

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Public Education
For HB 5019

Compiled on: Thursday, May 8, 2025 10:56 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: May 6, 2025 8:00 AM

Joni Harris
self (school librarian)
Garland, TX

As an educator, parent of public school children, and voter, I strongly oppose HB 5109. This bill is a clear overreach of government power, seeking to strip educators of the right to choose payroll deduction for professional organization membership and blocking those organizations from offering essential liability insurance.

Professional organizations are not just support systems — they are lifelines. They provide vital professional development (which accounts for the majority of my hours), legal protection, advocacy, and a community of peers who understand the realities of the classroom. Removing payroll deduction is a targeted attempt to weaken these organizations and silence educator voices.

Even more concerning is the provision banning organizations from offering liability or malpractice insurance. This is an outrageous conflict of interest — the state would be both the prosecuting body and the only available provider of liability protection. I have personally benefited from my organization's liability insurance during a time when I was unfairly targeted by an administrator, despite strong parent support and positive performance reviews. Without that protection, my career and reputation could have been irreparably harmed.

HB 5109 does nothing to improve public education — it only undermines the rights and security of the professionals working hard to serve students every day. I urge you to oppose this bill and stand with educators.

Kiree Bons
Self - Educator
Killeen, TX

I strongly oppose Texas HB5019, as it undermines educators' freedom of association and professional autonomy. This bill would:

- * Eliminating payroll deduction options for membership dues would restrict educators' ability to support professional organizations like ATPE.
- * Prohibit ATPE from offering continuing professional education credit for legislative updates, limiting access to crucial policy information.
- * Force educators into a liability insurance plan chosen by TEA, removing their ability to select coverage that best suits their needs.
- * Restrict professional development opportunities by requiring agency approval for training content, location, and providers, potentially silencing organizations that advocate for educators.
- * Ban continuing education credits for training that includes electioneering, political, or issue advocacy, limiting educators' ability to engage in civic discourse.
- * Redefine professional organizations in a way that could weaken collective bargaining and advocacy efforts for teachers.

HB5019 directly attacks educators' rights, diminishing their ability to organize, advocate, and access professional resources. I urge lawmakers to reject this bill and protect the integrity of Texas educators.

Miguel Andrade, Mr
Self
Channelview, TX

Our professional organizations do a lot to help us. They keep us informed and ensure that we have the proper knowledge to make informed decisions. We need to encourage school districts and professional organizations to work together. Not to cut ties.

Casey Smith
Self, educator
Lewisville, TX

As teachers we need access to our teacher organizations. They provide a voice to us in Austin, they break down laws and expectations so we can do our jobs, and they offer us representation when we find ourselves in tough situations. I've personally utilized a lawyer from my teacher organization to advise me when I was **WRONGFULLY** accused. Taking that access away is wrong. We need support and clarity that these teacher organizations provide. They help us follow the very laws you are enacting, and help us be better teachers.

Amy Myrick
Self
Graford, TX

Educators, like all professionals, deserve the freedom to choose the organizations that best represent their values, advocate for their needs, and support their professional growth. These organizations provide vital services—such as legal representation, instructional resources, training, and legislative advocacy—that strengthen our schools and ultimately benefit students.

Payroll deductions are a secure, simple, and transparent method for employees to support the organizations of their choice. Removing or restricting this option does not reduce government costs, but it does send a message that the voice of educators matters less. In an era when recruitment and retention of teachers is already a crisis, policies that erode professional respect or limit choice will only deepen the problem.

Teachers should also retain the ability to contract with a range of educator groups to ensure all employees have access to the services and representation they choose. Some organizations focus on legal protection, others on instructional improvement, and some on workplace fairness. This diversity allows educators to align with the group that best supports their personal and professional needs.

This is not a partisan issue—it is a practical matter of worker rights and professional respect. Teachers and school employees are asking to be treated as the professionals we are, capable of making our own decisions about representation and support.

Victoria Decker
Self
Van Alstyne, TX

Just stop treating public education and educators so poorly.

Heather Horton
Self-- teacher
Yantis, TX

As a teacher I am against this bill. I have been teaching 27 years and am a Texas resident. Please protect the rights of teachers-- especially to choose their own liability insurance and professional organizations.

Michelle Yanez
Self/teacher
Kerrville, TX

What a huge conflict of interest for the state to require teachers to acquire insurance for legal representation through the state, as should I need it, I would be defending myself against the state! Legal representation and insurance for it must stay with our teacher organizations as they have prioritized teachers and advocate for us while the Texas legislature is in session. Texas Classroom Teachers Association provides me with informative and up to date news on all things dealing with my profession. I wouldn't trust anyone else with legal representation, especially the state who has sacrificed public education, its students and teachers this legislative session.

Sara Teel
Self
Johnson City, TX

Teachers deserve to be represented by their union and be able to elect use payroll deductions to facilitate that. The state cannot prosecute and defend the same teacher. Also, unions advocate on our behalf for a variety of things inside our districts and at legislature.

Heather Gann
Self/teacher
Nacogdoches, TX

I am against this bill.

Linda Barraza
Self teacher
San Antonio, TX

This is ridiculous? Why not via payroll deductions?

Alisha Bridges
Self
Rockwall, TX

Please continue to allow school districts to deduct funds for teacher organizations. These organizations are so beneficial in terms of support, advice and professional development. They HELP not hinder teachers to grow and remain passionate about the teaching profession. Anything the state can do to help attract and keep great teachers should be a priority. This would be a step showing support for educators. Thank you!

Cheryl Taliaferro

self

Lorena, TX

The liability insurance that my organization provides is important. We live in a litigious society, and all educators should have easy access to professional support and insurance of their choosing.

Nicole Fuller

Self

Tuscola, TX

Our money should be none of your concern! Shame on you for attacking teachers again and again.

Vote that teachers deserve the freedom to choose their organization, use payroll deductions, and choose their liability insurance. This is none of the state's business how we choose to spend our pay check. Vote NO to taking away more rights from teachers.

Jennifer Patrick

ATPE

Graham, TX

Please vote against this HB. Teachers should have the right to choose the organization to represent us and to be apart of, just as we have the right to choose who to vote for. Please stop taking away my rights as a public educator.

Amy Chambers

Self/Educator

Trenton, TX

This bill is not good for public school educators. We have the RIGHT to pick which organizations we choose to represent us. We also have the RIGHT to choose our own legal representation. Vote NO for this bill.

Melissia Hoke

Self

Midland, TX

Why should the government have any say in how we use our paycheck? As a teacher, I already feel that the state does not have our best interest at heart. Especially because of the voucher system that the Texas government is trying to pass. Now, you want to have say in how we spend OUR PAYCHECK? This is not ok. No other profession is attacked this way. Why does the state of Texas hate teachers? Teachers are needed to pave the way for every future profession. We are the future. We should be taken care of and respected. Please remove this bill.

Brittany Murphy, Ms.

Self/Teacher

Dallas, TX

Please do not take this away from public school teachers. This is one of the only ways our unions can help us.

Tiffany Keszler

Self

Victoria, TX

I strongly disagree with this bill! You are trying to take away the rights of teachers to choose who represents us and how we get the necessary cover we need for legal purposes.

Samantha De La Cruz

Self

El Paso, TX

Teachers are limited in their rights already! Please don't keep taking more from them.

Lauren Smith

Self

Lubbock, TX

My professional organization has gone above and beyond to help me as an educator. One way is by offering top quality professional development opportunities and supports to travel to conferences in & out of the state. My professional organization is there to provide resources and answer any questions I have regards educational rights and more. My pay and payroll deductions should be my choices and taking this option away from educations will greatly hurt many of us and cause many of us to leave the classroom. Educators want the right to choose their organizations as well as payroll deduction and this should be honored. If people don't want to join organization, they have a choice. Please don't take the choice away from us that want it. We are informed and educated so let us make our choices. Vote AGAINST HB 5019 by saying no. Thank you!

Carrie Morgan

Self Teacher

Decatur, TX

I oppose this bill.

Tiffany Gygi, Mrs.

ATPE and myself

Saginaw, TX

As an educator of 27 years in Texas, please don't take away my constitutional rights as an educator to choose my professional organization who supports my career. We deserve to choose who represents us, how we spend our payroll money, and who carries our insurance to protect our careers. ATPE is the backbone for educators!

Margaret Marquez

Self

Cedar Park, TX

Why are we trying to fix something that isn't broken? I have been teaching in Texas for 32 years and all of that time, I have been able to take my dues for ATPE straight out of my payroll. I don't have to think about it, and that's how it should stay. Why are we trying to make things harder for teachers to just do their jobs? For the love of God, please do not let this bill go through. Leave things alone and let teachers teach without all the extra stress!

Margaret Marquez

Proud Texas Public School Teacher

Aimee Johnson

Self

Athens, TX

ATPE, my teacher association, is extremely important to me and all public educators. They provide many vital services for teachers, including continuing education hours, a voice for teachers in Austin, liability insurance, and friendship and collaboration with fellow educators. Please vote against this bill and please stop the attacks on public school teachers.

Roger Hall
Self
Abilene, TX

I am a Cybersecurity and Networking teacher for Abilene ISD and in my 11th year of teaching. I am also a retired Air Force Veteran who uses allotments and payroll deductions. I am in support of payroll deductions and oppose any legislation banning it's use.

Danny Stockton
Plano Independent School District
Plano, TX

Plano ISD and many other school districts rely heavily on the services provided by the Texas Association of School Boards. Specifically, the BuyBoard purchasing cooperative, one of the largest in the state, helps school districts ensure compliance with complex purchasing requirements from state law and regulation. Without BuyBoard, school district purchasing would be far less efficient, likely requiring additional staff and expenditures of taxpayer money by school districts to remain in compliance with purchasing rules. This would divert desperately needed funding from classrooms to administrative processes that are required by the State of Texas. Beyond the efficiency provided by BuyBoard, school districts are also able to find the best value for local taxpayers by participating in a large, statewide purchasing cooperative. It would be nearly impossible for the large number and variety of vendors who are available for purchasing through BuyBoard to be available to every district individually. As a result, without BuyBoard, districts may have to spend more for less value simply because of difficult in connecting with vendors best positioned to provide goods or services at the best value to districts.

Sherry McDaniels
Self/Educator
Mesquite, TX

This is an attack against educators!! Vote NO!

Susan Dobrow
McKinney ISD
McKinney, TX

Teacher should be able to choose whatever organization and liability wait insurance they want. And they should choose how they want to pay those. Do not take these rights away from teachers.

Tatyana Lewis
Self
San Antonio, TX

ATPE has been a massive support from my students teaching to current. With the regular trainings and information sessions, I was able to stay up to date with the current methods and techniques in education, and accumulate enough CPE hours to maintain and renew my teachers certification this past march. When I was assaulted by a student last November, I was provided an attorney who helped me press charges against the student, and draft a letter to start change when it comes to my school handling fights. If it wasn't for this wonderful organization being a continuous support, I wouldn't have stayed in the teaching profession.

Rhonda Hanson
Self - teacher
Haskell, TX

I respectfully ask for you to oppose HB 5019 which is yet another assault upon teachers in Texas. Enough is enough. Quite a DEMOCRATIC move from a Republican, if you ask me to even propose such a ridiculous bill. Please OPPOSE HB 5019 - our payroll deductions are OUR deductions and having a voice from teacher groups IS freedom of speech.

Jennifer Nations

Parent of children in Texas Public Schools

College Station, TX

My name is Jennifer Nations and I'm a proud parent of children in public schools. I think this bill is misguided and directed at punishing public school teachers. Teachers are professionals, they should be treated like professionals, and they deserve representation, connection, and education through professional organizations. They shouldn't be penalized for their membership in those organizations. Texas legislators: please honor the Texas Constitution and support public education and the teachers who provide that education.

Kristy McCoy

Self - Teacher

Celina, TX

I respectfully urge the committee to reject HB 5019. This bill strips professionals of the right to support their organizations through payroll deduction—a voluntary, convenient option that has long helped workers stay informed and represented. Even more troubling is the provision banning professional organizations from offering liability or malpractice insurance. Forcing employees to rely solely on the state for legal defense—especially when the state may be the investigating or prosecuting body—creates a serious conflict of interest. HB 5019 undermines fairness, professional autonomy, and the basic right to choose how we protect ourselves in the workplace.

Catherine marrero

Self

georgetown, TX

This is a direct attack against educators!

Gaby Krumm

Self

Burleson, TX

Please oppose HB 5019. Professional organizations are important to any profession to not only support fellow professionals but also to keep up to date with positive changes related to the job. Also, removing the ability for payroll deduction just makes educators jump through additional hoops to pay their dues where they could spend that time educating their students. These organizations should also be allowed to provide insurance for educators without the state's influence.

Kaylin Burleson, Miss

Self/retired teacher

Center, TX

This is taking away freedom of choice.

Susan Day

Lockney isd

Matador, TX

No

Gidget Bailey

Self

Willid, TX

Why do politicians need to control how I handle my own affairs. If you want teachers to be professionals then you have to treat them as professionals. The government should not have a say in how I pay dues and be involved in my liability insurance!

Jennifer Brittain
Public School Teachers
Floydada, TX

What are you honestly trying to do public education this session? Public school teachers should have the right to join organizations in their profession just like other jobs in the workforce. This is crazy to try to limit that opportunity for teachers. We need to be able to join other educators and have the opportunity to pick which organization we want and have insurance through that organization - not whatever the state desires.

Rick Day
Lockney isd
Matador, TX

No

Aimee Wristen
Self/educator
Abilene, TX

I urge you to vote against this bill- our government is slowly stripping away any dignity educators have within their profession. There is no logical reasoning or explanation for this bill. It would clearly be a conflict of interest for the state to intervene in regards to school district employees simply for the fact that the state is ultimately responsible for teacher contracts. Ethically and morally this bill is a contradiction. Vote NO!

Shannon Cook
Teacher
Gender, TX

No

Jennifer Turner
Self/teacher
Humble, TX

I joined a professional organization my first year as a teacher because they offered discounts and professional development, the offer of legal help if I needed it was a bonus. The ability to pay in installments from payroll deduction made it to where I could afford it. I think it is unethical for a law to deny me and other teachers the ability to pay for a professional organization via a payroll deduction and to pay for legal assistance insurance when other public servants (police, firefighters, city employees) aren't also limited. If you aren't going to limit all civil servants, you should take a good look at yourself to determine why.

Gary Ligon
Self
Cypress, TX

This bill is an unconstitutional attack on the rights of teachers to select legal representation from their professional organizations and to continue the practice of having dues to those professional organizations deducted from their pay. This proposed legislation is totally unnecessary.

Erika Garfias
Self
Pearland, TX

Please vote no on this bill!

Cv Viaille
Self
Fort Worth, TX

For 34 years I was a member of ATPE, and this organization has helped advocate for public schools educators at each and every campus and district. I have seen the value of the liability insurance that many teachers needed to advocate for them in legal situations in our litigious society and even more needed now with social media and in particular certain politicians vilifying our public schools. I urge you to be aware that by forcing teachers to buy this liability insurance only from the state this would be the equivalent in many cases of having the wolf guard the hen house. Please consider the harms this could cause.

Marsi Thomas
Self
Spring, TX

Teachers should be able to have payroll deductions for Professional dues and liability insurance provided by the professional organizations. I retired after teaching 40 years in a public school district and always joined professional organizations for these reasons. I am still a member of 2 professional organizations as a retiree.

Lundy C Atkins
Texas Educator self
Gonzales, TX

Subject: Oppose HB 5019 – Protect Educators’ Access to Professional Support and Legal Coverage

Dear Members of the Texas Legislature,

I am writing to strongly oppose HB 5019, which would significantly limit educators’ ability to participate in professional organizations—particularly by restricting these organizations from offering critical legal insurance coverage.

As an educator and school leader, I understand the essential role professional organizations play in supporting teachers and administrators across Texas. These groups provide high-quality professional development, up-to-date instructional resources, and a strong network of colleagues dedicated to student success. Just as importantly, they offer legal protection that gives educators peace of mind in an increasingly complex and high-stakes profession.

The legal insurance provided by professional organizations is not a luxury—it’s a safeguard. Educators face legal risks daily, often simply by doing their jobs. Removing access to this support undermines educators’ security and discourages talented individuals from entering or staying in the profession.

HB 5019 is not in the best interest of Texas educators or the students we serve. I urge you to vote against this bill and support policies that protect educators’ professional rights and access to critical resources.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,
Lundy Atkins

Becky Dale
Texas teachers
Winnie, TX

Talk about targeting Public school teachers!! Get a life and vote no to this!!

Dustin Loyd
Self, THSCA
Willow Park, TX

Please remove the language concerning professional liability insurance. I pay for this insurance out of my own pocket as a service the THSCA organization and would not like this right infringed upon by more government. This insurance protects me in the classroom and in coaching against litigation from WOKE, lawsuit happy parents looking for a reason to make a scene at the expense of my career.

Michael McLeod
self
SHENANDOAH, TX

Please vote against this bill. As a teacher, I need the option of legal representation 1) when I have questions about how the law affects my rights or 2) in case false allegations are filed against me. One of the effects of this bill is that it would prohibit my professional organization from offering legal coverage. I would have to purchase it on my own or just roll the dice and hope nothing happens. In today's litigious environment I can't afford to take that chance. Just like firefighters and policemen I need my professional organization to be aware of and inform me of potential legislation that could have a negative impact on the students. This bill would effectively remove the ability of my professional organization to provide BOTH of these services leaving students to suffer. Please vote against this bill.

Brooke Kemp
self / teacher
Arlington, TX

As a dedicated educator, I strongly oppose HB 5019. This bill not only attacks my right to support my professional organization through payroll deduction, but it also jeopardizes the critical protections I rely on to do my job effectively.

My professional organization provides me with resources, training, and--most importantly--liability insurance that safeguards my career and peace of mind. Stripping this away and forcing educators to seek insurance from the same entity that could potentially prosecute them is a direct conflict of interest and an unacceptable overreach.

Bills like HB 5019 are distractions from the real work that needs to be done. If the legislature truly wants to improve public education, it should focus on fully funding our schools. Our students deserve updated materials, safe and well-maintained facilities, and the resources that enable meaningful learning. Educators deserve a living wage and professional respect--not punitive measures that strip away our support systems.

Please reject HB 5019 and instead prioritize policies that genuinely strengthen public education for our students and communities.

Sincerely,

Brooke Kemp
Public School Educator (23 yrs.)

Amber Jaime
Self teacher
Aledo, TX

We should continue to be able to use payroll deduction to pay for our professional organizations.

Sonya Jones
Self/teacher
Denison, TX

Professional organizations help us to be informed about whats going on in our state and how to help us. It's our money and choice if we want to have payroll deductions to pay for these things. You're taking everything else away from us. Please leave public education alone!

Erin Warren, Superintendent
Luling ISD
Luling, TX

Stop making it harder to be a teacher in Texas. Teachers need to be able to get that liability insurance for sure and they should be able to have organizations to help them organize and speak out.

Shelby Zarro
Self
Aubrey, TX

I strongly disapprove of this bill because it significantly undermines the rights of educators, restricts local control, and limits access to the very professional resources that help strengthen public schools. While the bill may claim to increase transparency and reduce political influence, in practice it silences teachers, restricts their professional associations, and removes their ability to choose the supports and advocacy networks that serve them best.

First and foremost, this bill targets teachers' professional organizations by redefining how and where they can access training, and by banning payroll deductions for dues to any such group not run by a government agency. That's a direct attempt to weaken the power of educators to organize, advocate, and participate fully in shaping the profession they live every day. These organizations aren't political machines — they're lifelines. They offer legal protection, continuing education, and the critical space teachers need to make their voices heard. To suggest that participation in such groups is inherently political is not only disingenuous, it's insulting.

Additionally, the bill prevents school districts from contracting with or even participating in purchasing cooperatives or investment pools that have ties to advocacy organizations. This language is so broad and punitive that it risks stripping schools of access to cost-saving partnerships — all in the name of ideological purity. It places arbitrary restrictions on how districts spend their money, even when those decisions serve students best. This is a violation of the principle of local control that Texans value deeply. School boards, not the state legislature, should decide what partnerships and vendors best serve their students and teachers.

The bill also imposes vague and far-reaching bans on “issue advocacy” and “political activities” in teacher trainings and continuing education credits. What counts as advocacy? Who gets to decide? The bill offers no clear answers — only the threat of rejection by the agency. That has a chilling effect on honest discussion in teacher training environments and discourages educators from exploring critical topics like educational equity, school funding, or student rights — all of which have political dimensions. If we want educators to be informed, reflective, and effective professionals, we cannot punish them for engaging with the real-world contexts of their work.

Finally, while the bill includes language about protecting employees' constitutional rights, its restrictions show little regard for those rights in practice. Barring teachers from choosing how they receive training or which organizations they belong to — simply because those organizations may advocate for their members — is a direct infringement on their freedoms of speech and association. The First Amendment doesn't disappear when someone becomes a public employee.

This bill doesn't solve any real problem in Texas schools — it just c

Cailyn Dougherty, Dr.

self

Spring, TX

Education is already being attacked at all ends. Let's not continue to shove quality educators out of the system even more than the legislature has already done.

Tara Rice

Public School

Sherman, TX

Public school employees should be able to pick what groups WE want and be given the option for payroll deduction. It is our money. Politicians repeatedly show they don't care about is so let my money go to people or groups that do.

When I need representation I want to pick it and don't trust the state to care. The state wants to pick and choose who we can use so we loose our power. Stay away from my pay!

Tammy Conrad

Education Round Rock & Self

Round Rock, TX

I am a public school educator and the president of our local employee union, Education Round Rock, which is affiliated with TSTA and Texas AFT. We are opposed to this bill, HB5019, which is attempting to disallow payroll deductions for unions. We are a small union run by volunteers who are full-time educators. Allowing members to have their dues deducted from their paychecks makes our volunteer 'jobs' a little easier. Because we are part of two unions, we have to do the work of sending money to both of those unions, but at least we don't have to collect the dues from our members each month. It also makes it easier for our members. They don't have to send multiple payments. They just fill out their enrollment form and they are done. It is an easy ask for our school district as well. I know that the national unions do offer a payment of dues by credit card online, but that doesn't work in our case since we are part of two national unions. There is no reason for this bill to even be brought up for discussion. Collecting dues is not harming anyone. It is not taking funding from schools. It is helping people and why wouldn't we want to do that?

Michael Zarro

Self

Aubrey, TX

I strongly oppose this bill because it creates unnecessary barriers for educators, limits local control, and uses vague language that could silence important voices in our schools. This bill doesn't improve education—it restricts the people working hardest to support it.

One of the most troubling parts is the attack on professional organizations. These groups provide legal support, professional development, and advocacy for school employees. Preventing school districts from processing payroll deductions for membership dues unfairly punishes educators for choosing to belong to an organization that supports them. These groups are not political machines—they're essential tools for teacher success and student safety.

The bill also bans continuing education credits for any training linked to political or issue advocacy. But real-world issues like school safety, equity, and funding are part of being an educator. If teachers can't talk about these topics in their training, we're not preparing them to meet the realities of their classrooms. This creates a chilling effect on professional learning and discourages open dialogue.

Beyond individual teachers, the bill hurts school districts by restricting their ability to partner with organizations for purchasing or investing. These partnerships often save districts money—money that can be used in classrooms. Blocking access to them because of vague connections to advocacy groups puts politics ahead of smart budgeting.

The language throughout this bill is also overly broad and unclear. Terms like “issue advocacy” and “political activity” are not well defined, leaving too much room for interpretation. That opens the door to censorship, especially against organizations that challenge the state or advocate for public schools. It's wrong to silence these voices while claiming to protect fairness.

This bill pretends to defend neutrality in schools, but in reality, it picks sides. It silences educators, removes valuable support systems, and puts ideology over what's best for students. Local school leaders, not state politicians, should be making decisions about training, partnerships, and professional support. Our teachers and school staff deserve more trust, not more red tape.

I urge lawmakers to reject this bill and focus instead on policies that empower educators and strengthen our public schools. Let's support the people who work every day to help Texas kids learn and thrive.

Tammy Freedman

TCTA/Robinson ISD

Robinson, TX

I have been a member of ATPR but choose TCTA because they support the teachers! As the laws protect teachers less and less...it is imperative that we have a chance to receive quality representation in the event it is needed! This bill is unjust!!!

Carrie Martin

Denton ISD ATPE

Denton, TX

This doesn't make sense. Every other profession has professional organizations, as teachers, we should be able to also.

Crystal Herring

Self

Mineral Wells, TX

It's mine money and I have a right to have it withdrawn how I want. Stop making things harder than they already are. I want an unbiased agency representing me if I need legal assistance, not the agency wanting to persecute me further.

Staci Tucker
ATPE
San Angelo, TX

Do not support this bill! It's just another way to devalue teachers.

Jennifer coulombe
Self
Rockwall, TX

Get rid of it

Stephanie Thomas
SELF
Slaton, TX

My teacher organization helps keep me updated on the current laws on education, they offer me protection in the form of liability insurance if there comes a time that I need them, and I want to continue to have my organizations fees deducted from my paycheck. It is not fair for the state to mandate this and block it from happening.

Angela Groves
self
Fort Worth, TX

Why is Texas doing everything it can to abuse Educators?
this bill is absurd

The legislature noticed that the bill to ban payroll deduction for our professional organization wasn't getting through the state affairs committee, so you put an identical bill through the education committee, and of course, Buckley kissed the Ring This bill also has a provision that would ban our organizations from offering liability/malpractice insurance, so you would have to get it through the state even though the state is who would be prosecuting.

My organization has helped me multiple times in my career when i needed assistance with medical leave, support for unfair evaluations, and intervention on excessive paperwork.

My organization has helped me be a better Teacher for my Students.

This bill interferes with my

personal finances and allows government to make decisions about my legal protections

Kill this bill now, the attack on public schools and educators is shameful

Robin Manning
Self, retired teacher
Kyle, TX

I am so disappointed that the legislature is again trying to keep teachers from joining associations. We are forbidden from having unions in Texas, but the associations provide a little protection to teachers when we are falsely accused by parents and/or administration. This bill just makes it harder for teachers, and I know that's the point, but I don't understand why. We work hard to ensure our students are successful in school and life. Please working with us, not against us. Thank you, Robin Manning

Christina Thompson

Self- teacher

Carrollton, TX

This bill is just one more attack against public school educators. We need to be able to rely on our professional organizations to support us. The state legislature has made it harder and harder to continue to work in public schools. We need to be able to continue to pay our professional dues through payroll deduction. AND we need to be able to get liability insurance through our same professional organizations. Other professions can join organizations, have those organizations fight for their rights, why would Texas want to take those same rights away from the very people that are preparing our children to be the state's future. Please do not allow this bill to pass.

Melissa Hatfield, Mrs.

Self, Public School Dyslexia Therapist

Fort Worth, TX

My comments: As a dedicated educator, I strongly oppose HB 5019. This bill not only attacks my right to support my professional organization through payroll deduction, but it also jeopardizes the critical protections I rely on to do my job effectively.

My professional organization provides me with resources, training, and--most importantly--liability insurance that safeguards my career and peace of mind. Stripping this away and forcing educators to seek insurance from the same entity that could potentially prosecute them is a direct conflict of interest and an unacceptable overreach.

Bills like HB 5019 are distractions from the real work that needs to be done. If the legislature truly wants to improve public education, it should focus on fully funding our schools. Our students deserve updated materials, safe and well-maintained facilities, and the resources that enable meaningful learning. Educators deserve a living wage and professional respect--not punitive measures that strip away our support systems.

Please reject HB 5019 and instead prioritize policies that genuinely strengthen public education for our students.

Melissa Hatfield

Texas Public School Educator (35 years)

Val Calhoun

Self

Burleson, TX

I have UEA dues deducted from my pay. UEA provides me with PD opportunities that support me as a teacher.

Jamie Muniz

Self

Melissa, TX

School employees should not be forced to use insurance from the state. That would be a conflict of interest as the state is the entity that would sue the school employee. This is another hit to school employees.

James Lewallen, Dr

Self - teacher

Lamesa, TX

Why??? There is ZERO public interest served by this bill, which is clearly politically motivated and a blatant attempt to silence Texas public educators and to cause issues for them to remain members of professional organizations and to have support in case they ever find themselves in court professionally. Regardless, we will not go away, and teachers WILL REMEMBER these personal attacks on election day!!!

Malesa Rose

Self

Rowlett, TX

To the Members of the House:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 5019, which addresses school district contracts with certain organizations and payroll deductions for school district employees.

As a dedicated public school teacher, I am deeply concerned about the bill's potential to undermine my professional rights and weaken the collective voice of educators. This legislation appears aimed at restricting school districts' ability to partner with employee organizations and to facilitate voluntary payroll deductions—two practices that support teachers, strengthen collaboration, and ensure we have a say in the decisions that impact our classrooms and our students.

Teachers already face enormous challenges in today's educational climate. Stripping away support systems and eroding the basic infrastructure that allows us to organize, advocate, and sustain a professional community does nothing to improve educational outcomes. Instead, it sends a message that educators' voices and needs are not valued.

I urge you to vote no on HB 5019 and instead focus on legislation that supports, empowers, and respects the professionals who serve Texas students every day.

Respectfully,

Malesa Rose

Donna Gatlin, Mrs.

Self/educator and my fellow educators

Graham, TX

Professional educator associations play a critical role in supporting educators as they provide advocacy and representation, professional development, legal support, networking and community and resources and publications allowing teachers to focus on providing a high-quality education to the students they serve. It is imperative that professional teacher organizations including associated legal representation, continue to be available to the educators of the great state of Texas.

Tanya Bertelson

Self/teacher

Lubbock, TX

Please allow school districts to keep contracts with certain organization's, including payroll deduction. Teachers also need assurance of legal representation through these organizations.

Thank you!

Tanya Bertelson

Christy Burrow-Skinner

Self

Beaumont, TX

Why is this bill specifically singling out education professionals? There are MANY organizations for public service employees that enjoy payroll deduction in this state. It feels like the legislature is purposely trying to make things harder on teachers during a time when it is difficult to fill classrooms. Why is that?

Emily Rollen
Myself
Cleburne, TX
No

Clark Denson, MR
self, occupation=IT Governance Risk & Compliance
Cypress, TX

I fully support this bill and find that TASB has lost its way and become a horrid political advocacy organization. A newer organization called Texans for Excellence in Education TEE is a non profit that serves as an alternative to TASB. Frankly too many folks have bought into the TASB indoctrination scheme and I would like to see zero tax dollars and zero funds taken from teachers paychecks to support any efforts from a highly political liberal indoctrination oriented organization.

Kelly Ricks
TEPSA
Katy, TX

TEPSA helps support the students and teachers I serve. It also helps me to grow as an educator.

Nate Roub
TEPSA
Northlake, TX

Vote no, this bill will make it more difficult for school leaders to receive training, professional development, and legal counsel from education organizations.

Margaret Parsons
Self
Dumas, TX

Please vote against this bill and any bill like it. You have hammered teachers enough.

Janet Brown
Self
Belton, TX

FOR - I'm a taxpayer in Belton ISD and have seen how organizations, specifically TASB, put undue burden and influence on our School District through the School Board Trustees. TASB instructs School Board Trustees on the Team of 8 concept, refers to taxpayers who speak at Board meetings as "CAVE people" (the assigned TASB attorney referred to the group of local taxpayers as "the peanut gallery" during a Policy meeting. There have been grievances filed against the School Board President, and TASB changed the guidelines for the School Board Trustee a year later. With regards to removing sexually age-inappropriate books from the school library, TASB slow-walked the policy, which was more of a punishment than a relief to protect minors. The list could go on and on with how TASB has an agenda that does not necessarily match community values. Please put the brakes on organizations like TASB and TASA and get them out of our Public Schools. Thank you.

Traci Wilsie

Self

Haslet, TX

My comments: As a dedicated educator, I strongly oppose HB 5019. This bill not only attacks my right to support my professional organization through payroll deduction, but it also jeopardizes the critical protections I rely on to do my job effectively.

My professional organization provides me with resources, training, and--most importantly--liability insurance that safeguards my career and peace of mind. Stripping this away and forcing educators to seek insurance from the same entity that could potentially prosecute them is a direct conflict of interest and an unacceptable overreach.

Bills like HB 5019 are distractions from the real work that needs to be done. If the legislature truly wants to improve public education, it should focus on fully funding our schools. Our students deserve updated materials, safe and well-maintained facilities, and the resources that enable meaningful learning. Educators deserve a living wage and professional respect--not punitive measures that strip away our support systems.

Please reject HB 5019 and instead prioritize policies that genuinely strengthen public education for our students and communities.

Amy Smith

Self

Plano, TX

I am requesting that you do not pass this bill. If you do believe it is best for public school employees and plan to vote for it, please provide me a detailed reason for your thinking and why you believe it is the right thing to do. Thank you for your service!

Jeri Bailey

Self/teacher

Eules, TX

This is an attack on educators. Limiting our ability to protect ourselves is criminal. This coverage is insurance-you hope you never need it but you get it to protect yourself.

Susan Truxal

Self

Coppell, TX

I oppose HB 5019. Protect local control. Support your local schools and the leaders elected in these school district.

Melissa Winzeler, Classroom Teacher

Self

Lubbock, TX

This is nothing but hate for teachers, and to make it easier to remove us from service. These actions are not illegal for any other economic sector in Texas, except educators. Removing us from having access to our organizations is targeting us as a group. Absolutely do not support this bill. Texas legislators are handing us a shit sandwich and telling us it's ham. No to HB 5019.

Jennifer Kratky, Trustee - Tomball ISD

Self - homemaker

Magnolia, TX

I support this bill. As a newly elected school board member I can say it's very difficult to find required trainings outside of TASB. I would love to see more of a free market (rather than a taxpayer funded monopoly) on trainings, services and products for school boards. With 1200 ISD's in Texas, we should have choices! Thank you for doing something to address this issue.

Christi Norris
Self - teacher
Plano, TX

The state shouldn't be able to dictate which organizations we choose for liability insurance and using payroll deduction.

Amanda Bruner
Self, librarian
Fort Worth, TX

I'm writing to respectfully ask you to oppose HB5019, which would prohibit payroll deductions for professional organizations.

This bill removes a convenient and voluntary option that many public employees rely on to manage their professional memberships. Payroll deduction is an efficient and secure method of payment that has been in place for years, with no added cost to the state.

Limiting how employees can choose to pay for membership in professional organizations sets a troubling precedent and adds unnecessary barriers. I believe workers should retain the freedom to make these decisions without interference.

Thank you for considering my perspective. I hope you will vote no on HB5019.

Audra Goff
Neea/tsta
Bulverde, TX

Please stop this bill as it affects every teacher who belongs to an organization meant to help teachers in situations where they need it most. Teachers are already time-strapped, this could cause more time lost & potentially lapse coverage.

Kathy D'Amico, Mrs.
Bastrop BFT
Smithville, TX

My organization has helped me tremendously within my school district. They are consistently working towards keeping us informed and meeting with top admin to advocate for teachers and students. Having payroll deduction helps have one less thing to worry about when I'm working a 70 hour week in education. I get to the school at 7:30 in the morning. I leave around 7:30, sometimes 8 at night because of the extra curricular activities I do. I also work every Saturday all day. Payroll deduction helps me have one less thing to do. Please do not take this away.

Jennifer Dela Cruz
Self
Lubbock, TX

My organization LEA, TSTA, and NEA has helped me so much in the last 5 years. They keep me updated on happenings both local and national levels. They keep me motivated to stay a teacher and have introduced me to some great friends. Payroll deduction to pay my dues has been helpful so that I can budget better and be more secure in the field of teaching today. My teacher organization is a vital part of my life and I am asking you to not restrict who and how I pay with my hard earned money. Please say no to HB 5019.

Sara Sprinkle
Self
Fort Worth, TX

As a dedicated educator, I strongly oppose HB 5019. This bill not only attacks my right to support my professional organization through payroll deduction, but it also jeopardizes the critical protections I rely on to do my job effectively.

My professional organization provides me with resources, training, and--most importantly--liability insurance that safeguards my career and peace of mind. Stripping this away and forcing educators to seek insurance from the same entity that could potentially prosecute them is a direct conflict of interest and an unacceptable overreach.

Bills like HB 5019 are distractions from the real work that needs to be done. If the legislature truly wants to improve public education, it should focus on fully funding our schools. Our students deserve updated materials, safe and well-maintained facilities, and the resources that enable meaningful learning. Educators deserve a living wage and professional respect--not punitive measures that strip away our support systems.

Please reject HB 5019 and instead prioritize policies that genuinely strengthen public education for our students and communities.

Sincerely,

Sara Sprinkle
Public School Educator (14 yrs.)

Jennifer Westbrook
Self
Nacogdoches, TX

I completely disagree with the idea of choosing teacher's legal insurance for them as well as taking away valuable support in educating our educators in legislation effecting education as well as their continued professional education. Please vote no on HB 5019 and allow Texas educators the freedom to choose!

Katie Read
TSTA, TEDA, LEA, NEA
Lubbock, TX
Vote AGAINST

Shannon Sieber
Self
Round Rock, TX

Dear Committee Members,

Please vote no on HB5019, that essentially takes even more away from our Texas Teachers.

I appreciate you passing the School Funding Bill, sadly since your colleagues in the senate will not move it out of committee, it looks like even more will be taken from our public educators. Do the right thing, vote no. These teacher organizations provide valuable resources to teachers, and taking away the ability for them to help educators is just going to cripple public education that's much more. As you vote on these items that are actively against public education, please keep in mind the 5.4 million Texans who are educated in public schools.

Thank you.

Stephanie Eivens

Self

San Angelo, TX

Hello,

Public school teacher here. I'm unsure if you are aware of the importance of organizations, so I would like to remind you. In a world where public school teachers are under attack from our very own legislation, where we face scrutiny, where students can make false accusations, and our right as teachers can be violated due to unjust contracts, we have organizations to protect us. They stand up for us and represent us. They provide us with legal advice when we cannot afford to go anywhere else due to the criminally low teacher pay. Please, please stay out of how we spend our money. This is government overreach.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Eivens

Jason Forbis

ATPE

Hewitt, TX

Please leave the choices of educators associations dues to the members, not a system. Parents were given choices, now give it to educators who chose to join associations and how they pay their dues.

Erica Linebaugh

Self

Fort Worth, TX

Teachers deserve the support of organizations such as UEA TCTA and others. We are often put in challenging situations that require guidance and support these organizations provide. Handing this over to the state is a conflict of interest as the state would be the prosecuting party in these situations. Support teachers by allowing these organizations to continue to provide services to educators across the state.

Signed a teacher that has needed the guidance they provide. I'm probably still an educator because of their support with a toxic admin.

Michael Burke, Mr.

self

Fort Worth, TX

When I first started teaching in 1982, membership in professional organizations was encouraged. ATPE, of which I am a member, is not a union, but it is a watchdog on Texas public education legislation and an advocate for teachers. What is the TEA afraid of? Quit trying to tear down Texas public education.

Jennifer Kennedy

Self

Bellevue, TX

Please respect teachers right to choose what organization they are using to support their occupation.

Cidney Kiger

Self

Liberty Hill, TX

I am for allowing Texas school district employees the option of utilizing payroll deduction to pay fees to the organization of their choice.

crystal Adams

Self

Teague, TX

Please stop hurting educators! These organizations help us with legal matters, professional learning and many more items.

Mark Terry

Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association (TEPSA)

Austin, TX

My name is Mark Terry, and I am a retired principal with 33 years of service in Texas public schools. I currently serve as the Deputy Executive Director of the Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association (TEPSA). I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 5019.

Since its founding in 1917, TEPSA has been dedicated to supporting the professional growth and leadership development of elementary principals, assistant principals, and supervisors throughout Texas. Each year, our members rely on TEPSA as a trusted source for ongoing, high-quality professional development. Our comprehensive programming covers Executive Leadership, Instructional Leadership, Human Capital, School Culture, and Strategic Operations.

The planning and execution of our annual professional development offerings, especially our flagship Summer Conference, is a year-long endeavor. This conference serves as the cornerstone of leadership training for Texas principals, bringing together educational leaders from across the state—urban, suburban, and rural—to share innovative practices and proven strategies for school success.

We are deeply concerned that HB 5019 would significantly hinder our ability to deliver this essential training. Requiring TEA approval for each element of our conference would introduce undue administrative burdens, jeopardizing the breadth and timeliness of professional development opportunities that our school leaders both need and are mandated to complete.

In addition to professional development, TEPSA plays a critical role in informing members about legislative changes and their implications for schools and communities. HB 5019 threatens this function by restricting our ability to provide commentary or analysis, thereby undermining our capacity to help school leaders navigate complex legislative developments. We do not endorse candidates or contribute to political campaigns—our advocacy is centered on delivering factual, relevant information to our members.

Furthermore, HB 5019 would eliminate the ability of principals, assistant principals, and supervisors to pay TEPSA membership dues through payroll deduction, an option routinely available to members of other professional associations. TEPSA is not a union, but rather a professional organization committed to the advancement of educational leadership.

In our view, HB 5019 would be a disservice to the thousands of school leaders across Texas who depend on TEPSA for professional learning, legislative guidance, and leadership support.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I welcome any questions or comments you may have.

Sincerely,

Mark Terry

Deputy Executive Director

Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association (TEPSA)

mark@tepsa.org

512-650-6286

Melissa ONeal

Self

Tyler, TX

Another day, another attack on public education. You are elected by the people and yet, you continue to fail your constituents by taking away their rights. Professional organizations for teachers are vital. Stop taking away our freedoms under false pretenses. The truth is that you feel threatened. Why else would you feel the need to neuter any group that opposes your political agenda.

Sid Tanner

Self

Perryton, TX

Please do not pass this. Teachers need to be able to belong to professional organizations and payroll deductions are the easiest way for that to happen

Belinda Davidson

Self

Amarillo, TX

Do not violate our rights!

Jennifer Brewer

Self

San angelo, TX

Stop telling teachers what organizations they may join and support. Teachers are free to make their own choices about their payroll deductions, including those for dues to organizations that keep them informed and that provide continuing education. The attacks on public schools and public school employees must stop. B 5019 is an assault on individual freedoms, and it must be stopped.

Laura Brown

Self

Spring, TX

This bill infringes on educators constitutional rights/ freedom of association and I am therefore against it.

Ryan Napier

self; educator

Denton, TX

As a Texas Music Educator, the Texas Music Educators Association is a valuable organization for professional growth, opportunities for Texas student musicians, and more. Payroll deductions are a way I can stay current and continue my growth to be the best educator I can be. Liability insurance is best offered through an organization like this and would be a conflict of interest if the state was the only path to liability insurance.

Shanda Beach

Self

Grapevine, TX

Please vote no. I depend on ATPE to answer questions when trust has broken down with my campus and district leadership. They also provide resources and professional development that makes me a better teacher.

Rachel Hall
Self/ Educator
Lubbock, TX

As a dedicated educator, I rely on my education association not just for support, but for critical resources that directly impact my ability to serve students effectively and safely. My association keeps me informed about policy changes, professional standards, and legislative developments that affect my classroom and community. They provide high-quality training, legal guidance, and most importantly, they represent my voice at key meetings and events across the state.

The proposal to eliminate payroll deductions for dues and prohibit the association from offering malpractice insurance would significantly harm educators like me. It would strip away our ability to easily and efficiently support an organization that ensures we're protected, prepared, and professionally equipped. Without the ability to access malpractice insurance through our association, many educators would be left vulnerable—despite being asked to make complex decisions daily under intense scrutiny.

This association is not a luxury—it is essential. It empowers educators, promotes student success, and helps ensure that teaching remains a respected, sustainable profession. I respectfully urge you to oppose this bill and continue to support the professionals working every day to educate and inspire the next generation.

Vote against HB 5019. Thank you for your time and your commitment to public education.

Paul Dunk
Self
Katy, TX

The state of Texas has no right to tell me as a teacher, how I spend my own money in my own paycheck. If I want to have money deducted out of my paycheck and sent to an association of my choice, that is my choice. Stop trying to undermine public schools and public school teachers. We know Republicans want to destroy public schools but we the people of Texas are no longer going to stand for it. Vote no on house bill 5019

Janie Rains
ATPE
Center, TX

I am against HB 5019! A school employee works for their money and I do not believe the state has the right to tell them how they can spend it. I was employed by a public school for 30 years and I belonged to ATPE. I joined in order to have liability insurance and to be informed of changes as they occurred.

Melissa Davis, Teacher
Self Teacher
North Richland hills, TX

I do not want this bill to pass. Teachers should be able to have our professional dues taken out pre tax and we do not want to give the state more money. We want our professional organizations to remain independent. Stop hating public education and public school teachers!!

Yvonne Perez
Tcta
Mission, TX

This is a HELP for staff members... One less thing staff needs to worry about.....b please keep it so that staff members can KEEP payroll deduction.

Amber Norris
Self-teacher
Lubbock, TX

I'm not in favor of this bill. Please do not support it. Payroll deductions should continue.

Misty Mitchell, Mrs.
Self
Victoria, TX

I oppose HB 5019 because it places unnecessary burdens on local governments and undermines transparency and community control. This bill reduces flexibility at the local level, increases compliance costs, and creates new bureaucratic obstacles without clear benefits to taxpayers. I urge lawmakers to vote NO on HB 5019 and protect local decision-making

Deborah Thomas
self
Georgetown, TX

This bill is an attempt to prevent teachers from having a voice in matters of education. It is important for any professional to have representation and at times a collective voice. That is how a democracy works. Advocating for teacher's rights is only a threat if there is intention to create an unjust system. I am not certain when teachers became the enemy but enough is enough. If you are reading this, it is a strong possibility that it is thanks to a teacher! Vote no for HB 5019!

Kasey Head
Self
Midlothian, TX

I am a public school teacher and while this bill seems like it's aiming at being politically neutral, I am against the fact that I would be represented by a "third party" would be representing me in case legal action arises. This seems like a government overreach to me which is something I thought Texas was against.

Samantha Stowe
self, teacher
Haslet, TX

As an educator and future educational leader, I strongly oppose HB 5019. This bill not only attacks my right to support my professional organization through payroll deduction, but it also jeopardizes the critical protections I rely on to do my job effectively.

My professional organization provides me with resources, training, and--most importantly--liability insurance that safeguards my career and peace of mind. Stripping this away and forcing educators to seek insurance from the same entity that could potentially prosecute them is a direct conflict of interest and an unacceptable overreach.

Bills like HB 5019 are distractions from the real work that needs to be done. If the legislature truly wants to improve public education, it should focus on fully funding our schools. Our students deserve updated materials, safe and well-maintained facilities, and the resources that enable meaningful learning. Educators deserve a living wage and professional respect--not punitive measures that strip away our support systems.

Please reject HB 5019 and instead prioritize policies that genuinely strengthen public education for our students and communities.

Sincerely,

Samantha Stowe
Public School Educator

Juan Trevino
Self
fort worth, TX

I want to have the right to choose my own payroll deductions.

Roshonya Cordero
Self
Nacogdoches, TX

Teachers are not given any way to protect ourself. Having organizations gives us some peace in knowing our rights are protected and we have support when needed. It's hard with all that is asked of us on and off contract hours to keep up with every thing regarding bills. Our organizations aid us in being educated. Removing these organizations and our protections is a slap in the face to teachers telling us we don't matter. We are the reason for all other professions.

Leighann Strickland
Self - teacher in public schools
Springtown, TX

I strongly oppose the HB 5019 and removal of the ability to have fees deducted from payroll. Also that it would ban my professional organization from offering liability and malpractice insurance. Forcing educators to rely solely on state-provided coverage creates an inherent conflict of interest—especially since the state is often the investigating or prosecuting body in cases of professional misconduct. This change would strip educators of an essential safeguard: the right to independent, unbiased legal protection. It undermines due process and erodes the professional security that all educators deserve.

Personal Statement:

As an educator, I rely on my professional organization not only for advocacy and training, but also for the peace of mind that comes from knowing I am protected against false or exaggerated claims. The legal coverage they provide gives me the confidence to do my job fully and fearlessly, focusing on students' education and needs without the constant worry of being left defenseless. Removing this support would leave teachers vulnerable and diminish the trust I have in the fairness of any investigative process.

Lori Stover
Self
Amarillo, TX

I appreciate the opportunity to provide my perspective on the significance of membership in the Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE) and the value of liability insurance for educators.

1. **Advocacy and Support:** Membership in ATPE connects educators with a robust network that advocates for their rights and interests. The association represents educators in legislative matters, fighting for fair pay, improved working conditions, and critical educational policies. This advocacy ensures that teachers' voices are heard and respected in the policymaking process.
2. **Professional Development:** ATPE offers a wealth of professional development resources, including workshops, conferences, and training programs. These opportunities help educators hone their skills, stay updated on best practices, and ultimately enhance student outcomes.
3. **Legal Protection and Liability Insurance:** Liability insurance is a crucial aspect of teaching, as it provides vital protection against potential legal claims. In today's environment, educators face various risks, from misunderstandings with parents to allegations of misconduct. Liability insurance ensures that educators are protected financially and legally, allowing them to focus on teaching without the constant worry of personal risk.
4. **Peace of Mind:** Knowing that professional liability insurance is in place allows educators to create a safe and effective learning environment. It empowers them to make instructional decisions confidently, knowing they have the support and protection necessary to navigate challenges.
5. **Community and Networking:** Being an ATPE member fosters a sense of community among educators. This network allows for collaboration, resource sharing, and mutual support, contributing to a more positive school culture and improved teacher retention.

In conclusion, membership in ATPE and the acquisition of liability insurance are not just beneficial but essential for educators. These elements provide necessary support, protect against potential legal issues, and offer avenues for professional growth. Supporting policies that promote membership in professional organizations and liability insurance will ultimately lead to a stronger, more resilient educational system in Texas.

Thank you for considering these points. I am happy to provide further information or answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,
Lori Stover

Danielle Lipe
Texas State Teachers Association
Lubbock, TX

Vote NO

Charles Layton
ATPE, College Staff
Alvin, TX

Public Comment on HB 5019 – Oppose

I strongly oppose House Bill 5019. This bill represents a direct infringement on educators' rights to freely associate and choose the organizations that represent and support them. Eliminating payroll deduction for professional membership dues is a deliberate attempt to weaken educator associations and limit our ability to organize effectively.

Furthermore, prohibiting professional organizations from offering continuing education credits for legislative updates is punitive and counterproductive. These updates are essential for educators to remain informed on policies that impact their profession and students.

Perhaps most concerning is the provision that would allow the state to unilaterally switch our professional liability insurance to an entity selected by the Texas Education Agency without our consent. This strips educators of their autonomy and ability to evaluate the best options for their professional protection.

HB 5019 is not about administrative efficiency or accountability. It is a politically motivated effort to suppress educators' voices and weaken the professional organizations that advocate on their behalf. I urge the committee to reject this bill and stand in support of Texas educators' rights and professional freedoms.

Liz Liz Luna
Lubbock Educators Association
Lamesa, TX

Please allow my school district take out fees from my paycheck. Having this is so such a relief for myself and others in Lubbock Educators Association organization. Thank you for your time

Lisa Chandler
Self
Cleburne, TX

I don't understand what the reason would be to stop districts being able to do a payroll deduction for teacher association dues. It hurts no one. Districts do deductions for insurance purchased outside of TRS, 403B plans, etc. It seems the only reason some would want this is to make it more difficult for teachers to join teachers associations. Yes, these associations lobby your offices to represent teachers' best interest and yes, they provide liability insurance. Without that, teachers would have to purchase from the state which, as we've seen this session, the state wants to cripple public schools and teachers. This bill is just another attack on teachers and serves no purpose other than that. You are supposed to pass legislation that is for the good of Texans. This bill does not do that. I respectfully ask that you vote against this bill

Kathie Thompson
TEPSA/ ATPE
Bogata, TX

These organizations provide meaningful and confidential assistance to educators when problems arise. Being an educator, you are at the mercy of mad parent, school board member and the public in general.

Gennie Westbrook
None
Cooper, TX

This bill is part of the long war against Texas public school teachers. During a time when I was undergoing unprofessional, probably illegal selective persecution and abuse of power by the superintendent in my former district, it was legal advice from my professional teacher organization that that coached me through the nightmare. Please protect teachers by opposing this bill.

Marcell Wilson

Self

Flint, TX

Leave the ability to join whatever professional organization I want alone. As teachers we need the ability to have representation from an entity of our choosing. Y'all have already done enough damage.

Carla Kerske

Self

Springtown, TX

I strongly oppose the HB 5019 and removal of the ability to have fees deducted from payroll. Also that it would ban my professional organization from offering liability and malpractice insurance. Forcing educators to rely solely on state-provided coverage creates an inherent conflict of interest—especially since the state is often the investigating or prosecuting body in cases of professional misconduct. This change would strip educators of an essential safeguard: the right to independent, unbiased legal protection. It undermines due process and erodes the professional security that all educators deserve.

Personal Statement:

As an educator, I rely on my professional organization not only for advocacy and training, but also for the peace of mind that comes from knowing I am protected against false or exaggerated claims. The legal coverage they provide gives me the confidence to do my job fully and fearlessly, focusing on students' education and needs without the constant worry of being left defenseless. Removing this support would leave teachers vulnerable and diminish the trust I have in the fairness of any investigative process.

Judy Connors, Mrs.

Self

HOUSTON, TX

Public school educators should be able to join their chosen professional organization. It is an opportunity to engage with educators throughout the state and receive support from other educators. Teaching is about teamwork and having a network of other educators is vital to enhancing the classroom experiences for students.

Holly Lambert, Director of Student Services and Testing

Self & Ingram ISD

Ingram, TX

Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to give input on this bill. I would like to respectfully voice my opposition to House Bill 5019.

While the bill aims to regulate school district contracts and payroll deductions, I have several concerns regarding its potential impact:

Infringement on Employee Rights: By prohibiting payroll deductions for dues or membership fees to professional organizations not established or managed by a governmental entity, the bill may infringe upon employees' rights to freely associate and support organizations of their choosing.

Limitation on Educational Resources: The bill mandates that training provided to school employees must be approved by the agency, including approval of content, timing, manner, and location. This could limit the diversity of educational resources available to educators and may hinder professional development opportunities.

Potential Overreach: The broad definitions and restrictions in the bill could lead to unintended consequences, potentially affecting a wide range of organizations and activities that are currently beneficial to school employees and the education system.

I urge the committee to reconsider this bill or significantly revise it to address these concerns. Thank you for your time and attention.

Lacie Holland
Self
McKinney, TX

This makes no sense and is a conflict of interest to force teachers to purchase liability insurance through the state if, in fact, being prosecuted by the state.

Betty Sanders
Self; retired teacher
Taft, TX

I am against this bill. I realize that teachers' organizations are sometimes difficult entities, but they are supportive of public school teachers. This bill just makes the teaching profession a little bit harder. Support teachers in public education by voting NO.

Autumn Caro
Self, Educator
Corpus Christi, TX

On Tuesday the House Public I oppose bill 5019, a bill that attempts to gut educators' freedom of association. HB 5019 would:

- Eliminate my ability to choose payroll deduction to pay membership dues for ATPE and similar organizations;
- Prohibit ATPE from offering continuing professional education credit for legislative updates; and
- Switch my professional liability insurance without my consent to an entity handpicked by TEA.

I urge you to recognise HB 5019 as a politically motivated assault against educators. Professional educator associations are necessary to keep an open communication and advocacy regarding safety, salary, fair working conditions, and safe working conditions. I chose my professional organization, a non-union, based on my belief in reasonable requests for the teaching profession to continue in a safe and fair occupation, as well as any occupation of high quality. Please allow me to pay as I choose and insure as we choose, through a delegation, as an organization.

Anita Young Wolfe
Self
Mesquite, TX

What happened to the Republican party and smaller government? Please stay out of my right to professional representation.

Melissa Wells
Self- teacher
Lubbock, TX

Vote NO! Educators should be allowed to have payroll deductions from whichever organizations we choose.

Kylie Garza
TSTA/LEA
Lubbock, TX

As teachers we are VASTLY underpaid for the work we do. We are GROSSLY underpaid for where inflation is at in 2025. We have the government banning books in our libraries, we have parents on our backs about their own children's behavior, we have state standards that are driving us into the ground...and now our union rights will be taken away. Please do not take away one of the only things we have left to protect ourselves.

Robyn Little
Self
Wichita Falls, TX

Please do not take away teacher's ability to be a part of a professional organization that provides legal defense. Teachers do not have the financial ability to afford to protect themselves if they are wrongfully terminated or have to defend against egregious lawsuits over false claims. Please, please protect our state's teachers by allowing for payroll deductions for and legal defense through these professional organizations that every profession has (or should have) access to!

Meredith Poe, Ms
Self - 4th grade teacher Lubbock ISD
Lubbock, TX

This is ridiculous. Why are you sabotaging public educators in this way? We pour our lives into students each and every day and the TSTA is a protective means should anything happen legally. They are FOR us. You seem to be fully AGAINST us. Why? Stripping us of the very organization that would advocate for us, and also take away payroll deductions? Good grief. Take a good hard look at who this would benefit from this - because it is NOT educators. Please do not pass this HB 5019!

Tammie Harness
Self
El Lago, TX

I should have the RIGHT to choose an organization to support teachers. I want to be able to have payroll deduction for payment to the organization that would offer me support should I be involved in a lawsuit related to my job! Teaching is extremely challenging.

Will Wilson
Self
San Angelo, TX

Teachers are already prevented from striking or collective bargaining. Now you want to strip our autonomy in protecting ourselves through teacher organizations that are working for our benefit. The state already has too much power over teachers. Texas will see a greater teacher shortage by taking away the little power we do have.

Jennifer Hill
Self/Teacher
San Antonio, TX

This is another unfair attack of educators. Most of our educator organizations use payroll deductions for dues. By eliminating this process, you are attacking educator organizations and trying to limit their membership. Educators rely on these organizations for liability insurance and representation to fight for our rights.

Randy Burkhalter
Self
Lubbock, TX

I am a special education teacher in Texas and I live my association that has helped me a couple of times with minor issues. I do not think it is ethical for the state to now allow me to continue my membership with my association and be forced to purchase form the state protection when the state would be the prosecution. Stop harming hard working teachers that only want what is best for Texas students.

Blythe Chapman

Self

Amarillo, TX

Please do not take away our freedom as educators to have payroll deduction for educator membership dues. Being aloof an educator association is of vital importance but the cost had been hard to take on all at once. Allowing us to continue to have payroll deduction does not cost tax payers anything and does not hurt anyone. Why would you want to limit offering educators continuing credit hours for learning more about how government works? Shouldn't educators be informed so that we can better teach our students about civic duty and responsibilities?

Doctors are allowed to choose who they receive malpractice insurance through. Texas educators deserve the same right. I DO NOT want my choices limited by TEA. Please do not take away our ability to choose for ourselves who we want to have for liability insurance. As a 19 year educator, this bill is disheartening. Teaching has become harder and harder and as a teacher who has been hit and verbal assaulted, give me reasons to stay in education, do not take away my choices! I and every educator deserves the opportunity to make their own decisions on what organizations to be apart of and the liability insurance that covers us.

Anne Marie Rusche

Denton

Denton, TX

This bill is unethical and a conflict of interest on the part of the State of Texas. I have a right to choose who represents me!

Theresa Stevens

Self

Lubbock, TX

Please vote against HB5019. This bill takes away of voice and our choice as educators.

Brett Rusche

Denton

Denton, TX

I have taught and coached in Texas for 30 years. Texas no longer cares about doing what's right for teachers!

Karyn Lewis

School librarian

Katy, TX

As a member of the Texas Library Association, I am able to purchase liability insurance to use in the case of any complaint filed against me as a school librarian. I understand that this bill may take the ability for associations such as these from providing liability insurance to its members. I find this to be unreasonable seeing as the only other alternative would then to purchase such coverage from the state. Unlike my chosen association, the state entity would not understand my job or position as fully as a representative working with TLA. If I am to be fairly represented, I feel I should be able to purchase my insurance policy from a knowledgeable organization. Please vote NO on this bill for this and many other reasons.

Thank you,

Karyn Lewis

Tammye Walker

Tsta

Lancaster, TX

Oppose

Sandra Kendell, Ms.
Self/Instructional Designer
Round Rock, TX

As I'm reading the text of the HB 5019 on May 5, 2025, it's asking school districts to contract with an entity to provide liability insurance for employees at the employees' expense AND stipulating that entity cannot be involved in lobbying which would kill educator advocacy orgs like TCTA, ATPE, TSTA, and others. (P 4 L 5 - P 5 L 12). The bill also tries to significantly reduce membership in TCTA, ATPE, TSTA, etc., by not allowing payroll deductions to organizations or associations "not established or managed by a governmental entity" (P 5 L 15-20).

This is an obvious attempt to undermine teacher advocacy groups and silence their collective voices in Austin. As a career Texas educator of over 30 years and an active voter, I encourage your committee to reject the portions of the bill I referenced above. Public school teachers and employees, who are the real experts on public education in Texas, should continue to have the right to join and select their liability insurance from organizations representing their interests and should also be able to participate in those organizations and their collective advocacy through payroll deduction. There is already a teacher shortage in Texas. If laws like these portions of HB 5019 are enacted, Texas will become a less appealing place for teachers to seek employment.

I am concerned about the current state of public education and the environment for public educators in Texas. I will closely watch how this legislation progresses and encourage my fellow Texas educators to do the same.

Linda Moncivais
ATPE
Pharr, TX

I should have the right to select my association.

Carmen Perry
Self - Teacher
Bogata, TX

Please do not take away my payroll deductions. Please don't choose somebody other than ATPE for me. I should be able to choose, I choose my electric company, car insurance, where I work, where I live, where I went to college....and yet, you want to take away my freedom to choose who represents me? I have been with ATPE for 7 years and they have been affordable and there for all of my questions. Thank you.

Tammy Davis
Self/Dyslexia Specialist and SPED Teacher
Center, TX

I feel that as a Public School teacher I am being attacked in so many ways. This bill is truly a violation of my rights to have representation and protection as an educator as well as my right to choose who I want representing me. I have devoted 30+ years of my life loving, guiding, advocating for and teaching children. I do not feel valued or appreciated for the job I put my heart and soul into everyday. Countless hours are spent working at home in the evenings and on weekends with no extra pay. Even the most violent criminal gets representation in our court systems. Teachers deserve more. Please keep my thoughts close at heart as you consider this and so many other attacks on educators. After all, I'm sure most of you learned so many skills and life lessons from a teacher.

Thank you for taking time to consider my thoughts and feelings!

Lindsey Jameyson
Public School Teacher
Liberty Hill, TX

I do not support HB 5019. As an educator I have worked in schools and districts who are not able to give advice nor support a teacher with legal matters. An example of this is like driving a car without car insurance. If your in accident and hit by someone you need legal protection so you can get the help needed. Same for teachers! The peace of mind k owing that I have legal protection in the instance that I may be falsely accused is something that keeps me in my field. If I did not have legal protection I would not keep teaching. Knowing that we have trained professionals who can represent and educate us at both the state and federal level helps teachers have voice. We often times cannot attend events at the capital due to distance and time constraints due to full time jobs. If this bill is passed I believe you will see an even larger number of teachers leaving the profession. This is sad to even see conversations like this taking up time in committed. We need to be focused on school safety, school funding and teacher pay.

Karla Fuerst, Ms.
Self - Teacher
Tomball, TX

Do not support HB 5019! America is about freedom! You are trying to remove rights from teachers!!! Shame on you!

Jeanne Hale
Self
Weatherford, TX

I urge you to not pass HB5019. It is bullying teachers by not allowing organizations that protect them. Teachers can barely pay bills now. If monthly payroll deductions are taken this will only become worse.

Kami Finger, Asst. Superintendent
Lubbock ISD
Lubbock, TX

Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I would like to respectfully voice my opposition to House Bill 5019.

While the bill aims to regulate school district contracts and payroll deductions, I have several concerns regarding its potential impact:

Infringement on Employee Rights: By prohibiting payroll deductions for dues or membership fees to professional organizations not established or managed by a governmental entity, the bill may infringe upon employees' rights to freely associate and support organizations of their choosing.

Limitation on Educational Resources: The bill mandates that training provided to school employees must be approved by the agency, including approval of content, timing, manner, and location. This could limit the diversity of educational resources available to educators and may hinder professional development opportunities.

The bill could stifle innovation and the overall desire to improve by demonstrating best practices beyond what the state agency has identified as best practice. Additionally it may reduce the desire to model for other professionals effective systems, processes and practices that can be replicated across our state.

Potential Overreach: The broad definitions and restrictions in the bill could lead to unintended consequences, potentially affecting a wide range of organizations and activities that are currently beneficial to school employees and the education system.

I urge the committee to reconsider this bill or significantly revise it to address these concerns. Thank you for your time and attention.

Ana Osth
Self
College Sta, TX

It is a conflict of interest to block the services and support offered to teachers by these organizations. You are looking to screw a group of people that already give a lot. What recourse does a teacher have? No one is looking out for the teacher, least of all the state. Don't make it harder for teachers to protect themselves.

Jennifer Ramsey

Self

Fort Worth, TX

Oppose HB 5019 – Respect Teachers' Voices and Professional Rights

HB 5019 is a misguided bill that threatens teachers' autonomy and professional security in Texas. At its core, this bill is based on a misunderstanding of what teachers' organizations actually do in our state—and it ignores the real challenges educators face.

Texas teachers cannot collectively bargain. That means professional organizations are not labor unions in the traditional sense—they are essential resources for legal support, liability protection, and professional development. These organizations help educators stay informed about policy changes, classroom best practices, and their rights under the law.

HB 5019 seeks to limit teachers' ability to choose and support these organizations by restricting paycheck deductions for membership fees and professional insurance. But public employees already make these choices voluntarily. Preventing them from making paycheck elections strips them of an efficient, transparent, and simple method of supporting the services they rely on.

Teachers need a voice. They deserve the ability to purchase independent professional liability insurance and to be represented by an objective third-party carrier. Eliminating access to these supports leaves educators more vulnerable—at a time when they are already under intense public scrutiny, political pressure, and economic strain.

Texas should be working to retain and respect its teachers—not silence or weaken them.

I urge lawmakers to reject HB 5019 and stand with educators by protecting their right to make informed, independent choices.

Respectfully Submitted

Jennifer Ramsey

Sharon Brown

Self/educator

Crosby, TX

I have been an educator in states where teacher union membership was required, and those unions had the ability to support educators and, in turn, the students of their state. Texas does not require teachers to be members of a union, nor do the teacher unions have power. They do provide information about issues that affect teachers and students, and they offer support to teachers who have grievances with their districts. It is my understanding that not only does this legislation make it more difficult for teachers to get access to information that helps us better educate our students, but it also will require teachers to purchase their liability/malpractice insurance from the state of Texas. This appears to be a conflict of interest, seeing as the state is often the party investigating and prosecuting educators. You are taking away our opportunity to choose from a selection of professional organizations, as well as legal representation, if needed. Please uphold the rights of educators to have access to professional organizations and fair legal representation that is not provided by the entity that may be prosecuting us.

Tamela Crawford

Self

Midlothian, TX

As a conservative and a school district employee, I am writing to strongly oppose House Bill 5019 in its entirety. While I understand the goal of reform, this bill goes too far in expanding government control while undercutting the tools educators rely on to do their jobs effectively and safely.

Here are my core concerns:

1. **HB 5019 Expands Government Instead of Limiting It:** The bill creates a new state-run program to replace services already provided efficiently through private professional associations. This approach contradicts core conservative principles of limited government and free-market competition. Rather than reducing the state's role, HB 5019 increases bureaucracy and state interference in areas better left to individuals and local control.

2. **It Undermines Educators' Rights and Support Systems:** Many educators choose to join associations not for politics, but for vital protections like liability insurance and legal help. Stripping payroll deduction and replacing it with a state-sponsored alternative — where advocacy is banned — weakens the support system teachers trust. It sends a message that the state wants more control over what services educators can access and who they can rely on.

3. **It Compromises Employee Privacy and Autonomy:** Requiring school districts to share employee information with state-approved vendors sets a dangerous precedent. Public employees should not be forced into contact with state-contracted service providers, especially without their explicit consent. This is a clear violation of personal and professional boundaries.

HB 5019 is not a step forward for Texas schools or conservative governance. It weakens employee support, grows state bureaucracy, and interferes with individual choice — all while doing nothing to address the real challenges facing educators and students.

I respectfully urge you to vote NO on HB 5019.

Sincerely,

Tamela Crawford

Shane Burk

TSTA

Lubbock, TX

Please vote NO

Katie Read

TSTA, TEDA, NEA, LEA

Lubbock, TX

Ridiculous in my opinion. This actually HELPS teachers because we know that we have security in our jobs!!! Not having to remember to pay it each year and having the benefit to pay it out month by month is a HUGE relief for my budget!!! Please leave it the way it is!!!

Lauren Hickman

Self- public educator

Lubbock, TX

Vote against this bill!

Kristine Koder

Self, Classroom Teacher

Pittsburg, TX

If we can't do payroll deductions, we won't be able to protect ourselves. I have used the services of ATPE since 1997. On my salary, I can't afford to pay the whole year at one time. Please reconsider this bill.

Karla Bailey Harris

Self

Lake Jackson, TX

Do not pass this bill. You've taken everything else away from us. I'm so disappointed in the Republican Party. I will no longer vote for anyone that doesn't support public

Cameran Umscheid, Reading Support Teacher

Self-educator

San Antonio, TX

I oppose HB 5019.

Kristin Bolt

Self

Montgomery, TX

It is unconstitutional for the insurance to be bought through the state when the state is the one to be prosecuting. Additionally, all other professions can have their professional organizations fees deducted from payroll. Why vilify the teaching profession in such a way.

Rebecca Meeks, Mrs.

Self

Lubbock, TX

This bill would be detrimental to me and my profession as a school counselor. My teacher organization provides me additional legal resources that protect me as a counselor that I would not be able to access otherwise. The ease of payroll deduction makes sure that my coverage is constant and seamless and that those protections are readily available to me in when I need them. I deal with very private and personal situations with students that can literally be life changing and with my guidance could impact student lives. This comes with a heavy burden of the possibility I may be called to court and I am comforted that I have legal resources through my organization to guide me in the process. This also provides me protection should I ever need it to deal with parents or even my employer. Removing these contracts and payroll deduction would be very harmful to my piece of mind and my ability to do my job with surety and confidence.

Bridget Thomas

self; teacher

Conroe, TX

Please leave this one alone. You all have gutted us, refuse to fund us, please stop attacking educators. Membership dues for our protection are (clearly) not standing in the way of you all accomplishing your (what seems to be nefarious) goals. I have memberships primarily for the insurance and potential need for legal direction given that we have to be careful with Texas' most vulnerable population (our students). I've only ever sought advice once, and it was to protect a student that was involved in a custody battle. Overall, this will be viewed as just another attack on a very hard working segment of the Texas population...one that does not forget easily. Please, do not support, vote for, or move this forward.

Lindsey Jeffrey

Self

Goldthwaite, TX

On Tuesday the House Public Education Committee will hear House Bill (HB) 5019, a bill that attempts to gut educators' freedom of association. HB 5019 would:

- Eliminate your ability to choose payroll deduction to pay membership dues for ATPE and similar organizations;
- Prohibit ATPE from offering continuing professional education credit for legislative updates; and
- Switch your professional liability insurance without your consent to an entity handpicked by TEA.

HB 5019 is a politically motivated assault on educators' constitutional rights.

Brandi Couch

Self

Lubbock, TX

Vote No! We have a right to have our dues deducted from payroll and to have representation of our choice. There is absolutely no reason to take those rights away.

Sammie Minchew

Self

Liberty, TX

I am a retired teacher after 40 years in the classroom. During those years I appreciated my membership in professional organizations for many reasons including:

- They advocated for teacher rights and for our profession
- Through professional journals, newsletters, and conventions, etc., they help teachers stay current on best practices
- They facilitate connection with colleagues to collaborate and share ideas

Considering the benefits of professional organizations for teachers and in turn for their schools and students, I am asking you to continue to allow payroll deductions for the dues for professional organizations.

Ami Glover

Self

Georgetown, TX

Support/in favor of this bill, as it will add some much needed guardrails to ensure information isn't being provided through an echo chamber.

Thank You,

Ami Glover

Mary Tanner

Self and Public Education

Irving, TX

I oppose this bill

Stephanie Landgraf

self - business development manager

Austin, TX

I urge all to vote in opposition to this bill.

Carolyn Foote

Self - Retired

Austin, TX

Against this bill. IT just makes it easier for teachers, so why waste time with this bill unless the goal is to discourage teachers from belonging to professional organizations.

Kelly Miller, Teacher

Self

Amarillo, TX

Do not pass

Angela Ewing, Ms.

UTA

Mansfield, TX

UTA and its resources have helped me when I needed them. The monthly dues are not high, but being able to have them automatically deducted is a great help. The benefit of a lawyer is very helpful in today's crazy society where parents try to sue for any little thing. Teachers sacrifice a LOT for minimal pay and the state should be supportive, not taking away even more than they already have. Please DO NOT vote to take away payroll deductions for organizations.

Remi Connolly

Self - Special Education Teacher

Grapevine, TX

My professional organization covers more than liability insurance. There are grievances within school districts and schools, and teachers deserve an organization that help them navigate difficult situations. Liability claims are a very small percentage of what organizations help support. These organizations help protect teachers.

Sandra Downs

Retired

Bedford, TX

I am absolutely in support of this bill. It will go a long way in solving our education problems. It would shift purchasing from TASA/TASB to the state, which has a larger buying power---saving money on the purchase as well as on the fees paid to TASA/TASB. It allows teachers to obtain liability insurance without having to join a teachers union. It also restricts relying on lobbyist (with commission goals) to train school board trustees (whose only goals should be what is best for their local children's education).

Terri Walling, Mrs.

Self

San Angelo, TX

Please do not take away our payroll deduction option for the teacher organizations we belong to! And please don't take away our organizations' offering of lawyers/legal aid! Haven't yall taken enough away from us? Can we please get some respect from Austin?

Katherine Parrish Whitbeck

ATPE

Nacogdoches, TX

I do not appreciate Capriglione denying my freedom to choose what deductions I may take from paycheck, limit my education, and prevent me from having excellent liability insurance. I vote no to HB 5019. I hope Rep. Joann Shofner listens to her constituency.

Jennifer Kurtzhaks
Self teacher 28 years
Jacksboro, TX

As a dedicated educator, I strongly oppose HB 5019. This bill not only attacks my right to support my professional organization through payroll deduction, but it also jeopardizes the critical protections I rely on to do my job effectively.

My professional organization provides me with resources, training, and--most importantly--liability insurance that safeguards my career and peace of mind. Stripping this away and forcing educators to seek insurance from the same entity that could potentially prosecute them is a direct conflict of interest and an unacceptable overreach.

Bills like HB 5019 are distractions from the real work that needs to be done. If the legislature truly wants to improve public education, it should focus on fully funding our schools. Our students deserve updated materials, safe and well-maintained facilities, and the resources that enable meaningful learning. Educators deserve a living wage and professional respect--not punitive measures that strip away our support systems.

Please reject HB 5019 and instead prioritize policies that genuinely strengthen public education for our students and educators.
Jennifer Kurtzhals
Public School Educator 28 years

Aarti Pani
Self
Sugar land, TX

No on 5019. Professional organizations are vital.

Laura Patterson
Self/Elementary Teacher
Lubbock, TX

Why?

Katherine Johanns
Self / Marketing Director
Austin, TX

Throughout the majority of my career, I have worked for and with multiple organizations that would be affected by this bills and others of its type. The rhetoric surrounding this bill couldn't be further from reality. In fact, I watched a video this afternoon from a bill proponent that suggested public school teachers are paying membership dues to the Texas Association of School Boards via payroll deduction. That is just factually inaccurate. Instead, you have public school teachers and other public servants paying dues via payroll deduction as a personal budgeting mechanism so they have access to professional liability insurance, professional development opportunities, leadership and networking platforms, and—what seems to be the biggest issue of all for bill proponents—a means of exercising their constitutionally protected right to associate so they have some chance of having a voice at the Capitol. In fact, many teachers choose payroll deduction so they have access to liability insurance from day one of their job without having to pay dues before they receive their first paycheck. Did you know most new teachers work for a full month before seeing a paycheck? A full month in which they must purchase new clothes and classroom supplies and often put down apartment deposits?

My younger brother went to the University of Illinois to earn his PhD in 2018 before the Janus v. AFSCME Supreme Court decision. He was incredulous when I told him he would have to pay agency fees as a graduate student teaching assistant. I explained that in non-right-to-work states, it was a condition of employment. I also explained that in Texas, that it had never been an issue—and that in fact I had worked many years for organizations that fought hard to make sure it never was, that no one was forced to join an organization. I am proud to have done that. Coerced union membership is wrong. And that's why I am so disgusted by this bill and others like it. It glosses over the truth in Texas and in fact the truth in the entire United States after the Janus v. AFSCME decision. No one is being forced or coerced to join an association, and the only reason these bills get filed is politics.

My brother did have to pay agency dues, until Janus v. AFSCME. And, for once, he had to admit his older sister was right about something. And I hope upon consideration you will agree that I am right about this, too. This bill and others like it are the proverbial "solution" looking for a problem.

Deborah Adams
Self-teacher
Bacliff, TX

There is no good reason for the state to bar us from making contributions through payroll for our professional organization dues. It is also ridiculous for the state to disallow our professional organization the ability to offer us much needed legal protection. The state needs to leave teachers alone. Our job is hard enough without us having to constantly fight against the state that should be doing everything in its power to help us be successful. Why would you not allow us to get insurance wherever we want to? Teachers get sued by parents all the time for ridiculous things. You are going to have a harder and harder time getting quality teachers if you keep undermining the profession, making it more difficult for workers to have the rights they should be afforded without objection.

Ray Pieniasek
Agriculture Teachers Association of Texas
Austin, TX

It continues to amaze me that our legislature chooses to limit and discredit our teachers abilities. This bill would restrict the associations by which teachers have representation to provide them with resources to be better teachers. If an association chooses to advocate for their teachers it is no different than an association of auto workers or laborers or real estate agents. This bill would also restrict what type of liability insurance that a teacher can purchase. I would no doubt believe that any liability insurance that the state government would provide would be restrictive and limit the protections of the teacher. Allow them to choose their own through whatever group provides it for them. Our association supports teachers with a wide variety of issues to make them feel supported. This bill does not support teacher nor school districts. I urge you not to send this on to the full house. Respect is all out teachers desire - this bill does not do that.

Tracy Shannon
self
Kingwood, TX

This short bill would go a long way to fixing our broken local ISDs. This bill would STOP the terrible (conflict of interest) practice of relying almost exclusively on lobbyists to train school board trustees. It would also shift purchasing co-ops away from TASA/TASB or other entities to the state which has larger buying power. Think, cost savings. Also, it eliminates one of the excuses Superintendents and Board Presidents use to justify paying TASB tens of thousands of dollars (or more) each year.

Finally, this offers teachers a way to purchase liability insurance without having to join a union, I mean "association." It does a few other things.

How to support this - focus on the fact that we say we believe in "local control" but with such heavy influence of trainers who are also lobbyists, the best interests of the constituents of an ISD tend to get ignored, and it shows in the unanimous voting of board members, failure to ask substantial questions, or pressure against good board members who do. You can say your own words or as simple as:

Please support this bill. This short bill would go a long way to fixing our broken local ISDs. This bill would STOP the terrible (conflict of interest) practice of relying almost exclusively on lobbyists to train school board trustees. It would also shift purchasing co-ops away from TASA/TASB or other entities to the state which has larger buying power. Think, cost savings. Also, it eliminates one of the excuses Superintendents and Board Presidents use to justify paying TASB tens of thousands of dollars (or more) each year.

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Please support this bill.

Fern Mossman
Self
Prosper, TX

Please support HB 5019

Judy McLeod
Self
College Sta, TX

Stop the attack on public school employees.

Sarah Adamson
self - retired educator
Granbury, TX

This law is NOT needed as Texas teachers are forbidden by law to join a union. The teacher organizations that exist simply aid teacher in a variety of way. They do not represent teachers in court or act as a union.

Terry Kosobud
Grandparents for Public Schools
Austin, TX

Please vote "no" on this bill. Yet again the Texas Lege is trying to interfere with existing systems which function well. Figuring out how to fully fund our schools is a tremendously better use of your time than this bill.

Michael Hurewitz
self
Austin, TX

Please oppose this bill!

Mike McGlothern
Self -Teacher
Contoe, TX

Vote No on HB 6019

Ryan Monceaux Ryan Monceaux
Self
Baytown, TX

I am very much against this proposal. I do not want the state to be in charge of representing me against the state. This is a textbook conflict of interest.

Minda Anderson
Self
Austin, TX

Please vote against this bill so that I can have professional liability insurance not provided by the state.

Colleen Twining
Self teacher
Lubbock, TX

Vote no

Carrie Martin
Self
Denton, TX

I deserve to choose my professional organization!

Bridget Brame
self
Georgetown, TX

My family and friends SUPPORT this bill. Please support this bill. We believe this bill will go a long way to restoring local control and common sense.

Kevin Clark
Town of Sunnyvale, Town Councilmember
Sunnyvale, TX

Dear Legislative Committee Members,

I strongly oppose HB 5019 because it undermines local control and creates unnecessary hurdles for school districts. In short, here's why:

1. Centralized Control Hurts Local Needs:

The bill forces school boards to get all training approved by the state (TEA), ignoring unique community challenges. Local leaders know their districts best—this “one-size-fits-all” approach stifles innovation and slows down solutions tailored to our students’ needs.

2. Wastes Time and Money:

Mandating TEA approval adds red tape, delaying critical training for school boards. Plus, banning cooperative purchasing programs (which save money through group buying) means higher costs for supplies and services. Why make districts pay more when they're already stretched thin?

3. Targets Local Advocacy:

HB 5019 blocks partnerships with nonprofits that have lobbyists—even if those groups provide expert training or cost-saving services. This is a political move to silence organizations like the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) and the Texas Association of School Administrators (TASA) that advocate for local schools. In addition, this bill will silence the Texas Municipal League (TML) that advocates for city's. Communities lose their voice when collaboration is punished.

In short, HB 5019 weakens local decision-making, wastes resources, and harms schools’ ability to serve students and city's ability to serve it's citizens effectively. Let’s keep control where it belongs: in our communities. I would urge you to oppose this bill and to let your legislators know, especially members of the House Public Education committee.

Thank you for your consideration and allowing me to vent on this issue. Please let me know if you have an questions or need additional information on this subject.

Thank you,

Kevin

Darenda Ashby
Self
Hale Center, TX

I oppose this bill on behalf of teachers like myself who do not want TEA involved in any part of the organizations for teachers. We have a right to choose how we pay. Leave our teacher organizations alone.

Jeri Willis
Self School Bus Driver
Boerne, TX

Please do not abolish our choice of what and how comes out of our check!

Katherine M Patrick
None
Fort Worth, TX
Stop

TERRI Fontenot

self

Fort Worth, TX

Please drop this bill. I already do not receive adequate compensation and now you want to tell me what I can have taken out of my paycheck? I can get legal help from the state? NO! How about you spend money fixing educator insurance? You all wasted time and money on ESA's that will do nothing but gut public education. Please look at what you are doing to our public education. I am ending year 22 and want what is best for our kids!

Michael Owens

Self

Mount Enterprise, TX

Vote no

Holly Holder

Self - educator

Amarillo, TX

Texas teachers have dedicated their entire career to support Texas students. We deserve to be able to belong to organizations that support us!! Please vote to ensure that payroll deductions and insurance remain within reach of Texas teachers!!

Brittany Wright

Self

Lubbock, TX

Ugh - this is never ending. Please leave us alone. All we want to do is teach and have protection and resources while we do it. Payroll deduction doesn't impact you in anyway and you should support teachers having legal representation because everyone has that fundamental right.

Judy Williams

Self. Customer service representative for an insurance agency and reading tutor

Decatur,, TX

Please support this bill. I believe that this bill will be beneficial to restore local control and common sense.

Daina Alston

Self, Teacher

New Caney, TX

Schools should be able to continue payroll deductions for teacher organizations. Also, since those organizations provide liability insurance, we should be able to keep our insurance through them. Please do more to support public school teachers, not hamper them.

Jesse Goodwin

Self

Houston, TX

I am opposed to the requirement that liability insurance be obtained through the state, as they would be the prosecutors.

Cathy Hooper

Self-retired

Henderson, TX

Texas does not have unions. We do have professional organizations and teachers should be encouraged to use them, not discouraged by making it more difficult.

Phillip Sanders

Self

Katy, TX

Keep payroll deductions for teacher professional organizations

Melissa Long

Self

Allen, TX

As a teacher, I should not be paying dues for legal representation to the state that may be suing me. At the very least this a conflict of interest. This is a waste of time and unnecessary. It is suspect why this would even be on the floor. Are you all trying to railroad teachers? There is enough problem with quality teacher retention for the students in our state. Why on earth would a legislator put something as unnecessary as this out there?

Melissa Isaacs

Self

Gause, TX

Please vote against. As a former school employee, I relied on my professional organization to give timely information relevant to my subject matter. They also provided an outlet to purchase liability insurance which imo every professional educator needs. Payroll deductions should be allowed for services and dues to education related organizations.

Calvin Sham

self--educator

Lavon, TX

I, an educator, am a member of ATPE and will continue to pay membership dues. Incompetent administrators who have been in positions of leadership have verbally reprimanded me for the most minor infractions, that do not violate campus or state policies, and without the support of ATPE, they would have succeeded if not been held accountable by professional organizations like TCTA and ATPE. Please vote no to this bill, as teachers need to be able to their concerns in a professional manner.

Diane Payne

Self

Bandera, TX

As educators, we have the right to choose our teacher organizations as we see fit and and have access to payroll deductions. We are certainly intelligent individuals and can also choose our liability insurance.

Jennifer Ellis

CISD/self

Corsicana, TX

Educators should get to choose how they support themselves and what they can do with their paycheck.

Shannon Helms

Self - Special Education Teacher

Lubbock, TX

Please vote no on this bill. Our teacher organizations do so much to help us teachers. I feel like it would be a complete conflict of interest to make teachers get liability insurance from the state if they were getting prosecuted by the same people. Everyone deserves due process, and that would be a conflict. We also should have the right to have our payroll deduction of fees. Why are you trying to harm teachers? These organizations help stand up for us and do so many things. Please vote no.

Mary Payen

Self

Abilene, TX

This is unlawful

Jayne Adair

Self

Huntsville, TX

This bill is completely inappropriate for the public educators of Texas. Teachers should be able to self-select their advocates and should be able to also deduct dues from their own paychecks. Having the state involved in this process is a conflict of interest at best. Do not let this bill out of committee.

Thank you.

Danelle Schwertner

Self - business owner/School board member - Miles ISD

Miles, TX

As a school board member at Miles ISD, this bill is asinine and I am completely against it. Why is the legislature wanting to squash our ability to get training from TASB or any similar organization that includes helping us with our political advocacy? We agree that public schools should not be political, but the legislature and the leaders of this state have spent decades making it political, anyway. If you tie our hands, it is just another large step in removing local control. This entire bill is a farce.

Kellie Rogers

Self

Winnie, TX

As a school employee, it is helpful to have payroll deduction for dues to professional organizations. They are responsible for keeping education employees informed about current legislation on both sides of the aisle. Malpractice insurance is a welcome addition to this partnership.

Cristi Bright

Self, teacher

Amarillo, TX

I should have a right to decide what premiums and funds are withdrawn from my paycheck. Teachers are harshly judged by students performance on STAAR exams on which we have no control over attitude and effort, we cannot afford to be further constrained by representation, control of our own funds, and highly limited healthcare options. Please allow us to keep our choices in pay, insurance, and professional representation.

Ashley Quintana

Self

Benbrook, TX

Please vote against HB 5019. School employees should be able to be a member of their organization and should be allowed to deduct dues from their payroll if they choose to do that. The state should not get to control how a school employee decides to spend their own money. School employees should be allowed to have the support from a professional organization, just as other professions do.

Whitney Kenney

Self

Celina, TX

I am in favor of HB 5019. PLEASE put teachers, students, and taxpayers first by adopting this bill. Please address the issue of organizations that lobby and electioneer with taxpayers dollars. It is unacceptable!!

Christin Bentley, SD-1 State Republican Executive Committeewoman

Self

Winona, TX

TASB is a political organization that uses tax payer dollars to lobby against tax payers. Please pass this bill.

Bonnie Wallace

Self

Llano, TX

TASB pushes School Boards to keep porn, profane & indecent content which rapes children's minds. Vote YES for this bill!

David Williams

Self

Keller, TX

Please do not support this bill. It is my money and should be my decision if I want to pay due and buy liability insurance. This is another slap in the face of educators.

Laura Giles

Self

Lucas, TX

Yes please pass this bill to save taxpayer dollars!

Anne Newman

Self

Boerne, TX

Please vote for this bill. It is much needed.

Rachel Preston

self/teacher

austin, TX

I oppose this bill. As a teacher, I believe I deserve the right to direct how my salary is spent, which this bill seeks to restrict. Once my salary is disbursed, these funds are no longer taxpayer dollars - it is my compensation, and I and others should have the right to choose payroll deduction with my own money for professional organizations.

Shannon O'Neill

Self - Teacher

Katy, TX

If professional dues can be taken out of legislator's paychecks (or even paid by the taxpayers), then other employees who serve the state's children should be granted the same right/courtesy. The clear reason for ending payroll deductions, which is allowed in other professions, is to reduce the ability of teachers and staff to access information and/or assistance. Groups like ATPE, where the money is only used for Texas teachers, are vital for the profession. My district has a bullying problem (along with a cover-up addiction), and the people with group affiliations tend to get their issues resolved in a reasonable fashion while unrepresented staff go through hell.

Elizabeth Lalor, Retired educator, mother of a teacher

Self

Crosby, TX

I'm ok with no payroll deduction, even though I do not understand why. I am strongly opposed to not allowing insurance. I had insurance in the event one crazy parent or kid accused me of something. I never used it. Teachers have a hard job. We are supposed to protect them

Julie Gurley

Self retired

Bee Cave, TX

I am opposed to this bill

Lindsey Crow, Mrs

Self-retired RN. Compassionate human.

Austin, TX

Oppose. Please oppose.

Anne Vallette

KARE/TRTA

Montgomery, TX

TRTA has stood strongly in support of all educators. For example, I am now receiving Social Security payments that were rightfully mine because of the efforts of TRTA. HB 5019 is yet another slap in the face of educators.

Geoff Scott

Educators

Andrews, TX

This bill takes away the professionalism of being an educator. DO NOT PASS THIS BILL!!!!

Izaiah Rojas, Mr.

Self

Lubbock, TX

Vote no!

Cathleen Duvall

Self

Sugar Land, TX

This bill is an assault on Educators and yet another instance of disrespecting Educators. Shame on you.

Deanna Fencl, Mrs

Parent

San antonio, TX

As a highly-informed public school parent, I fully support HB 5019. This one bill would go a long way to fixing some of the main problems we have in our school districts. This is a no-brainer! Please support!!!

Donna Stevens

Self

N Richlnd Hls, TX

All individuals need to be allowed to use payroll deductions! Very important!

Mary Burke, Retired Principal

Self

Wimberley, TX

Allow deductions!

Carolyn Shean

Retired teacher

Georgetown, TX

I disagree with this bill. I believe it takes away teacher's freedom of association and is only one more thing that will push teachers away from the field of education.

Professional associations are important in providing legislative updates, staff development, and advocacy for teachers.

Ashlee Broome

Self

San Antonio, TX

I am a parent of 2 high school kids. I have gone to multiple school board meetings, contacted all of the school board members of my district numerous times. I wholeheartedly support this bill, HB 5019. It gets to the root of the problem and will bring about transformative change for parents and taxpayers. Bringing the training for all public school board members and the content of the training to one agency is critical. I commend Rep. Capriglione for this bill and hope it passes as I know how much this is needed for the future of our public schools.

Anthony Elmo

Retired

Fort Worth, TX

more meddling from this "conservative" legislature. leave private organizations alone and focus on the right role of limited government. hard no. stop attacking your political opponents through legislation.

Robert Hilliard, Mr

Self

San Antonio, TX

In my opinion, as a former Board of Trustees member in a large school district this bill will address some important root causes that created problems that I perceived will serving as a Trustee. I'm sure you have heard the same complaints from your constituents and seen in the news. Please support this important bill to return trust and true local control to the Board, and not special interest groups, to best serve our children and community in their education.

Jayne Serna
self
Leander, TX

To the Members of the House Public Education Committee,

I am surprised to read that in an era where there is a dramatic teacher shortage, you would even consider a bill of this nature--a further attack that singles out public educators. It is discouraging to think that when ESAs are funded but public schools are not, you would add insult to injury by taking away payroll deduction for my ATPE dues, which does not cost the state or the district ANYTHING, try to keep professional educator groups from offering valuable professional development sessions for PD credit, which actually saves districts and the state money, and create a subpar required professional liability insurance product that I don't even have a voice in. This entire bill seems unnecessary and punitive, a limit to my first amendment rights, and just another insult to public school educators. This is not something you would even consider doing to other public servants like police officers or firemen, so please don't do this to us!!

Becky St John, Taxpayer
Self
Grapevine, TX

To the Members of the Committee and the Bill's Author,

The lengthy agenda today is testament to the importance of our public schools, and your service is appreciated. However, during the week in which we are also expressing appreciation to our teachers, this bill does exactly the opposite. In this era of DOGE, which the bill's author chairs, making jobs harder, expansion of bureaucracy and intrusion into the local operations of school districts is antithetical to making Texas more effective and efficient. Allowing teachers to have access to cost effective professional services, and efficient payroll deductions seems like common sense.

In addition, portions of this bill hamstring TASB's ability to efficiently and effectively provide services to 1,000 school districts and the over 7,000 locally-elected volunteer trustees. TASB has helped districts eliminate bloated administrative bureaucracy by handling services such as the purchasing cooperative, advocacy, and the extensive state-mandated training for districts and trustees, and has saved Texas property tax payers millions of dollars every year.

HB5019 is a solution in search of a problem that would harm our teachers and cost our districts and ultimately taxpayers. Please vote no on HB5019.

Laurie Carey
Self
Aledo, TX

Vote no, this is not favorable to the education of students in

Crystal Keen
Self
San Antonio, TX

Please support HB 5019. Many Texans have lost confidence in their school boards, especially when trustees prioritize protecting the district over serving taxpayers, families, and students. This bill rightly ensures that board member training is approved and overseen by the state agency—not by special interest groups, lobbying organizations, or teacher unions engaged in electioneering or advocacy. It also creates a fair, independent path for teacher liability insurance outside of political associations. HB 5019 helps restore integrity and public trust by removing special interests from public education governance. Please support this important bill.

Paula Hilliard
self
San Antonio, TX

This is in the running for the best education bill of the session. THANK YOU, Chairman Capriglione, and THANK YOU, Chairman Buckley for the hearing. Let's vote this one out of committee THIS week to give it a chance to pass and make a real positive impact on our public schools.

When you are deeply-involved and informed about the pub ed system, you know that most proposed solutions are just piece meal, whack-a-mole, half-measures. This solution goes to the very heart of major drivers of problems in our schools. Not only wasteful spending, but conflicts of interest galore. We need a depoliticized education system and that starts with our school boards.

In my district, the board had voted nearly 800 times in a row UNANIMOUSLY for everything the staff brought forward. When questioned, this was explained to be the way "high-functioning boards" work. Clearly this was what they were trained to think. In that case, why have a board at all? Just put some cardboard cut outs up there, or let the staff sit in proxy and just approve things in a 5 minute meeting. There is no POINT to a board that thinks its duty is to promote a positive public image instead of WORKING for better results.

That is not local control. I could go on all day.

As discussed in DOGE committee, tying things including purchases and insurance to the TEA will make the purchasing power greater and savings greater. We spend so much in education - over half the state's budget (including Higher Ed), enriching everyone but our kids' minds, it seems sometimes. Something must change and this bill gets at the fundamentals.

So proud of Chairman Capriglione for understanding the issues brilliantly. THANK YOU TO ALL WHO WILL BE SUPPORTING IT. MOVE THIS BILL QUICKLY and watch pub ed transform in a matter of a year or two with no wasted spending.

Could be a historic move by the House! We want to see you make history!

For the kids!

Bianca Arvin-Eagle
self
Lago Vista, TX

I OPPOSE HB 5019

Karen Horgan
self
Fort Worth, TX

After reading this bill, it's clear that this is more legislation that will stop at nothing to silence teachers and make them just "take" whatever the legislature decides.

Why are you making it harder on teachers?

Among other things, this bill would eliminate Payroll Deductions for Association Dues! This means no more payroll deductions for Association Membership! This is just putting more undue hardship on teachers. Many educators currently use payroll deduction to pay dues to groups like ATPE, TSTA, Texas AFT, or even the local educator associations – this convenience will end. Employees would need to arrange direct payment (e.g. bank draft, credit card) if they wish to continue their membership in those organizations.

Teachers do not have actual unions and cannot strike in Texas. These professional organizations are all we have to advocate for public education.

Haven't you already done enough harm to public schools and teachers in Texas this session? Pass the school funding bill and let this bill die in committee.

Warren Horgan
self
Fort Worth, TX

I strongly oppose HB 5019. Why are you making it harder on teachers?

Among other things, this bill would eliminate Payroll Deductions for Association Dues! This means no more payroll deductions for Association Membership! This is just putting more undue hardship on teachers. Many educators currently use payroll deduction to pay dues to groups like ATPE, TSTA, Texas AFT, or even the local educator associations – this convenience will end. Employees would need to arrange direct payment (e.g. bank draft, credit card) if they wish to continue their membership in those organizations.

This may seem inconsequential, but it is a small thing that makes it easier for teachers to 1. Join their professional organizations, 2. Pay the dues through payroll deduction. Stop making laws that make things more difficult for public schools and educators! Teachers do not have actual unions and cannot strike in Texas. These professional organizations are all they have to advocate for public education.

Haven't you already done enough harm to public schools and teachers in Texas this session? Get the school funding bill passed and leave this bill in committee.

Shannon Noble
Texas Industrial Vocational Association
Austin, TX

The Texas Industrial Vocational Association's career and technical teachers in the public schools oppose HB 5019. Thank you.

Karen Horgan
self
Fort Worth, TX

I strenuously oppose HB5019.

After reading this bill, it's clear that this is more legislation that will stop at nothing to silence teachers and make them just "take" whatever the legislature decides.

Why are you making it harder on teachers?

Among other things, this bill would eliminate Payroll Deductions for Association Dues! This means no more payroll deductions for Association Membership! This is just putting more undue hardship on teachers. Many educators currently use payroll deduction to pay dues to groups like ATPE, TSTA, Texas AFT, or even the local educator associations – this convenience will end. Employees would need to arrange direct payment (e.g. bank draft, credit card) if they wish to continue their membership in those organizations. Please vote NO on the bill and do something that will help teachers rather than make things more difficult for them

Teachers do not have actual unions and cannot strike in Texas. These professional organizations are all we have to advocate for public education.

Haven't you already done enough harm to public schools and teachers in Texas this session? Make sure the school funding bill gets passed instead and let HB5019 die in committee.

Tracy Fisher
Self
COPPELL, TX

Texas House Bill 5019 is yet another attempt to undermine effective local governance and weaken local control. The Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) plays a critical role in supporting local school districts by saving taxpayers millions through cooperative purchasing programs, developing legislative priorities that are truly grassroots—crafted by locally elected school board members—and keeping those officials informed about the progress and impact of legislation throughout the session.

TASB also provides essential legal governance training and ongoing support to ensure compliance with Texas laws and Texas Education Agency (TEA) interpretations—services that are increasingly vital as public schools continue to be targeted by politically motivated organizations like the Texas Public Policy Foundation (TPPF). TPPF operates with a political agenda that works against the interests of the majority of Texas citizens and taxpayers. Efforts like HB 5019 threaten to dismantle the resources and support that empower local communities to effectively govern their schools.

I strongly oppose HB 5019. Protect local control. Support the elected leaders in your community and the tools they need to serve Texas families and taxpayers.

Sherry Boyd, Semi-retired teacher
Self
Spearman, TX

How dare the state take away my personal choice!! Teacher associations are our voice when we can't be there in Austin to speak for ourselves! I want to choose my own personal liability insurance, not have the state do so. You are there in those seats to represent the people of Texas, in this instance, public educators. Quit trying to make Texas into California! Stop trying to silence our voice! We have the right to make personal choices for ourselves, not a governmental mandate.

Wanda Cotter
Self - Retired educator
Colleyville, TX

We're celebrating teachers and teacher appreciation week right now, yet the House is looking at ways to punish teachers and make their lives harder. As a retired educator, I cannot imagine a professional environment in which I would not be allowed to pay dues for my professional organization through payroll deduction. Likewise, how does it make sense to not be able to get liability/malpractice insurance through that same organization, the organization that exists to protect my well-being. Isn't it a conflict of interest to only be able to get liability insurance through the state when the state would be prosecuting me. I was a member of TX Classroom Teachers Association (TCTA) for twenty-one years. They provided liability insurance, legal help, continuing education, and representation at both the state and national levels of government. I have benefitted from all of those services. Now I am a member of Texas Retired Teachers Association (TRTA), from which I benefit immensely with services such as insurance, information, lobbying efforts, travel services, etc. In fact, thanks to TRTA, my social security monthly payment just tripled due to a lobbying effort on their part over the last forty years that finely succeeded at the end of 2024 to end the unfair WEP/GPO. Now back to my main point: Why would you even consider taking away an easy way for teachers to pay for all of those services? And then add insult to injury by doing it during teacher appreciation week! Also, so many laws have been passed and are still being considered that would penalize teachers and librarians for simply doing their jobs, and it's very unfair to take away their easy access to liability insurance and legal help that they may need during the performance of their official duties. I urge you to not approve HR5019 which is being sponsored by Gio Capriglione who is my representative. I will also be contacting his office to express my opposition.

Becky Matlock, Counselor

Self- school counselor

Bowie, TX

I want to advocate for district employees to continue to join professional organizations. These organizations not only serve as a source of support for employees but they often have professional liability insurance as well. I have contacted my professional organization in the past to ask questions and seek advice on certain matters. These organizations have been a tremendous help as I have worked in much smaller, rural areas. My coworkers and administrators often have not encountered or been able to answer questions. This is a much needed support to many of us in rural areas. We often see human resource personnel that many other job titles ie. payroll, attendance, or secretary. To offer professional organization, who can look over a document, or email is greatly needed. I have used payroll deduction to pay for membership and I have also just paid it outright myself. It is definitely much more convenient to be able to do payroll deduction for this benefit.

Shari Spangrud, Ms

Self

Palestine, TX

Teachers deserve the right to join whatever professional organizations they deem appropriate in order to purchase insurance to protect themselves. There is a conflict of interest in the state selling insurance to the very people they would be seeking to prosecute.

Kimberly Donahue

Self

McKinney, TX

I ask that you allow district payrolls to take organization fees from our pay check and continue legal representation through this organization.

Cristi Parsons

Self

Rowlett, TX

Vote no to this bill. We need our organizations. Please stop going after Texas educators and our rights.

Heather Brandon

Self

Frisco, TX

Service oriented jobs have the right to join associations, this bill is specifically targeting teachers. Police and Firefighters have association dues deducted from their checks without issue.

Kristina Roberts

Self

Sachse, TX

I am against this bill, it's a conflict of interest for the state.

Molissa McClellan

Self

Nacogdoches, TX

Please leave our professional organizations alone.

Margaret Cain
Self
Richmond, TX

I do not see how the agency that would prosecute possible malpractice would also be the agency providing the individual's defense. I do not think it's appropriate to limit where we can choose to get our malpractice insurance. Please say NO to this bill.

Shawna Sampson, Mrs.
Self/Teacher
Abilene, TX

Please do not stop our teacher organizations from deducting dues from our paychecks. Also malpractice insurance needs to be available with our preferred organization, not be required to purchase through the state. These actions would be detrimental to all people in education.

Brooke Anna Roberts, M.Ed
Self- Professional School Counselor
Purdon, TX

I am writing today as an advocate for Texas educators and the future of our public education system. I urge you to support the continued ability for professional organization dues to be paid through payroll deduction and to recognize the critical importance of allowing educators to obtain professional liability insurance independent of the State of Texas.

Payroll deduction for professional dues is not a perk—it's a lifeline. This simple, efficient system allows teachers, counselors, librarians, and other school staff to maintain their memberships in professional organizations that provide essential support, advocacy, training, and legal protection. By facilitating this process through payroll, educators—many of whom are already underpaid and overburdened—can stay connected to professional communities that keep them informed, empowered, and protected.

Eliminating this option would create a barrier to access, disproportionately affecting those who are already struggling financially. It would also weaken the voice of educators at a time when they need more support than ever, not less.

Equally critical is the need for independent professional liability insurance. Educators in Texas are held to high legal and ethical standards, and when accusations or misunderstandings arise, they deserve a fair and impartial defense. It is fundamentally unjust to require educators to rely on insurance administered or connected to the same state apparatus that may be prosecuting or disciplining them.

Independent liability insurance ensures that educators receive objective, conflict-free representation. This is not about shielding bad actors—it's about protecting good teachers from being unjustly punished without due process. It upholds the principle that no one should have to rely on their accuser for their defense.

If we truly value our teachers, we must protect their rights, their peace of mind, and their ability to grow and thrive in their profession. By supporting payroll deduction for professional dues and the right to independent legal protection, you are standing up for fairness, transparency, and the professional integrity of Texas educators.

Cindy Ashmore
Public school teacher. 39 years
Lubbock, TX

I feel like you are targeting teachers and trying to take away every decent thing we have. Please don't do this. Not sure why this has even been introduced.

Amy Simpson

Self-teacher

Spring, TX

I have been a teacher for 27 years and a member of ATPE since the minute I became a teacher. Having that protection allowed me to have legal protection when a parent tried to go after my teacher certificate for their daughter not getting a soccer scholarship due to an ACL injury she suffered in club. Yeah crazy to go after me but they tried and ATPE protected me. Dont take that away from teachers

Elizabeth Fox

Self

Missouri City, TX

Professional organizations support teachers and provide valuable insurance for protection. I would not step into the classroom unless I am a member of a professional organization. Membership fees should continue to be allowed from payroll deduction.

Victoria Purdom

Self

Sherman, TX

I don't think this should be applicable to anyone but district employees. Don't agree at all with this!

Courtney Garrett

Self, Teacher

Plainview, TX

I am opposed to HB 5019!

Jackie Hannebaum

ATPE

Corpus Christi, TX

HB5019- Rep Buckley - Plese don not pass this bill!! Everyone deserves protection and the state should stay out of this bill!!

Susan Lancaster

Self

Cypress, TX

School districts should continue to be allowed to offer payroll deductions for teacher organization dues. Teachers should have the convenience of payroll deductions as there are deductions for insurance, etc. Allowiny school districts to make their own decisions is cost and time effective. The state doesn't need to manage this as districts have been doing so without problems for decades. Furthermore, teachers need to have some choice about which teacher organization they wish to join, and also having the protection/support of a teacher organization since teacher unions are not permitted in Texas. There are other more pressing issues being faced by public schools and public school teachers such as funding.

Denise Crocker

Myself

Robinson, TX

Just let teachers protect themselves the way they feel comfortable. Quit trying to monopolize everything for public education employees. Fund schools should be your priority not how educators pay our bills!

Grace Betty, Retired teacher

Self

Glen Rose, TX

Teachers need to be protected in this litigious society.. Having the access to legal protection is critical Do not take this away from teachers.

Mantequilla Green

TASSP

Austin, TX

This bill is frivolous. There have been times when organizations give us the power to fight for the careers we work so hard for. The money that's deducted from my account is mine to allocate, not the legislature, who doesn't even care to adequately fund education. Rather than waste time over something that doesn't affect the state, how about spending time creating meaningful bills that will help others. My organization helps me feel safe from those who get power hungry and mismanage the hearts and intent of those who always put kids first. Save our payroll deductions!

Megan Garner

Self - Teacher

Bertram, TX

School employees should not be forced to buy insurance from the state, who is possibly a party to any lawsuits involving teachers. Please do not approve this and allow us to continue using a provider of our choice through payroll deductions.

Nadelle Belizaire

Self-educator

Carrollton, TX

Subject: Respect and Protection for Teachers

The way I choose to allocate my salary is my decision. Choosing to spend some of my hard-earned income to protect myself is no different than a doctor carrying malpractice insurance—it's smart, and it's necessary.

Why are teachers not seen as deserving of the same level of professional protection? This is absolutely ridiculous, and deep down, you know it.

It's disheartening that the very profession responsible for nurturing and developing every single Texas legislator is the one being continually disrespected and attacked. Teachers deserve better.

Shame on you.

Would you like help tailoring this for a specific audience, like a school board, legislator, or public campaign?

Holly Morgan

Self, Professional Registrar

Dayton, TX

Don't take away our voices! Teachers should not be treated any differently than other employees. Give us a break!

Lisa Ross
Self
Grandview, TX

I am voting for those that SUPPORT teachers, not take away the right to have organizational dues deducted from payroll. Teacher organizations should also be able to represent teachers with liability insurance.

Flecia Droege
Myself
Longview, TX

Please do NOT pass this bull

Melisa Williams
Self
Buda, TX

Teachers need a place to get help and find answers quickly. We have the right to be in teacher organizations. We should continue to keep the right to have our dues pay roll deducted. Texas needs to support its teachers. This is any easy way to do this.

Linda Howard, Mrs
Self
Canyon, TX

Stop taking away the rights of teachers! We deserve to decide whether or not to join an organization and allow for payroll deduction.
FULLY FUND PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND LET TEACHERS TEACH and protect themselves!

James Pittman
ATPE member
Plainview, TX

My teacher organization ATPE has been great to use. They have advised me when I need help on any school question. The fact that the House Education Committee wants to my ability to pay my dues by payroll is down right awful. The insurance policy I pay with through my dues is to keep a barrier between my self and the state. If the state takes this away and only give me the option to buy from the state is a conflict of interest by the state and will be treated as such. As a right to work state I have the right to choose who represents me against the state.

Corey Weber, Mrs.
Self, teacher librarian
San Antonio, TX

Please reconsider this bill and what it means to teachers and school staff. Many educators are part of certain organizations because of all of the great things they offer such as education and learning opportunities for the betterment of students. All educators deserve a right to be able to who they want to represent them or where they would like to find legal council. Just because these organizations offer that to teachers, does not mean that they are poor organizations many of them are specific to the type of teacher they are such as librarians, special ed, high school, principles, etc. Being able to choose specific legal representation from the organizations that we are part of Makes more sense than for the state of Texas to designate who we can use for any legal representation that might be needed.

Heather Lanclos
Self
Houston, TX

Please vote against this legislation.

Clinton Gill

Self

Lubbock, TX

This is a direct attack on the public school employees of the state of Texas. We are free to join whatever teacher association we want to join, or not join one at all. No one is forcing us to join an organization, but when we do join one, the easiest and most effective way is to have the dues payroll deducted. This bill is literally an answer in search of a problem. There is not one teacher in the state of Texas asking for their dues to be banned from payroll deduction so the legislature needs to keep their hands off of our paychecks. Vote NO to this bill and any other bill that would prohibit our professional dues from being deducted from our paychecks. Treat us like professionals, not second class citizens! You are already facing a teacher shortage in this state because we are treated so badly. This should be the LEAST of your worries so vote NO!

Donna Cogbill

Self

Flower Mound, TX

Please leave teacher organizations alone. It's one of the few things we have on our side. I refuse to give up on public education (30 years), but it sure is getting harder and harder.

Amy Bowman

Self

Humble, TX

I am against HB 5019

Whitney Briscoe, Ms

Self

Austin, TX

It is very important that I am able to seek counsel from an organization that is equipped to help teachers in legal matters separate from the state.

Tammy Owens

Self

Mt Enterprise, TX

HB 5019 is an attack on the right of public educators and their professional organizations. These groups have helped dramatically to shape positive change in public education through advocacy and lobbying in the best interest of staff and students. Having access to legal support and liability insurance is the very least we can provide to educators in a very toxic political environment. Please vote no to this bill.

Donna Mason

Trta

Amarillo, TX

I mean really! Haven't y'all done enough to public educators already? Now you want to control payroll deductions for our organizational dues. Why??? What is gained by that? Our organizations keep us updated on federal and state changes that affect us on a daily basis, fight for teachers rights, and the lawyers they provide represent us when we need them. Having been wrongly accused of something during my career, my representation through my organization was critical and much appreciated. Seems to me y'all should spend your time worrying about much bigger problems than teachers having their dues paid by payroll deductions and controlling g what those organizations do.

Lorie Crowder

Self

Waco, TX

Please do not consider this. Both ATPE and TMEA have helped me and my son and the comfort of purchasing liability insurance through them is very needed. My son, also a teacher, was falsely accused of improper language use. The ATPE lawyer provided help and advice he needed. He was cleared and not adversely affected. Please allow teachers to have this service.

Yvonne Parson

Tcta

Powderly, TX

Can you not find anything better to do than make it harder on educators to get liability insurance and make it harder to join professional organizations. Try passing a true pay raise for educators not a TIA pay raise. Our district does not even do TIA. So that means no raise for us. No one in Region 8 has the TIA going. Give us a break or you will be teaching your own kids or there will be no free public education

Shannon Hullum

ATPE

Allen, TX

Please consider how important it is for teachers to maintain their professional organization. We generally can't afford the one time payment for dues. Payroll deduction is optimal. We must also be able to get liability insurance through this organization. Please protect teachers and do not vote for this bill.

Mary Stephanie Middlebrooks, Teacher

Self

League City, TX

Every profession including teachers deserve the support of a professional organization with their protections and benefits. Do not pass HB 5019 disallowing payroll deductions to such organizations.

Kimberly Villarreal

Self/Teacher

San Antonio, TX

Teachers in Texas face enormous challenges to do a job not many would last a day at. Our professional organizations help with advice, training, advocacy, and protection from unfair and unfounded accusations. We feel safer in our jobs when our liability insurance is from a different source than the group prosecuting. Who does it hurt for us to pay from the money we earned over time using payroll deductions as we do our health, vision, and dental insurance? This bill is another direct attack on public school teachers. We will remember and vote accordingly in the next election. Just look to the May 3rd results as a sample.

Breck Quarles

Self

Palestine, TX

I just read the wording of HB 5019. It appears to be a bill that is designed to take away any power from educators to join organizations that advocate for public schools. To wit, Sec. 22.0012. PROHIBITION ON COLLECTION OF PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION DUES. A school district may not deduct or withhold, or contract to deduct or withhold, from an employee's salary or wages payment of dues or membership fees to a professional organization or association that is not established or managed by a governmental entity.

If I am reading this correctly, the state is trying to take away the ability of an educator to have their membership in a professional organization deducted from their paycheck, something that has been done for years and is a benefit to educators.

Section 22.0011 reads that the state wants to provide liability insurance to educators and take away their right to liability insurance through an outside organization through payroll deduction if that organization advocates in any political manner for educators or public schools.

This sounds like a conflict of interest as the state will likely be the prosecutor in a case and again takes away a process (payroll deduction) that has been in effect for years.

This bill is not designed to help Texas public school educators. As I read it, it is designed to limit the power of educators.

I would sincerely request that this bill not make it out of committee and never see the light of day on the House Floor.

Breck Quarles

Palestine, Texas

Jenny Brown

Self

Canadian, TX

My teacher organization has been vital in supporting me as an educator and protecting me. These organizations are necessary and to make it illegal for payroll deduction for membership to these organizations is bad practice and bad for the people in this state. Furthermore, it basically neuters TASB. In tiny districts like ours, this is an essential organization in helping get rural voices heard. I wish we had a legislature that didn't actively work against the people who live here. It's unreal.

Kristin Keith

SELF

San Antonio, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 5019, which severely restricts the ability of public school districts to advocate for their students and communities. This bill not only undermines the fundamental mission of public education, but it also leaves educators without essential support or protection.

By silencing school districts on matters of policy and funding, HB 5019 cuts off a critical voice in the legislative process—one that is closest to students' actual needs. Our districts serve on the front lines of education. If they cannot speak on behalf of their students, who will?

Even more troubling, this bill creates a chilling effect for teachers and staff. Without the backing of their districts, educators are left exposed to political pressure and bad-faith accusations, rather than being empowered to teach with professionalism and integrity. HB 5019 threatens to politicize education rather than protect it.

We should be supporting our districts and educators, not muzzling them. I urge lawmakers to reject HB 5019 and defend the right of schools to advocate for what's best for Texas students.

Melinda Jones, Ms.

Self/ retired Superintendent

Pittsburg, TX

This bill is detrimental to educators and an underhanded trick to stop teacher organizations from protecting teachers. Requiring an educator to buy liability insurance from the state and then allowing to turn around and file charges on a teacher is a definite conflict of interest. Please stop trying to kill public education. Do not pass this bill!

Kristen Harris

Self

Mckinney, TX

It is unjust to construct this barrier for teachers. Stop attacking teachers. Let them have this payroll deduction and the ability to gain liability/etc. insurance through these groups. Stop destroying public education. Uphold democracy.

Lauren Muskiet, Mrs.

Self Public School Counselor

Spring, TX

School employees should be able to join professional organizations and have their membership dues deducted through payroll deduction. In a time when there is much vitriol toward public educators and a time when there are teacher shortages, the state should be supporting a teacher's right to have their membership dues deducted from a paycheck. I earned the money, so I should be able to determine where it goes. Not the state. This is yet more proof of state overreach and a big money grab. It goes without saying that Texas needs to do better. Our representatives havw some

Heather Garcia, Mrs.

Self

Arlington, TX

This is a conflict of interest. We need to maintain our right to contact support outside of the government for help in situations that put us at risk.

Sandra Shirley

NA

Wake Village, TX

This bill will place unnecessary hardship on our public school educators. Texas public school educators have been able to have their professional dues directly deducted through payroll in the past. The state seems determined to make everything as difficult as possible for our educators. This is not acceptable! This is government overreach.

Terri White

Myself-retired educator

Stephenville, TX

I do not support this bill. It is unfair and biased.

Jackie Molsbee

Self

Alpine, TX

My professional organization is a security net to prevent expensive litigation. We must be able to continue with payroll deductions!

Julie Linscomb

Self

Deer Park, TX

Teachers should not have to provide their own liability insurance. This should be provided at no cost by the state. Teachers already are on the low end of pay and this is just one more thing. Fund public schools appropriately and give the teachers a break.

Karla Bevel

Self/Educator

Greenville, TX

My professional organization benefitted me by providing opportunities for professional growth and development, access to resources and events, and networking and job searching assistance. This organization also offered mentorship, peer support, and opportunities to demonstrate professionalism and gain recognition not to mention costly professional insurance. As with those who work in a profession who recognizes unions, our professional organization dues should be allowed to be deducted by a payroll deduction. Many teachers do not have the money to pay these up front in a lump sum at the beginning of the school year.

Terri Massey

Self/teacher

Springtown, TX

Teachers need this coverage in case a student less about them. We are not paid enough to obtain insurance outside of our orgs.

Brenda Mendoza

Self

HOUSTON, TX

We would like to keep our liability and malpractice insurance through our organizations and not be forced to do so with the state.

Marie Simons

Self/teacher

Lago Vista, TX

Leave payroll deductions for professional organizations alone!

Megan Torian

Self - teacher

Hockley, TX

Teachers deserve to protect ourselves. The war on public education is getting out of control. Good teachers are leaving the profession. Take care of teachers, take care of the future of our state and country. We are the backbone of society. Plain and simple, treat teachers the way we deserve to be treated. I work day in and day out tirelessly to grow ALL children who step foot in my classroom. ATPE gives me peace of mind in case something ever happened that is out of my control. I dot my T's and cross my I's AND treat all children with love and care. There is no reason my rights as a teacher should be taken away.

Tracey Blake

SELF

Childress, TX

This is an ATROCIOUS bill- teachers deserve this and to be able to have good malpractice insurance for when parents come after them. Payroll deduction is not a problem and should be allowed. As much as you have done to show teachers you don't care, don't continue that trend.

Kelly Sexton
Self- teacher
Borger, TX

Please do not pass this bill that further restricts teacher's freedom and ability to defend themselves in litigation. This bill not only bans teachers from having their organization dues included in payroll deductions, it also has a provision that would ban the orgs from offering liability/malpractice insurance, so we would have to get it through the state even though the state is who would be prosecuting. Our professional organization ATPE advocates for us in legislation and legal issues. It is only if our only protectors. Please do not keep us from being able to use their services.

Melinda Buchanan
self
Sanger, TX

Please do not advance this bill. As a public school teacher, I should have the right to decide where to spend my paycheck. The primary purpose for teachers to join organizations is to have the available liability/malpractice insurance, and we should not have to purchase such coverage from the state.

Douglas Catoe, Educator
Self
Cleburne, TX

This is ludicrous. Almost every session, Austin tries to force this through and steal more of our rights as educators. It seems everything you do is to make sure we are at your mercy and that we have no recourse when we need support. I urge you to reject this nonsense and stop targeting educators.

Brooke Sanchez
Waxahachie ISD
Waxahachie, TX

This is an unfair and unreasonable bill. It further shows the disregard for our educators best interest and safety.

Cindy Babcock
Self
ATHENS, TX

Please vote against HB5019. This bill is overreaching and serves no purpose other than to make membership in a professional organization more difficult for school employees. We do not have teacher unions in Texas, so have very little protection from frivolous lawsuits filed by parents or employment protection from administrators with illegal agendas. The ability to obtain low cost liability insurance as well is essential in today's world. There is already a shortage of competent educators in the United States, and especially Texas. Professional organizations provide answers to questions, information on benefits and laws. Please vote against HB5019.

Orion Casper
Self
Fate, TX

The state should not be blocking this. It shouldn't matter if we have something payroll deducted or pay for it monthly. That should be a decision of the local school board, not the state.

Heather DeWitt

Self

Providence Village, TX

Organizations, like ATPE & UEA, help teachers protect themselves in the event we need legal representation. Unlike other professions teachers do not make enough to hire an attorney if we are wrongly accused of something or if we need to bring a suit against a district if they are not following laws that protect us. ATPE has personally helped me by providing an attorney at no charge when my contract wasn't renewed when I did nothing wrong. After talking with the lawyer, I chose to file a grievance and other teachers found the courage to come forward. This small town district was letting employees go for no cause, but instead retaliation. I did try going to the TEA they were no help. This lawyer helped me and that courage led to others speaking out, which ultimately led to th Superintendent resigning. Stop taking way our rights & protection. I do not trust the state to provide me with legal assistance. As a teacher, I feel personally attacked by our Governor & other Republican state legislators. This has to stop. Fully fund our schools and provide raises for teachers and other staff members.

Amy Ashby-Pike

Self

Pearland, TX

Teachers should be able to be in control of where their money goes. Say no!

Jennifer Furl

Self

Austin, TX

Professional organizations help teachers. Allow the deductions. This disrespect and lack of care of teachers needs to stop. Support Texas public schools.

Isabelle Canard

Self

Fort Worth, TX

Please continue letting there be a payroll deduction for teachers on their paychecks for their organizations. Teachers have enough paperwork to deal with without having to do this on their own. Also allow the coverage. that these organizations currently represent to remain as is. Please help teachers. these organizations do so much to help us, especially at these times of dire need.

Genevieve Rodriguez

Self

Elmendorf, TX

Teachers deserve the right to pay an organization to represent them through their payroll.

Cynthia Hopkins
self - teacher
Corpus Christi, TX

I am here to express my strong opposition to House Bill 5019 by Representative Capriglione, which would limit school districts from contracting with certain professional organizations and prohibit payroll deduction for membership dues. Additionally, it creates unnecessary pressure for educators to purchase liability insurance from the state, when in many cases, the state itself may be the party taking legal action against educators.

This bill does not support teachers. It punishes them.

Professional organizations—such as ATPE, TSTA, and AFT—not only provide high-quality liability coverage, but also offer essential legal support, advocacy, and professional development. These groups are not "outside interests"; they are teacher-led, educator-driven communities that protect classroom teachers and help retain professionals in one of the most demanding careers in the state.

Forcing educators to buy liability insurance from the same state system that may file complaints or lawsuits against them is a clear conflict of interest. It creates an unjust situation in which teachers are essentially paying to defend themselves from their own employer.

Furthermore, removing payroll deduction for professional dues adds another burden and makes it harder for educators to remain active in the organizations that protect their rights and amplify their voices. It sends the message that teacher advocacy is unwelcome in Texas.

Texas is already facing a teacher retention crisis. This bill only accelerates that problem. Instead of silencing and isolating teachers, we should be lifting them up and ensuring they feel protected, valued, and heard.

I respectfully urge this committee to oppose HB 5019. Let's support teachers, not strip away their protections.

Christina Thomas
Self
Plano, TX

It doesn't cost the district any money for payroll deductions. It doesn't make sense to buy insurance from the same people coming after the profession.

diana Newton, Mrs.
Self
Robinson, TX

I am a proud member of the Texas Classroom Teachers Association. I carry my liability insurance through them and I count on them to keep abreast of all the bills and changes to bills that happen in the Texas Legislature. I am busy all day and most evenings with my full time job of teaching first grade. I do not have time on my own to keep up with all the laws that change every two years. I depend on TCTA to do that because I like to be informed about the things that affect my kids, my colleagues, and me. I will be frank and honest here, I don't trust our legislature to do the right thing on behalf of teachers. Your session is over in less than a month and you still haven't passed the school finance bill. That should be the most important thing you should be working on because that affects millions of your citizens. Respectfully, leave my representation alone. I don't get paid enough to have a personal lawyer on retainer, and TCTA has some great ones that are more than willing to answer my questions, so please leave them alone! It is also none of your business how I choose to pay my yearly dues! Sincerely, Diana Newton

Angela Walden-Hulme

Self

Sweetwater, TX

As a professional school counselor, I strongly oppose HB 5019. This bill would severely limit my ability to protect myself legally and professionally by banning my professional organization from offering liability insurance. Forcing me to obtain insurance through the same state that would prosecute me in a legal matter is a clear conflict of interest. I need independent coverage through an organization that understands my specific professional needs and can advocate for me without bias.

In addition, this bill would eliminate payroll deduction for my professional organization, undermining my ability to maintain membership in the very group that provides critical advocacy, legal support, continuing education, and access to a community of professionals. I rely on this organization to represent my interests at the legislative level because, like many educators and school-based mental health professionals, I simply do not have the time or resources to do it myself.

HB 5019 is not about fairness or efficiency—it's about silencing and disempowering educators and mental health professionals. Please oppose this harmful legislation.

Sincerely,

Angela Walden-Hulme

Certified School Counselor

Sweetwater, TX

Darian Fowler

Self

Carrollton, TX

Teachers should be allowed to have representation outside of state programs. Especially the way the state treats public school educators, and this US government treats education in general, we deserve protection!

Susie DuBois

Self

Killeen, TX

This bill is a conflict of interest for the state. Public school employees should continue to be allowed to purchase liability insurance from professional organizations and have the dues deducted from their paycheck. Please vote against this bill.

Michael Belsick

Fredericksburg Tea Party

Fredericksburg, TX

FOR HB 5019 I am OK with this bill. However, it was very confusing to read (several times in fact). As such, I am not 100% certain.

Tiffani Eakin

Self

Greenville, TX

I am against this bill. Conflict of interest. It would force teachers to get state representation making the state prosecutor and defenders. Stop robbing the teachers!

Sharon Randig, Teacher

Self

Bartlett, TX

To have to get insurance from the state to confront the state is ridiculous. When is education for regular Joe going to matter

Dorotha Cline
Self retired public educator
San Angelo, TX

As a retired teacher who can barely pay my rent each month, look at the declining number of teachers entering the profession and I have one question for you. "What did we do to deserve this disrespect and hatred?" I want an answer to that very specific question- not fake stories about things we all know aren't really happening at unnamed schools in unnamed towns. What did WE, public school teachers, actually do to deserve to be treated the way that you are treating us and allowing Greg Abbott to treat us?

Melinda Brasuell
Self teacher
Lufkin, TX

This bill is trash! Keep payroll deductions for teacher professional organizations.

Linda Estrada
Self
Donna, TX

Vote NO HB 5019 by Capriglione! It is our right to belong to an organization that will protect our jobs!

Anna Fox
Self
Robinson, TX

This is a petty attack on teachers. Teachers should be able to direct their funds towards professional organizations that provide professional insurance. Please defend teachers basic right to have agency over their earned income. I find this bill outrageous and mean spirited towards the honored individuals called to teaching. Please honor teachers and protect their rights. Please stop this attack on those that serve the children and communities of our state. I encourage all representatives to publicly honor teachers.
Anna Fox

Linda Smith, Mrs.
Self
Rosenberg, TX

I belong to ATPE. It has provided many benefits from professional development as well as strategies to use in the classroom. It also has given me an opportunity to seek professional attorney services when the school district wanted to violate my right to a duty lunch free and taking my conference period everyday for meeting fa instead of planning. This service is essential to all educators.

Bryan Myres
Self / all ISD employees
Godley, TX

Please do not pass this bill.

Judi Thomas

Self / educator (retired)

Conroe, TX

All public school educators should be permitted to have annual association dues deducted in installments throughout the school year as long as the school district allows the practice of payroll deduction for other employee related items. Liability and employee rights protection that are provided with association membership should remain as a benefit of membership. These protections are part of the job in today's day and time. NO educator should be left having to rely on "whatever" protection is supplied as part of employment with a school district. This bill and the apparent intent are NOT supportive to Texas Public School Educators. I do not support this measure.

James Smith

Self - Teacher

Spring, TX

As a teacher I find it absolutely necessary to be able to have liability coverage through a professional organization (such as TMEA) in the event I need legal council or help. The representatives for TMEA specialize in Fine Arts (mostly music) in the event we need advice/help. Giving us no other options besides state run agencies is over stepping by the government. Conservatism this is not! We should all have the freedom to choose organizations that benefit us.

crystal hurta

I am a school Counselor self

Bay City, TX

We need this to be available.

Brooke King

Self

Humble, TX

I am a Texas School librarian and a member of the Texas Library Association (TLA). I am able to purchase liability insurance through the association and should continue to be able to do so. TLA helps in so many other ways as well with amazing professional development, volunteer opportunities, conferences, support, and much more. Please oppose HB 5019 and let these organizations continue to positively serve their members.

Morgan Summer

Self

Montgomery, TX

How is our organization fees being deducted from our paycheck a problem? We are not allowed to unionize, but we have every legal right to protect ourselves. Stop this ridiculous persecution of teachers and knit picking on stupid items that don't truly matter.

Christy Cotton

Self

San Angelo, TX

Teachers are already facing so many challenges with lack of funding, low pay, and skyrocketing insurance premiums. Teacher organizations help teachers in countless ways, and we should be able to deduct our dues from our paychecks. This bill should not further demoralize teachers by taking away our access to the liability insurance these organizations provide. With historic teacher shortages in this state, this bill is yet another deterrent for those considering going into the profession. I respectfully ask that this bill not be considered.