



Grover G. Norquist

President

April 21, 2004

Hon. Rick Perry
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, TX 78711-2428

Dear Gov. Perry,

I am writing in reference to your school finance reform proposal and the special session of the legislature which began yesterday. **I would like to offer my help for your plan for positive reforms to the state education system, as long as those reforms remain revenue-neutral.**

The biggest threat to your plan may be that legislators try to load it up with extra taxes and spending. Such tax increases would be bad for Texas families, bad for jobs, and bad for competitiveness. It would also be damaging politically to you and to the Republican majority in the legislature.

First, let me point out that you should have at least 40 legislators who are committed to reform that does not increase the overall burden on taxpayers. The legislators listed below have all signed the Taxpayer Protection Pledge to “oppose and vote against any and all efforts to increase taxes.” Having run for election or re-election on the basis of this Pledge, they are bound to oppose any net tax increase. An incumbent is bound by the Pledge for as long as he remains in the same body; only if he runs for a different office must he re-sign.

The Pledge is designed to accommodate revenue-neutral tax reform. If the property tax relief is sufficient to offset the tax increases you propose, you will not cause your Pledge signing allies to violate their commitment.

Americans for Tax Reform stands ready to assist you in working with the legislature to keep your plan revenue-neutral. Please do not hesitate to call on me for assistance.

Sincerely,

Grover G. Norquist

These Texas legislators have taken the Pledge:

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|------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Todd Staples (S-3) | 16. Dianne White Delisi (H-55) | 31. Fred Hill (H-112) |
| 2. Tommy Williams (S-4) | 17. Arlene Wohlgemuth (H-58) | 32. Will Harnett (H-114) |
| 3. Chris Harris (S-9) | 18. Jim Keffer (H-60) | 33. Ken Marchant (H-115) |
| 4. Kyle Janek (S-17) | 19. Phil King (H-61) | 34. Frank Corte (H-122) |
| 5. Dan Flynn (H-2) | 20. Ron Clark (H-62) | 35. Joe Nixon (H-133) |
| 6. Leo Berman (H-6) | 21. Myra Crownover (H-64) | 36. Martha Wong (H-134) |
| 7. Fred Brown (H-14) | 22. Jerry Madden (H-67) | 37. Gary Elkins (H-135) |
| 8. Larry Taylor (H-24) | 23. Scott Campbell (H-72) | 38. Dwayne Bohac (H-138) |
| 9. Charlie Howard (H-26) | 24. Tom Craddick (H-82) | 39. Robert Talton (H-144) |
| 10. Glenn Hegar (H-28) | 25. Carl Isett (H-84) | 40. Talmadge Heflin (H-149) |
| 11. Gene Seaman (H-32) | 26. John Smithee (H-86) | |
| 12. Edmund Kuempel (H-44) | 27. Kent Grusendorf (H-94) | |
| 13. Todd Baxter (H-48) | 28. Bill Zedler (H-96) | |
| 14. Mike Krusee (H-52) | 29. Elvira Reyna (H-101) | |
| 15. Harvey Hilderbran (H-53) | 30. Bill Keffer (H-107) | |