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Johnny L. Veselka
Executive Director

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September 15, 2010

The Honorable Michael C. Burgess
United States House of Representatives
229 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Burgess,

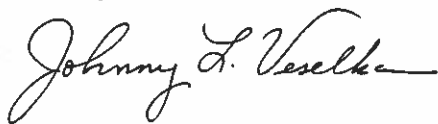
This year, school districts across Texas are facing unprecedented budget constraints. Almost fifty percent of school districts in Texas passed deficit budgets this year and that number is expected to increase next year. In addition, the state is facing an \$18-21 billion shortfall as we approach the next legislative session, which begins in January.

Many Texas school districts have already begun implementing major cuts in programs and services and are anticipating additional cuts next year. At the same time, Texas school districts are implementing new and more rigorous curriculum standards as well as a new assessment program. Trying to meet these increasing standards while drastically cutting funding will certainly have a negative impact on students, teachers, parents, and local communities.

The Texas Association of School Administrators (TASA) strongly encourages you to remove all legal and administrative barriers currently in place that would prohibit or hinder the immediate distribution of the \$830 million in federal funds for Texas public schools that was part of the Education Jobs Bill. This funding is critical for the schoolchildren and teachers of Texas.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,



Johnny L. Veselka
Executive Director

JV:atb