

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



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July 27, 2007

The Honorable Tom Craddick
Speaker, Texas House of Representatives
1100 Congress, Room 2W.13
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Speaker Craddick:

As you know, Governor Rick Perry used his line-item veto authority last month to strike \$154 million which was intended to fund higher education employees' group insurance contributions for public community and junior colleges for fiscal year 2009 from House Bill 1.

Governor Perry's veto severely harms our state's system of higher education. In its practical effect the veto is the equivalent of a tax increase on hard-working Texans who are striving to build better lives by obtaining a community or junior college education.

Yesterday, 47 House Democrats wrote to Governor Perry and requested the he use budget execution authority, in conjunction with the Legislative Budget Board (LBB), to restore the \$154 million. Many other legislators have written to Perry independently. This veto has caused a statewide uproar, and its effects must be reversed.

I respectfully write to ask you to join the call publicly and unequivocally to restore these critically needed funds and correct Governor Perry's unwise decision. As a Joint-Chair of the LBB, your approval will be necessary to implement the restoration of the \$154 million. If Perry does not immediately take steps to effectively reverse his ill-conceived veto, then you and Lieutenant Governor Dewhurst should begin the process of making Texas community and junior colleges whole.

You and Lieutenant Governor Dewhurst have the authority to convene the LBB immediately and begin the budget execution process. Regardless of Governor Perry's course of action, please do what is right for Texas' future and the hard-working students that attend Texas' public community and junior colleges.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Dunnam", written over a horizontal line.

Jim Dunnam
State Representative, District 57