

Resolution of the Liberty County Republican Party Opposing House Bill 3 and Senate Bill 2

WHEREAS House Bill 3 (HB3), sponsored by Representative Brad Buckley, and Senate Bill 2 (SB2), sponsored by Senator Brandon Creighton, propose the implementation of an Education Savings Account (ESA) program which would create a new taxpayer-funded third lane of education in Texas; and

WHEREAS HB3 and SB2 violate Republican Party of Texas Plank #84¹, which states that funding for school choice must follow the student *"with no strings attached"* and opposes *"regulations on homeschooling or the curriculum of private or religious schools"*; and

WHEREAS HB3 and SB2 violate Republican Party of Texas Principle #9², by distorting the free market through government subsidies, inflating tuition at private schools, and creating government dependence among private institutions; and

WHEREAS HB3 and SB2 violate Republican Party of Texas Legislative Priority "Border Enforcement"³ by making ESA funds available to illegal immigrants, foreign exchange students, and adults in diploma recovery programs, in opposition to the stated goal of *"ending all subsidies and public services... for illegal aliens"*; and

WHEREAS HB3 explicitly creates new government-approved education options that turn private schools into quasi-government schools, thereby increasing government interference in private education and undermining true school choice; and

WHEREAS the program would be funded by earmarked surplus funds from the General Revenue Fund, estimated at over \$1 billion through 2027 and \$11.2 billion through 2030, with no clear plan for future funding beyond the initial surplus, likely resulting in increased taxation or reduced funding for other critical state functions; and

WHEREAS HB3 and SB2 establish up to five new taxpayer-funded Certified Educational Assistance Organizations (CEAOs) that would receive 5% of the total funding (an estimated \$50 million in the first year) and allow the Comptroller of Public Accounts to receive 3% of the total funding (\$30 million in the first year), creating a financial windfall for unaccountable private entities; and

WHEREAS the program introduces excessive government control over private education through the requirement that funds may only be used at "preapproved" schools and for "preapproved" educational products, thereby eroding parental authority and school autonomy; and

WHEREAS HB3 and SB2 require participants, including homeschool and private school students, to submit to government-mandated assessments and data collection, including College, Career, and Military Readiness (CCMR) surveys that track students into adulthood, constituting a massive privacy violation and government overreach; and

WHEREAS religious and private schools that accept ESA funds will be required to comply with government-mandated regulations, which could include anti-discrimination laws protecting LGBTQ and DEI-based policies, thereby threatening the religious freedom and autonomy of faith-based institutions; and

¹ **2024 RPT Platform Plank 84:** School Choice: We support further empowering all Texas families to choose from public, private, charter, or homeschool options for their children's education and funding which shall follow the student with no strings attached. We oppose regulations on homeschooling or the curriculum of private or religious schools and believe a constitutional amendment should be adopted accordingly. In lieu of funding, citizens may use property tax exemptions. <https://texasgop.org/official-documents/>

² **2024 RPT Platform Principle 9:** A free enterprise society unencumbered by government interference or subsidies. <https://texasgop.org/official-documents/>

³ **2024 RPT Legislative Priority: Border Enforcement:** Ending all subsidies and public services, including in-state college tuition and enrollment in public schools, for illegal aliens, except for emergency medical care. <https://texasgop.org/priorities/>

WHEREAS the Comptroller and CEOs are explicitly allowed to accept "gifts, grants, and donations" from private sources, creating a pay-to-play system and opening the door to corruption and undue influence from private entities and political donors; and

WHEREAS HB3 and SB2 expand the Texas Education Agency (TEA) bureaucracy by creating 46 new government jobs with a combined salary cost of \$29.3 million annually by 2030; and

WHEREAS HB3 and SB2 have been marketed to voters under the false premise that ESA funds represent a redirection of their own tax dollars when, in fact, the funds would come from the General Revenue Fund and constitute a new tax burden on all Texas taxpayers; and

WHEREAS the establishment of a new government education program under the ESA model represents a dangerous expansion of government power, placing the future of private education and homeschooling at risk of state control and regulation;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberty County Republican Party strongly opposes House Bill 3 and Senate Bill 2 and calls upon all Republican state legislators, including House District 18 Representative Janis Holt, to withdraw support for these bills and any similar legislation; and

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberty County Republican Party calls upon the the citizens of HD18 to make their voice heard on this issue by contacting Representative Janis Holt's office at (512) 463-0570 and express their opposition to HB3; and

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberty County Republican Party calls upon the Republican Party of Texas to officially oppose HB3 and SB2 and to reaffirm both Plank #84, supporting true school choice with no strings attached and Principle #9, rejecting all forms of government subsidy and control over private education; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Liberty County Republican Party condemns Governor Greg Abbott's support of these bills and his efforts to expand government control over private education, and urges all Republican lawmakers to uphold the principles of limited government, personal responsibility, and true free-market education.

Adopted this 3rd day of April, 2025

Liberty County Republican Party
Executive Committee