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**Texas Association of School Administrators**

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April 7, 2011

RE: SB 1622 Relating to secondary-level English language learners' program for public school students of limited English proficiency

Dear Members of the Senate Education Committee:

The Texas Association of School Administrators (TASA) and Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) recognize that Texas public schools must meet the educational needs of a very diverse student population. We applaud Senator Van de Putte's commitment to ensuring that the needs of English language learners are met; however, the implementation of SB 1622 would be costly for school districts. The significant cost drivers in this bill are as follows:

Under Section 2 of the bill, a district may have to provide assessments to post-elementary through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students in the student's primary language. Nothing in this bill limits the application of that mandate to Limited English Proficient (LEP) students who speak Spanish. Consequently, this new assessment mandate may exponentially increase the number of tests needed for districts that serve a more diverse student population whose primary languages may include Vietnamese, Korean, Chinese, Burmese, Nepali, or other languages.

Under Section 2, a district must provide instruction by teachers who are appropriately certified in ESL *and* subject area teachers who are trained in adapting instruction for LEP students. This compound requirement may require districts to hire additional teachers in an identified shortage area, thus driving up the district's payroll expenses.

Section 2 also prescribes additional professional development requirements for teachers *and administrators* on campuses that failed to meet state standards for special language programs. These requirements will impose additional costs on districts.

Unless new funding accompanies this bill, this legislation would amount to a significant unfunded mandate for school districts, at a time when their state funding is being dramatically reduced.

Respectfully,



Casey McCreary  
Assistant Executive Director, Education Policy  
Texas Association of School Administrators



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Assistant Director of Governmental Relations  
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