin Waters

Cortez Adams

Self

The Colony, TX

It's time we make some changes and get the same support as Public ISDs. Limiting our zoning is holding back the growth of this community. We need to make a change for the growth of our future.

Shelia Jenkins

Self - Pyrl Mgr

TX, TX

My name is Shelia Jenkins and I'm writing in strong support of HB1348.

Public charter schools are expanding the educational opportunities available to Texas families. Our students are thriving. Yet charter schools are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. We are subjected to delays and added costs that harm our schools and take money out of classrooms.

Charters and traditional ISDs should be held to the same local government standards applied without discrimination. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness. By doing so, it will ensure more students receive the best possible education. This is smart policy for our communities.

La Sheonda Sanchez

self

Helotes, TX

I support HB 1348 to keep more money inside the classroom. The types of requirements and costs being placed on charter schools are not placed on other publicly funded schools. This does not allow the same education for my children that is received by others who receive public school funding rather than what is happening in and to charter schools. Please keep the education of our children equitable by treating charter schools with the same funding and expectations that are placed on traditional public schools that also receive funding through my and our tax dollars. This discrepancy in the education of children should not exist.

Lindsay Meagher

Self homemaker

San Antonio, TX

I support charter schools and want to prevent them from being discriminated against by local municipalities. Keep money in the classrooms! Public charter schools have the same rights as traditional public schools.

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Marjorie Fralick
Eden Park Academy
Coppell, TX

Please equalize the playing field for all students in the community. Charter Schools provide quality education just like those in ISD's. As a teacher who has taught in both environments, I have seen educators who put their heart and soul into teaching our youngsters because they love children no matter the tier of public education. If Charter Schools have the proper government backing, teachers won't have to draw from their own accounts for supplies and materials. Since they are doing the same quality work as their ISD counterparts, they need to have the same payscale as well. Otherwise, they experience a turnover rate higher than ISD's because they cannot match the payscales of the ISDs. Please support teachers in ALL public environments. Your decision will impact the teachers, the students, and the community! Thank you!

Latisha Andrews
Beta Academy
Houston, TX

My name is Latisha Andrews and I'm the Superintendent of Beta Academy. I'm writing in strong support of HB1348.

Public charter schools like mine are expanding the educational opportunities available to Texas families. Our students are thriving. Yet charter schools are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. We are subjected to delays and added costs that harm our schools and take money out of classrooms.

Charters and traditional ISDs should be held to the same local government standards applied without discrimination. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness. By doing so, it will ensure more students receive the best possible education. This is smart policy for our communities.

Shannon Hastings
Self
San Antonio, TX

I support HB 1348 to keep more money inside the classroom.

Let me know if you have any questions.

For the children,
Shannon Hastings
210-374-5671

Kathleen Willard
Self
Irving, TX

I support hub 1348 to keep more money in the classroom!

Alneris Ortiz, Teacher
Self
ROYSE CITY, TX

My name is Alneris Ortiz and I'm the teacher of Golden Rule Charter School, Dallas, TX I'm writing in strong support of HB1348.

Jeannette Williams, Teachet

Golden Rule Charter School in Pleasant Grove

Irving, TX

I work for Golden Rule Charter School in Pleasant Grove. We need to build a new school because our school is growing. Enrollment forecast for school year 2021-2022 calls for a gym, new classrooms, and a library. We also need a computer room exclusively dedicated to prepare our students to be technologically advanced before they enter middle school. Our Special Education students need a resource room that will meet a variety of learning needs. We also need dedicated space for our nurse to properly treat and care for students who have certain medical needs. Why do we have to involve certain laws when it pertains to a charter school? The answer is simple. We should create an environment that is conducive to learning. Let us take care of ourselves by taking care of them. After all, these students are our future.

Scott Frank

SELF

Brownsville, TX

I support HB 1348 to ensure that more families have access to quality education in their community.

Jacquelyn Perez, Regional Advocacy Manager

KIPP Texas Public Schools

San Antonio, TX

KIPP Texas' students and teachers would directly benefit from HB 1348, which ensures that all public schools are treated equally in local permitting and zoning decisions. New campuses in different cities have been roadblocked with proper signage, lighting and even crosswalks. HB 1348 clarifies to all local municipalities that they shouldn't pick and choose which public school students deserve to be safe. Please consider these students and their families during this legislation.

Denise Valuk

Anne Frank Inspire Academy

San Antonio, TX

I support HB 1348 and believe Texas Charter Schools should have the same rights as public schools. I believe in school choice,

Jacquelyn Perez, Parent

Self

San Antonio, TX

I support HB 1348 to keep more money inside the classroom and ensure the safety and equity for all public school students.

Tanya Reyes

Self

Pflugerville, TX

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Please support this for the children.

Amy Woods

Self / Administrative Assistant III

Hutto, TX

Public charter schools like mine are expanding the educational opportunities available to Texas families. Our students are thriving. Yet charter schools are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. We are subjected to delays and added costs that harm our schools and take money out of classrooms.

Charter schools should follow the same rules and be held to the same standards as ISDs. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness. By doing so, it will ensure more students and families receive the best possible education for them. This is smart policy for our communities.

Michelle Rodriguez

Self

San Antonio, TX

I support HB-1348 to keep more money in the classroom.

Jeanne Schmidtkunz

Self

Fort Worth, TX

My family and many other families in our community support this bill!! Without the choice of Charter Schools in our area, such as Great Hearts, or Alice Carlson, many families would be without a home school!! The ability for our kids to attend Charter Schools has been a lifesaver for our family and many that can't afford private! Please consider the average middle-class family, and respect our choice for our children's education.

Kristin Hardeman

Charter School Success

Galveston, TX

My name is Kristy Hardeman and I'm a HR Specialist with Charter School Success and I work closely with Beta Academy in Houston, Reve Prep Academy in Houston, EKHLA in San Antonio among several other reputable and wonderful charter schools in the state. I'm writing in strong support of HB1348.

Public charter schools like the ones I work with, are expanding the educational opportunities available to Texas families. The students are thriving and the teachers and managers behind these entities are above and beyond knowledgeable and very professional. Yet charter schools are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. They are subjected to delays and added costs that harm our schools and take money out of classrooms.

Charters and traditional ISDs should be held to the same local government standards applied without dissemination. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness. By doing so, it will ensure more students receive the best possible education. This is smart policy for our communities.

Audrey Walker

Self

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San Antonio, TX

I support HB 1348 to keep more money inside the classroom for the children.

Audrey Walker
210-296-7094

Carrie Davis

Self

San Antonio, TX

I support HB 1348 to keep more money inside the classroom.

Let me know if you have any questions.

For the children,
Carrie Weathers-Davis
210-557-1045

Chris Edwards, Dr.

Self

Fort Worth, TX

I support public charter school in Texas. Local governments should not be able to discriminate against public charter schools. All families should have the choice for the best education for their family members.

I support HB 1348 to keep more money inside the classroom.

Thank you for your support.

Amy Schultz

SELF

Converse, TX

I support HB1348 to keep more money inside the classroom.

For the children,
Amy Schultz

Travis Schultz

SELF

Converse, TX

I support HB 1348 to keep more money inside the classroom.

For the children,
Travis Schultz

Kelly Martinez

Self

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Spring Branch, TX

I support HB 1348 to keep more money inside the classroom.

Dax Gonzalez

ATPE, CEF, IDRA, Pastors for Texas Children, Texas AFT, TACS, TALAS, TAMS, TARS, TASA, TASB, TCTA, TEPSA, TSA, TSTA, TUC

Austin, TX

These 16 education groups respectfully ask members of the House Land & Resource Management Committee to vote against HB 1348.

This bill is one of several filed this session that restrict or eliminate the participation of elected officials in the approval of new charter campuses. It also would deny the public a critical opportunity to provide input into the location of a charter facility proposed in their neighborhood.

Most new charter campuses are approved by the state through the charter amendment process without the involvement of any elected official. The limited role a city government currently plays when it reviews the proposed campus site and applies zoning regulations may be the first time the public learns about a proposed charter facility. Limiting the involvement of a city also limits public participation and results in less accountability to taxpayers.

This bill is a test of whether a charter school will be able to build a new school facility in a neighborhood without the approval of any elected body that is accountable to the public and without general public notice or an opportunity to provide input into the process.

HB 1348 would allow charters to open in any location or within any city zoning district regardless of city ordinance, regulation, policy, etc., even in an industrially zoned area or in a residential neighborhood. It could also potentially harm a school district's existing exemption from the Municipal Drainage Utility Systems Act which could result in costs to taxpayers.

Charters are required to provide only a general geographic area where a new campus will be located in their request to TEA. Actual charter requests have included vague locations such as the "Houston area" or "South Dallas." The state may not know the specific address or city where a charter plans to locate when it approves the request.

While the elected SBOE has authority to veto a new charter application, most additional charter campuses are approved through a charter expansion amendment submitted to TEA and approved solely by the appointed Commissioner. Once a charter is originally awarded and certain requirements are met, the charter may submit an amendment request to TEA to open an unlimited number of new campuses anywhere in the state. There is no public notice of these amendments and no opportunity for public input. Since 2010, the Commissioner has approved over 700 new charter campuses, a total of 68 percent of all the expansion amendments submitted for new campuses.

When a school district proposes a new school facility, it initiates an extensive process that includes multiple public meetings leading up to a district-wide bond election that requires a majority vote for approval. School trustees who approve new district facilities are elected by the voters in their community and must reside in the district. Charter school board members who approve new charter campuses are appointed and may not live in the community or the state.

Karen Emery

Charter School Success

Elm Mott, TX

My name is Karen Emery and I'm the Senior Finance Director of Charter School Success. I'm writing in strong support of HB1348.

Public charter schools like mine are expanding the educational opportunities available to Texas families. Our students are

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thriving. Yet charter schools are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. We are subjected to delays and added costs that harm our schools and take money out of classrooms.

Charters and traditional ISDs should be held to the same local government standards applied without discriminations. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness. By doing so, it will ensure more students receive the best possible education. This is smart policy for our communities.

Thank you

David Edrich

self

Austin, TX

I support HB 1348 to keep more money inside the classroom so that they have to pay less in unnecessary expenses. It puts them on a more equal footing with traditional public schools. Remember Charter schools are public schools too and they help to keep the standards of all schools in Texas up!

Shannon Cooper

Self

Arlington, TX

I support HB 1348 to keep more money inside the classroom.

David Cooper

Self

Arlington, TX

I support HB1348 to keep more money inside the classroom.

Teri Rodgers, Principal

Arlington Classics Academy

Arlington, TX

My name is Teri Rodgers and I'm the Principal of Arlington Classics Academy Intermediate campus. I'm writing in strong support of HB1348.

Public charter schools like mine are expanding the educational opportunities available to Texas families. Our students are thriving. Yet charter schools are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. We are subjected to delays and added costs that harm our schools and take money out of classrooms.

Charters and traditional ISDs should be held to the same local government standards applied without discrimination. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness. By doing so, it will ensure more students receive the best possible education. This is smart policy for our communities.

Aimee Blanco

Self

San Antonio, TX

Public charter schools like mine are expanding the educational opportunities available to Texas families. Our students are

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thriving. Yet charter schools are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting, and fees. We are subjected to delays and added costs that harm our schools and take money out of classrooms.

Charter schools should follow the same rules and be held to the same standards as ISDs. HB1348 will achieve this basic fairness. By doing so, it will ensure more students and families receive the best possible education for them. This is smart policy for our communities.

Bose Ehiobu

Self, Nurse Practitioner

Irving, TX

"I support HB 1348 to keep more money inside the classroom."

Sehba Ali

KIPP Texas Public Schools

Sugar Land, TX

Thank you all for your service to the state of Texas.

I am the CEO of KIPP Texas Public Schools, a district of 59 public, open-enrollment and tuition free charter schools educating over 31,000 students in some of the most vulnerable communities in Austin, Dallas, Houston and San Antonio.

Together with families and communities, we create joyful, academically excellent schools that prepare students with the skills and confidence to pursue the paths they choose — college, career, and beyond — so they can lead fulfilling lives and build a more just world. About 86% of our students are economically disadvantaged, 37% are English Language Learners, and 46% are considered at-risk.

KIPP Texas's students and teachers would directly benefit from HB 1348, which ensures that all public schools are treated equally in local permitting and zoning decisions. Like many public charter schools, new campuses in three of our four regions have been met with local zoning and permitting roadblocks.

In Dallas, for example, our KIPP Oak Cliff Academy high school is in need of a permanent home. The area surrounding the current location has seen a major uptick in dangerous criminal activity, and because the facility is leased, we are limited in the security upgrades we can make. We have invested in additional lighting, surveillance, fencing, and security personnel; but, we know that it is in the best interest of our students to identify a safer and permanent campus. Unfortunately, there is not political support for a favorable decision on a local construction permit.

We are KIPP Texas, so it's in our nature to find a way or make one. Last summer, we announced an historic partnership to relocate our high school onto the campus of Paul Quinn College. This location is safe, close to our other campuses and our students, and most importantly will provide a priceless experience of attending high school on the campus of the only HBCU in Dallas.

This should have been good news, but even this decision was met with public opposition and protest from both the Dallas ISD and the Dallas City Council.

We believe firmly in the right of local municipalities to weigh zoning and permitting decisions against health, environmental, traffic and safety concerns. However, we are seeing an increasing number of simple matters like proper signage, lighting, crosswalks, and traffic patterns facing opposition that directly impacts the safety of our students.

HB 1348 clarifies to local municipalities that public charter schools and public ISD schools are not treated differently when it comes to zoning and permitting. We can continue to have policy debates about public charter schools – we welcome that. But city councils can't pick and choose which public school students deserve to be safe.

Thank you for your favorable consideration of this legislation. Please do not hesitate to reach out if we can answer any questions.

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Sehba Ali
KIPP Texas CEO

Irma Rangel
Self
San Antonio, TX

I support HB 1348 to keep more money inside the classroom

Wendy Gonzales-Neal
Self
Tomball, TX

I support HB1348 to keep more money inside the classroom. This pandemic is not about public vs charter it about our kids education. This is the time to work together for our children and put them first.

Karen Ryan
Self
Benbrook, TX

I support HB 1348 to keep more money inside the classroom. We love our charter school and it has made a huge difference in the life of our children and family.

Amy Casey
Self
Benbrook, TX

I support HB 1348 to keep more money in the classroom that we choose to send our children. We live in a neighborhood with a high rated elementary school. However, even though the school building is only 4 years old, it is already overcrowded. Teachers are not able to provide the education our children deserve when they are over tasked with too many children at various education levels. Our child would fall through the cracks. The ability to have the choice of a charter school allows us as parents to pick the type of education we want our children to focus on and relieves some of the overcrowding our local elementary school is already facing. Our kindergartner is excelling in reading and phonics at our current Charter school. He is getting the attention he needs and we are forever thankful for the ability to choose the classical education we want our children to have. Do not take this choice away and in turn cause more overcrowding in the ISDs. Thank you.

Kaci Masoni
Self / Stay at home mom
San Antonio, TX

I support HB1348 to keep more money inside the classroom.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

For the Children,
Kaci Masoni
(979) 575-1122

Anazeli Solis

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Self (unemployed)

San Antonio, TX

I support to keep more funds inside the classrooms.
Doing it for the children of the future leaders etc..

Brittany Winston, Mrs.

Self

San Antonio, TX

I support HB 1348 to keep more money inside the classroom.

For the Children,

Brittany Winston

SCOTT MOGER, Dr.

PRIORITY CHARTER SCHOOLS

BELTON, TX

My name is Dr. Scott Moger and I'm the Superintendent of Priority Charter Schools in Belton, Texas. We have campuses in Temple, Copperas Cove, Georgetown, and Cedar Park. I'm writing in strong support of HB 1348.

Public charter schools like mine are expanding the educational opportunities available to Texas families. Our students are thriving. Yet charter schools are often treated unfairly by local governments in terms of zoning, permitting and fees. We are subjected to delays and added costs that harm our schools and take money out of classrooms. These are tax payer dollars that should be educating children and HB 1348 would put those dollar back into the classroom.

As should be expected, charters and traditional ISD's should be held to the same local government standard applied without discrimination. HB 1348 will achieve this basic fairness. By doing so, it will ensure more students receive the best possible education according to their parents, or their own personal choice. This is a smart and fair policy for our communities.

Please let me know if you need any assistance in helping pass this important bill.

Dr. Scott Moger
Superintendent
Priority Charter School
(254) 931-8630