

# ★ TEXAS IMPACT ACTION ALERT

Week of April 10, 2023

**Green=Support • Red=Oppose • Tan=Monitor Closely**

When the budget is in the rearview mirror, the controversial legislation often breaks loose in the Texas Legislature. This week is no exception. On Tuesday, the House Public Education Committee will take up several voucher bills. On Wednesday, the House State Affairs Committee will take up several border security bills. Meanwhile, several good bills need a nudge out of the House Calendars Committee and onto the House floor.

## House Public Education

Tuesday, April 11

**Oppose HB 619** by Shaheen. HB 619 would divert money from public schools through an insurance premium tax credit for contributions made to educational assistance organizations

**Oppose HB 3781** by Jetton. HB 3781 would divert money from public schools by creating an education savings account program for children with disabilities.

**Oppose HB 4340** by Frank. HB 4340 would divert money from public schools by creating an education savings account program and an insurance premium tax credit for private schools.

**Oppose HB 4807** by Harrison. HB 4807 would divert money from public schools by creating a Texas Parental Empowerment Program fund and through an insurance premium tax credit.

Bottom line: any voucher program would diminish religious freedom by using the coercive power of the state to take money from one person of faith and give it to another to educate a child in a different faith. Additionally, any diversion of public funds to private schools takes money from the public school system, which disproportionately affects rural and low-income districts. For more background on vouchers, [read our issue brief](#).

Normally, we would just say to call the House Public Education Committee. However, an amendment was placed on the budget last week which would prohibit the diversion of public funds to private education for the 2024-2025 biennium. The vote was 86-52-10. Nevertheless, nothing is dead until Sine Die. The amendment easily could be removed in conference committee, and enabling

legislation has passed the Senate and similar legislation is being heard in the House. The pressure on House members is intense. Rumors include threats of finding and funding primary opponents. Now is the time to find out how your representative voted and call them. See the image below for the record vote on the voucher amendment. An aye vote is a vote FOR public schools and rejecting voucher programs.

***Call the House Public Education Committee***

**Chair:** Rep. Brad Buckley - (866) 515-0459

**Vice Chair:** Rep. Alma A. Allen - (866) 218-2506

Rep. Steve Allison - (866) 695-0633

Rep. Charles Cunningham - (866) 700-9145

Rep. Harold V. Dutton, Jr. - (866) 721-0905

Rep. Cody Harris - (855) 921-1364

Rep. Brian Harrison - (855) 921-1368

Rep. Cole Hefner - (855) 706-0757

Rep. Gina Hinojosa - (855) 921-1351

Rep. Ken King - (866) 563-8736

Rep. Oscar Longoria - (855) 921-1344

Rep. Matt Schaefer - (855) 921-1361

Rep. James Talarico - (866) 491-0258

**AYES – 86**

Allen, Alma(D); Allison, Steve(R); Anchia, Rafael(D); Ashby, Trent(R); Bailes, Ernest(R); Bell, Keith(R); Bernal, Diego(D); Bhojani, Salman (F)(D); Bowers, Rhetta(D); Bryant, John(D); Bucy, John(D); Burns, DeWayne(R); Campos, Liz(D); Canales, Terry(D); Clardy, Travis(R); Cole, Sheryl(D); Collier, Nicole(D); Cortez, Philip(D); Darby, Drew(R); Davis, Yvonne(D); Dean, Jay(R); Flores, Lulu (F)(D); Gamez, Erin (F)(D); Garcia, Josey (F)(D); Geren, Charlie(R); Gervin-Hawkins, Barbara(D); Gonzalez, Jessica(D); Gonzalez, Mary(D); Goodwin, Vikki(D); Guerra, Bobby(D); Hernandez, Ana(D); Herrero, Abel(D); Hinojosa, Gina(D); Holland, Justin(R); Howard, Donna(D); Johnson, Ann(D); Johnson, Jarvis(D); Johnson, Julie(D); Jones, Jolanda (F)(D); Jones, Venton (F)(D); Kacal, Kyle(R); King, Ken(R); King, Tracy(D); Kuempel, John(R); Lalani, Suleman (F)(D); Lambert, Stan(R); Landgraf, Brooks(R); Longoria, Oscar(D); Lopez, Ray(D); Manuel, Christian (F)(D); Martinez Fischer, Trey(D); Martinez, Armando(D); Meza, Terry(D); Moody, Joe(D); Morales Shaw, Penny(D); Morales, Christina(D); Morales, Eddie(D); Murr, Andrew(R); Neave Criado, Victoria(D); Ordaz, Claudia (F)(D); Orr, Angelia (F)(R); Ortega, Lina(D); Perez, Mary Ann(D); Plesa, Mihaela (F)(D); Price, Four(R); Ramos, Ana-Maria(D); Raney, John(R); Raymond, Richard(D); Reynolds, Ron(D); Rogers, Glenn(R); Romero, Ramon(D); Rose, Toni(D); Rosenthal, Jon(D); Sherman, Carl(D); Shine, Hugh(R); Smith, Reggie(R); Spiller, David(R); Talarico, James(D); Thierry, Shawn(D); Thompson, Senfronia(D); Turner, Chris(D); VanDeaver, Gary(R); Vo, Hubert(D); Walle, Armando(D); Wu, Gene(D); Zwiener, Erin(D)

**NAYS – 52**

Anderson, Doc(R); Bell, Cecil(R); Bonnen, Greg(R); Bumgarner, Ben (F)(R); Burrows, Dustin(R); Button, Angie Chen(R); Cain, Briscoe(R); Capriglione, Giovanni(R); Craddick, Tom(R); Cunningham, Charles (F)(R); Dorazio, Mark (F)(R); Frank, James(R); Gates, Gary(R); Gerdes, Stan (F)(R); Goldman, Craig(R); Guillen, Ryan(R); Harless, Sam(R); Harris, Caroline (F)(R); Harrison, Brian(R); Hayes, Richard (F)(R); Hefner, Cole(R); Hull, Lacey(R); Hunter, Todd(R); Isaac, Carrie (F)(R); Jetton, Jacey(R); Kitzman, Stan (F)(R); Klick, Stephanie(R); Leach, Jeff(R); Leo-Wilson, Terri (F)(R); Lopez, Janie (F)(R); Lozano, Jose(R); Metcalf, Will(R); Meyer, Morgan(R); Morrison, Geanie(R); Munoz, Sergio(D); Noble, Candy(R); Oliverson, Tom(R); Patterson, Jared(R); Paul, Dennis(R); Schaefer, Matt(R); Schatzline, Nate (F)(R); Schofield, Mike(R); Shaheen, Matt(R); Smithee, John(R); Stucky, Lynn(R); Swanson, Valoree(R); Tepper, Carl (F)(R); Tinderholt, Tony(R); Toth, Steve(R); Troxclair, Ellen (F)(R); Vasut, Cody(R); Wilson, Terry(R)

**PRESENT-NOT-VOTING – 11**

Buckley, Brad(R); Cook, David(R); DeAyala, Emilio (F)(R); Dutton, Harold(D); Frazier, Frederick (F)(R); Harris, Cody(R); Lujan, John(R); Phelan, Dade(R); Slawson, Shelby(R); Thimesch, Kronda (F)(R); Thompson, Ed(R)

**ABSENT - 1**

Slaton, Bryan(R)

## House State Affairs

Wednesday, April 12

**Oppose HB 7** by Guillen. HB 7 would...create a separate state court program for all border related crime

**Oppose HB 20** by Schaefer. HB 20 would create a state border police unit with the power to deputize volunteer citizens dedicated to arresting and expelling migrants from Texas at the discretion of the governor

**Oppose HB 65** by Spiller. HB 65 would further criminalize migrants by increasing most of the punishments for offenses associated with the border such as criminal trespass, destruction of property and smuggling to felonies, if committed with the intent of entering the US illegally

**Oppose HB 82** by Spiller. HB 82 would create an interstate compact with other border states to share resources and “crack down” on immigration collectively

**Oppose HB 1600** by Hefner. HB 1600 would label cartels as terrorist organizations and create a state offense for illegal entry into the US

**Oppose HB 3782** by Guillen. HB 3782 would create a permanent border security advisory council to advise and help the governor run border security operations

***Call the House State Affairs Committee***

**Chair:** Rep. Todd Hunter - (866) 419-0102

**Vice Chair:** Rep. Ana Hernandez - (866) 721-0908

Rep. Rafael Anchía - (866) 631-6169

Rep. Jay Dean - (855) 921-1362

Rep. Charlie Geren - (866) 629-4776

Rep. Ryan Guillen - (855) 737-9013

Rep. Will Metcalf - (855) 921-1374

Rep. Richard Peña Raymond - (855) 729-6257

Rep. Shelby Slawson - (866) 516-3108

Rep. John T. Smithee - (866) 554-6284

Rep. David Spiller - (866) 535-0914

Rep. Senfronia Thompson - (866) 721-0903

Rep. Chris Turner - (855) 736-6906

**House Public Health**

***Get these bills moving! The following bills have not been scheduled for committee hearings yet. There are only two more weeks left in the prime window for bills to be heard in their originating chamber. Urge Chair Klick to hear these bills before April 15.***



**HB 647** by Hinojosa would allow individuals who sign advance directives and do-not-resuscitate orders to specify modifications to their orders that would apply if they are pregnant.

**HB 979** by Howard would create an exception to Texas' prohibition on abortion in cases of rape or incest.

**HB 2215** by Howard would provide vital clarification that doctors may perform abortions if in the doctor's best medical judgment, abortion is necessary to preserve the pregnant patient's life, future fertility, or physical or mental health, or is requested because of a lethal fetal anomaly.

**HB 326** by Goodwin would require a medical facility to remove all medical equipment from a deceased person's body before the body is transferred to a funeral director.

**HB 2895** by Ann Johnson would authorize water cremation, also known as aquamation and alkaline hydrolysis, as a method of disposition when a person dies. Funeral practices have always been closely connected to religious belief, and many people of faith desire a funeral that better cares for God's Creation.

[Read the 1-pager.](#)

***Call the House Public Health Committee***

**Chair:** Rep. Stephanie Klick - (855) 701-2295

**Vice Chair:** Rep. Elizabeth "Liz" Campos - (866) 695-0632

Rep. Nicole Collier - (866) 573-1657

Rep. Jacey Jetton - (855) 942-3074

Rep. Ann Johnson - (866) 721-0892

Rep. Jolanda "Jo" Jones - (866) 730-0849

Rep. Venton Jones - (866) 631-6167

Rep. Tom Oliverson - (855) 702-6654

Rep. Four Price - (855) 704-0109

Rep. Reggie Smith - (855) 918-1295

Rep. Tony Tinderholt - (866) 573-1656

## House Calendars

**Support HB 12** by Rose. HB 12 would extend postpartum medicaid coverage to 12 months.

**Support HB 53** by Ed Thompson. HB 53 would exempt vehicles used by disaster relief organizations from registration fees.

**Support HB 465** by Thierry. HB 465 would create a pilot program to cover doula services in the Medicaid program in two counties with high maternal and infant mortality rates.

**Oppose HB 636** by Patterson would allow election judges to carry firearms at polling locations. The United States has a long and sad history of voter intimidation. Even Justice Thomas — the author of the N.Y. State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen opinion — specifically named polling places as a location where government retains the ability to restrict gun possession. This is [not a second amendment issue, but a voting rights issue.](#)

**Support HB 916** by Ordaz. HB 916 would help women — especially rural women that travel long distances — access contraception by requiring health insurance to provide a 12 month supply.

**Support HB 1212** by Jetton. HB 1212 would ensure that a religious holy day is an excused absence from school with a simple note from a parent.

### ***Ask House Calendars to set HB 12 for floor debate.***

**Chair:** Rep. Dustin Burrows - (855) 767-5441

**Vice Chair:** Rep. Toni Rose - (855) 704-0851

Rep. David Cook - (866) 596-1702

Rep. Charlie Geren - (866) 629-4776

Rep. Charlie Hefner - (855) 706-0757

Rep. Ana Hernandez - (866) 721-0908

Rep. Ann Johnson - (866) 721-0892

Rep. Jared Patterson - (866) 631-6172

Rep. Shelby Slawson - (866) 516-3108

Rep. James Talarico - (866) 491-0258

Rep. Ed Thompson - (866) 256-4241

**TAKE ACTION!**

NOTE: We have set up toll-free numbers for all members of the Texas House and Senate. We ask that you use those numbers and save them in your phones. Dialing this number allows us to track the volume of calls to each office. If the number stops working, please let us know so we can set up a new number.

If you do not have time to make all of the calls on the weekly Action Alert, unless stated otherwise, please prioritize them based on:

1. Your representative if they are on any of the committees listed
2. The Chair and Vice-Chair of the committees listed
3. Any issues you have particular interest or expertise

Find your elected officials via the “Who Represents Me” page at  
<http://www.fyi.legis.state.tx.us/Home.aspx>

***Please email [scott@texasimpact.org](mailto:scott@texasimpact.org) if you learn anything from your calls.***

## Rapid Response Action Alert Sample Script

### Sample Script

**Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I live in \_\_\_\_\_. I am calling to thank Representative/Senator \_\_\_\_\_ for his/her service this Legislative Session.**

**As a person of faith (or clergy) I want to be constructive in working with Representative/Senator \_\_\_\_\_ and hope they will support/oppose Bill number.**

*Feel free to use any of the bullet points in the Action Alert above. If your congregation has a special connection to the issue area you are referencing, feel free to briefly reference that connection. Don't forget to thank the staff member you are talking to at the end of the call, even if you disagree with their boss on the issue or bill—they are working hard and appreciate being appreciated!*

In the past, legislative offices occasionally have blocked our toll free number because of high call volume from people of faith. If you call twice and receive busy signals, email [engagement@texasimpact.org](mailto:engagement@texasimpact.org) and we will update the number.

For updated information, visit [www.texasimpact.org](http://www.texasimpact.org), follow us on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#) or contact [engagement@texasimpact.org](mailto:engagement@texasimpact.org) To join the Texas Impact Rapid Response Team and receive updated Texas Impact Action Alerts or a Legislative Engagement Group to be connected with other members in your district, visit: <https://texasimpact.org/take-action-2/>

Texas Impact is a membership organization. Join Texas Impact and be part of Texas' oldest and largest interfaith action network! For more information, visit: <https://texasimpact.org/join-2022-2023/>