



The Justice Foundation

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My name is Allan Parker. I am the President of the Texas Justice Foundation.

I wish to speak in favor of the Texas School Children's Religious Liberty Bill to protect Texas students' religious liberty. I represented Texas public school districts from 1979 to 1987 in the Corpus Christi area. I then taught Education Law and Civil Procedure at St. Mary's University School of Law from 1987 to 1993. I was selected by the State Board of Education as a Hero for Children for the year 2000. I was also selected by the State Board of Education to be one of the official evaluators of the Open Enrollment Charter School Program in its early phases in Texas.

Having represented both school districts and parents, I can assure you that this bill would be good for parents, children, administrators and school districts in Texas. The proposed law is basically a codification of existing case law.

I still receive complaints from parents and children that religious viewpoints are sometimes frowned upon in Texas public schools. The fear of litigation leads some school personnel to say 'no religious expression' at all. This is unnecessary, and can be unconstitutional viewpoint discrimination. I believe that this bill would codify the existing case law and provide solid, clear guidance to students, parents, and school districts across the states.

Thank you very much.

Allan Parker, President
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