

March 29, 2007

Members of the Senate Education Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to make these comments before you.

My name is Dr. Stanley Culotta, and I am president of Holy Cross of San Antonio. To help you get orientated, Holy Cross is located in the Edgewood Independent School District. Holy Cross High School was founded in 1957 and I have been associated with it since 1958. Since its founding, Holy Cross has offered college preparatory education for all who enroll. Students are accepted on a first come – first serve basis.

All graduates of Holy Cross fulfill the necessary requirements for college admission. We believe that a value centered, quality, college preparatory education is important for all students. Where poverty exists, and it is abundant, education liberates persons from poverty.

I have seen poverty in its many forms. I have seen it from the viewpoint of a high school teacher and administrator. I have also seen it from my perspective as a family physician who practiced medicine for 15 years in this same neighborhood.

In your responsibility as elected officials of the State of Texas and members of the Senate Education Committee, I encourage you to promote education for ALL children and in ALL schools.

Do not make Parental Choice in Education a privilege only for wealthy families.

America is strong because of its diversity, its freedom to choose, its competition, the loyalty of its peoples and the sincerity of its leaders.

Give parents the liberty to choose the education they feel is best for their children: public education, private education, religious based education, military education, and so forth.

Thank you.

*Bro Stanley Culotta, Ch MD*