



## Lt. Governor's Grassroots Advisory Board

Tuesday, April 21, 2015

### Honorable Texas Senate Members:

We, the undersigned members of the Lt. Gov.'s Grassroots Advisory Board, stand united in **strong opposition** to the pre-kindergarten program bills, HB4 (Huberty/12 authors/coauthors) and SB 801 (Zaffirini).

#### **TEXAS LEGISLATURE SHOULD PROMOTE HEALTHY FAMILIES, NOT BREAK THEM UP**

**We encourage our Texas Legislators to join with concerned citizens and parents across this State to defeat this threat to parental rights.**

Texas already has plenty of challenges with education (K-12) because of weakened familial bonds in society without the State of Texas encouraging parents to turn their young children over to pre-schools. Texas should leave these early childhood development decisions where they belong – with the parents!

**These pre-K bills are just the first step towards the implementation of universal pre-K.**

History proves that government inherently grows and expands over time. The once-optional half day Kindergarten program has grown into its present-day required, universal full-day class. If you want to help our children have better educational outcomes, look for ways to help at least one parent remain in the homes with children. Strong families with deep family ties will allow more Texas families to thrive.

1402 84th LEGISLATURE — REGULAR SESSION

HUBERTY: Representative, what this bill did was we focused on creating a high quality program, and I think you know, you've done all the research, but for the members of the house that haven't done this, we're spending about \$1.7 billion a year. We have very little data on anything related to: is the program effective, what's the class size, are we teaching the TEKS, is there an assessment, do we know anything about that. I think it's prudent for us to look at it from a perspective and say let's invest some money to incentivize the schools to be able to provide us this information and feedback.

The bill does not address the schools which will need to pass additional bonds, taking on more debt to build the classrooms, and the amendment which would have capped the spending for this bill was defeated by the House before it was passed! **In other words, we are experimenting at great cost to taxpayers with a program that removes our young children from homes and half-day religious preschools and mothers' day out programs to a Godless environment with only evidence showing absolutely NO LONG-TERM BENEFITS beyond the 1<sup>st</sup> grade.**

This debate is not about how effective pre-K is or is not, that debate is over. In 2008, Health and Human Services released definitive evidence that the Federal government's 48-year experiment with Head Start failed children and left taxpayers a tab of more than \$180 billion. There are nothing except words to ensure this so-called "high quality" pre-K program will be any better than the expensive Head Start turned out to be.

Texans are endowed with "certain unalienable rights" which include the rights and duties of parents to rear their children with minimal intrusion from the State. This interference by the



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State tramples upon our parental rights. The early removal of children from parents' care is historically promoted in socialistic countries, not free societies which respect parental rights.

The Welfare State has resulted in the breakdown of the American family. We need to encourage the formation of strong families, not remove the children from their homes and parents' care at ever earlier ages. We, the parents, know our children and their needs better than the State and are the best judges of how, where and when our children should receive their education.

We know that one-size does NOT fit all in our school districts, and if these bills become Law, we are going to begin imposing this on even younger and more malleable children. Texas would be sending the message to the rest of the Nation that parents do not or cannot love and care for their children as well as the State can.

**We stand united in opposition to HB4 and SB801, as every parent should, and fervently ask each of you, our elected representatives to support strong families, and lessen the State's well-meaning but disastrous interference in Texas families.**

Respectfully,

### The Lt. Governor's Grassroots Advisory Board

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Lt. Governor's Grassroots Board  
We the People/Grassroots America,  
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**Dr. Julie Turner**, President  
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