

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 17, 2010

Mr. Johnny L. Veselka  
Executive Director  
Texas Association of School Administrators  
406 East 11<sup>th</sup> Street  
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Education Leader:

We write to provide you an update on the recent developments related to the \$830 million Education Jobs Fund and how the Texas Democratic Congressional delegation is working to protect the interests of our schools and children across the state.

As you may be aware, on September 3, 2010, Governor Rick Perry and the Texas Education Agency (TEA) submitted an altered application to the Department of Education for the \$830 million Education Jobs Fund. The State knew ahead of time that alteration of this federal application for education funds would only delay the immediate federal support that Congress voted to provide our local schools. None of these alterations qualified the Governor's July 1, 2009 request for federal education support. Solely because of this willful alteration of the federal application, schools across Texas will have millions less available now to meet local education needs.

After careful review, the Department of Education sent Governor Perry a letter stating that they were unable to approve the state's altered application at this time because it did not meet the requirements of the law. The Education Jobs and Medicaid Assistance Act of 2010 included Texas-specific language, which we worked to insert in the bill, that requires the State of Texas to: 1) distribute the Emergency Jobs funds using the funding formula in part A of Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965; and 2) provide the Department of Education assurances that Texas will not disproportionately single out education for budget cuts in years 2011, 2012, and 2013.

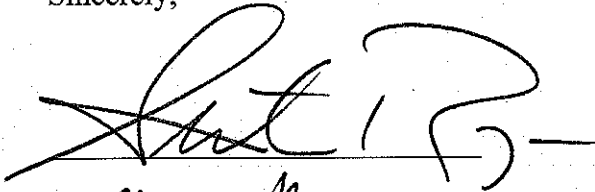
While Governor Perry and Republican Congressional leaders continue to assert that the language is unconstitutional and are pressing for a repeal of the Texas protection language and threatening to sue the federal government, the Texas Democratic Congressional delegation is committed to ensuring that every dollar of the estimated \$830 million gets to our schools in Texas and is not diverted for other purposes. As a matter of fact, the Texas Democratic Congressional delegation worked to ensure that the Texas protection language was included in the final version of the Education Jobs and Medicaid Assistance Act of 2010 after receiving requests and support for these exact protections from over 40 Texas superintendents and other leaders from education organizations across the state including the top representatives of the Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association, Texas Chapter of the American Federation of Teachers, Texas Association of School Boards, Texas State Teachers Association, Association for Texas Professional Educators, Texas Classroom Teachers Association, and Texas Association of School Administrators.

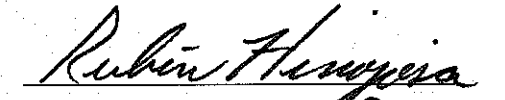
While we had hoped that TEA would submit an approvable application that met the requirements of the law, their recent submission was crafted in a way that sidestepped the specific protection language requested by education leaders in the State of Texas. It skirted a provision that requires that the State not make disproportionate cuts to the education budget in subsequent fiscal years after accepting the federal aid. This requirement is a key provision that ensures that our schools are not punished in the future for receiving funds

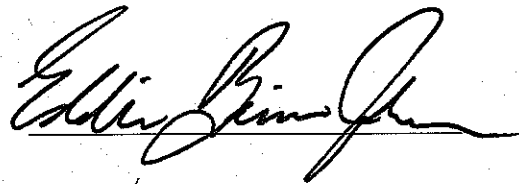
that they desperately need today to save teaching jobs, and we are disappointed that the Texas Republican leadership is working to dismantle the existing language that protects this funding for our schools. Unfortunately, their actions are not surprising, as every single Texas Republican in the House and Senate voted against providing any type of funding to save teaching jobs in the first place.

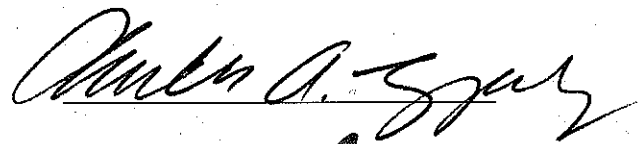
The ultimate goal for the Texas Democratic Congressional delegation is to ensure that our schools are able to receive relief and support during these tough economic times, without fear of retributive action at the state level. The Texas protection language was crafted for that purpose and although Republicans continue to demand a blank check, we stand with our education leaders in asserting our commitment to ensuring that every dollar of the Education Jobs Funds slated for Texas reaches our schools and saves teaching jobs. To that end, we will continue to urge Governor Perry to work with the Department of Education to submit an approvable application that does not skirt the law and continue to listen to the education leaders in our community to pass legislation that serves the best interests of our children.

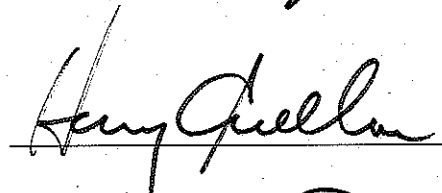
Sincerely,

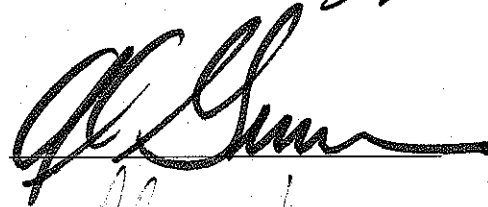
  
Art Borden

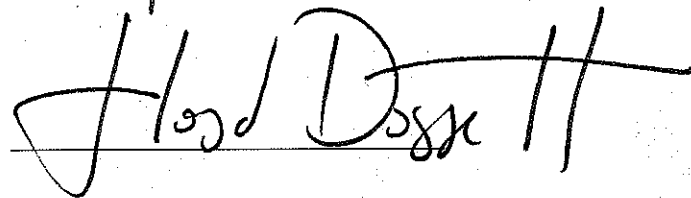
  
Rubin Hernandez

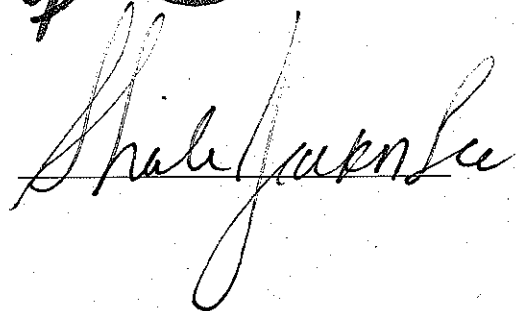
  
Eddie Lim

  
Mark A. Gray

  
Henry Guillen

  
A. Gunn

  
Fred Dossett

  
Shale Jackson

CC:

Sandi Borden, Executive Director, Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association

Linda Bridges, President Texas AFT

James B. Crow, Executive Director, Texas Association of School Boards

Rita Haecker, President, Texas State Teachers Association

Doug Rogers, Executive Director, Association for Texas Professional Educators