



**Resolution Censuring Speaker Dade Phelan
Liberty County Republican Party Executive Committee**

WHEREAS, State Representative Dade Phelan, as Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives, has abused the power of his office and his authority as Speaker by taking more than three actions during this current biennium that are either in opposition to the core principles of the Republican Party of Texas, in opposition to the Republican Party of Texas Legislative Priorities, or both; and

WHEREAS, On February 8, 2023, in disregard of Republican Party of Texas Legislative Priority Number Five (No. 5), “Ban Democrat Chairs”, Speaker Phelan appointed nine (9) Texas Democratic Party state representatives to committee chairmanship positions within the Texas House of Representatives; the Democrats assigned to committee chairs included: Oscar Longoria - Business & Industry, Abel Herrero - Corrections, Victoria Neave Criado - County Affairs, Joseph Moody - Criminal Jurisprudence, Harold V. Dutton - Juvenile Justice & Family Issues, Tracy King - Natural Resources, R. D. "Bobby" Guerra - Resolutions Calendars, Terry Canales - Transportation, and Senfronia Thompson - Select Committee on Youth Health and Safety; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, Republican Primary Ballot Propositions show 81.24% of Republican voters (86.83% in Liberty County) asked the Republican-controlled Texas Legislature to end the practice of awarding committee chairmanships to Democrats; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, at least 20 prominent Liberty County Republicans including members of the County Executive Committee, Elected Officials, and voters sent letters to State Representative Dade Phelan urging him, “to prohibit and refrain from appointing any Democrat House members as chair of any House committee”; and

WHEREAS, in House Speaker Phelan’s conscious decision to appoint multiple Democrat chairs to house committees in direct opposition to both the Republican Party of Texas legislative priorities and 81.24% of the most recent Texas Republican Primary election voters, the consequence of Phelan’s appointments thereby also places Speaker Phelan in violation of the first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, eighth and ninth core principles of the RPT Platform; and

WHEREAS, Speaker Phelan appointed Democrat State Representative Joseph Moody to chair the House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee and assigned HB 2709, “The Abolish Abortion in Texas

Act”, which fulfilled Republican Party of Texas Legislative Priority Number Six (No. 6) “Abolish Abortion in Texas”, to the House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee chaired by Representative Moody, thereby ensuring it would die in committee and never receive a hearing; and

WHEREAS, on February 28, 2023, Speaker Phelan promoted HR 85, a resolution honoring the LGBT community, by allowing the resolution to be referred to the House Resolutions Calendars Committee in violation of the first and sixth core principles of the Republican Party of Texas; and

WHEREAS, On May 9, 2023 Speaker Phelan allowed HB20 to die by sustaining a spurious point of order, in violation of RPT Legislative Priority Number Two (No. 2): Secure the Border and Protect Texans. HB20 would have created a Border Protection Unit under the control of the State of Texas to “arrest, apprehend, or detain persons crossing the Texas-Mexico border unlawfully,” and invoke Section 10, Article 1, of the United States Constitution to authorize this unit to return aliens to Mexico who have been observed crossing the border unlawfully and to use force to repel, arrest, and detain known transnational cartel operatives in the border region, among other duties. HB20 was identified as a priority by the Speaker himself, but at his sole discretion, he accepted a point of order raised by a Democrat Representative on a matter of opinion regarding the caption of the bill, from ever being voted on in the House.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, in accordance with Rule 44 of the Rules of the Republican Party of Texas, the Executive Committee of the Republican Party of Liberty County, meeting September 5, 2023, and after having offered House Speaker Dade Phelan an invitation and opportunity to appear and be provided time to speak before this committee, a quorum being present, by vote of at least two-thirds and voting, hereby censure Dade Phelan, a public office holder representing all of Liberty County as Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives; and be it further

RESOLVED, we request the State Republican Executive Committee and the delegates to the next State Convention of the Republican Party of Texas concur in this Resolution of Censure and impose on Representative Dade Phelan the penalties provided in Rule 44 of the Rules of the Republican Party of Texas; and be it further

RESOLVED, that an official copy of this resolution be prepared and transmitted to the Chairman of the Republican Party of Texas, The Governor of Texas, The Lt. Governor of Texas, and the SREC representatives of Senate District 3.