

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Public Education
For HB 1926

Compiled on: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 1:06 AM

Note: Comments received by the committee reflect only the view of the individual(s) submitting the comment, who retain sole responsibility for the content of the comment. Neither the committee nor the Texas House of Representatives takes a position on the views expressed in any comment. The committee compiles the comments received for informational purposes only and does not exercise any editorial control over comments.

Hearing Date: April 18, 2023 8:00 AM

Jennifer McHam

Self

Celina, TX

There should be no expiration date unless created by parents with authorities

Bryan Allen

Self: Superintendent of Schools

Breckenridge, TX

I support this bill.

Wendy McRoberts

Self

Danbury, TX

I do not support extending these “temporary vouchers”. Any plan that takes money away from public schools is not acceptable. Fully fund our public schools.

Meagan Bowden

Self

Portland, TX

This bill would take away money from our already cash strapped public schools. This bill will take funds from our public schools and put them in the hands of private schools. This will hurt low income public schools that don't have money to lose. Please don't privatize our children's education.

Sarah Kienle, Dr.

myself

McGregor, TX

Please oppose HB 1926, a bill that would take funds away from Texas public schools. As a taxpayer and parent of a 1st grader, I want my money to support public schools - not vouchers or any programs that take away money and resources from our public schools.

Morgan Kirkpatrick

Self/ project assistant and marketing coordinator

LUBBOCK, TX

I oppose this bill and any public education funds being taken from public schools.

I left education last May after teaching middle school English and reading for 14 years. With the funding allotment as it is, school employees already wear multiple hats and I was no different. While I taught seventh grade English and Reading, I was also a curriculum specialist, test writer, data analyst, mediator, librarian, nurse, counselor, diagnostician; the list is unending and overwhelming. Can you imagine fewer teachers doing more tasks? That will happen if vouchers or any similar bills pass.

I taught in a large district at a school whose principal did their best to protect teachers and students from policies and minutiae that did not directly impact students. Yet, there are those in the legislature who want to make educating the children an impossible task. Cut funding? Good luck keeping teachers in the classroom or improving student success.

Please stop all efforts to defund public schools.

George Brian Vachris, P.E.

self retired

Humble, TX

I support this bill.

Jim Lennon

Kingwood TEA Party

Cleveland, TX

For HB 1926

Linda Lorenzo

Self

McKinney, TX

I OPPOSE HB 1926. No funds should be taken from public schools to benefit private schools. If parents chose alternative education then they should pay not the taxpayers.

Sara Ainsworth

Self

Dallas, TX

A voucher system does not work for Texas. We need to continue funding public schools so that all children have access to quality education. Less public education funding means overcrowded classrooms with inadequate materials. Texas already underfunds schools which is why it ranks 40th in the country on education. Allowing a voucher system would only make this worse. Additionally, a voucher system would disproportionately harm rural communities where public schools are often the only option. We have seen other states adopt voucher systems with negative impacts. I strongly disapprove of this bill. This is bad for Texas kids.

Charlene Shafer

Self, retired teacher

Cypress, TX

Voucher by another name is still a voucher. NO VOUCHERS. Fund public education. Stop trying to destroy public education for private gain.

Deborah Adair

Self

Bedford, TX

I OPPOSE HB 1926 and any public education funds being taken from public schools.

Legislation that was passed last session gave parents \$1500 for additional services at the choice of the parent. HB 1926 by Rep. Lacey Hull would remove the expiration date of the temporary special education voucher approved by the Legislature last session, making the program permanent.

When vouchers strip more money away from our already strapped neighborhood schools, we will get overcrowded classrooms and put every member of the school community who keep the hubs of our communities running on the chopping block. It's the hardest hit, and often more rural communities, that get left further and further behind. Plenty of other states' experiences have shown us what vouchers lead to: defunded public schools, greater inequality, and the same or worse outcomes for students.

Cynthia Dwyer

The Tarrant Together Project

Fort Worth, TX

Please OPPOSE this bill!

Vouchers strip more money away from our already strapped neighborhood schools, we will get overcrowded classrooms and put every member of the school community who keep the hubs of our communities running on the chopping block. It's the hardest hit, and often more rural communities, that get left further and further behind. Plenty of other states' experiences have shown us what vouchers lead to: defunded public schools, greater inequality, and the same or worse outcomes for students. Vouchers are not the answer for issues with Texas public schools. The amount of funding that Texas has been contributing towards public education is been reduced. Please restore those funds. The funding shortage burden has fallen on the shoulders of homeowners. This bill needs to die in committee today.

Jeannette Jacoby

Self

CAMERON, TX

I strongly OPPOSE HB 1926 and any public education funds being taken from public schools

Marlene Lobberecht

self/retired teacher

Houston, TX

Bill text doesn't specify a specific date. All public education bills take effect in Sept.

Jennifer Erickson

Self

Fort Worth, TX

I OPPOSE HB 1926 and any public education funds being taken from public schools.

Vouchers would steal more money away from our already strapped neighborhood schools. I am against what this bill would do, which is defunded public schools, greater inequality, and the same or worse outcomes for students and no options for many students.

Fund our public schools!