Resolution to Save the RPT Legislative Priority Favoring School Choice

WHEREAS, the Republican Party of Texas has adopted eight legislative priorities for the 85th Regular Session of the Texas Legislature, one of which is “Working to advocate for comprehensive school choice in a manner consistent with the RPT Platform;”

WHEREAS, the Republican Party of Platform of 2016 included Plank 147, overwhelmingly supported by the convention delegates, providing in full that “We believe that all children should have access to quality education. We support the right to choose public, private, charter, or home education. We support the distribution of educational funds in a manner that they follow the student to any school, whether public, private, charter, or home school through means of tax exemptions and/or credits;”

WHEREAS, President Trump has called school choice the “new civil rights issue of our time,”

WHEREAS, Governor Abbott has urged that “Every parent deserves choices about where they will send their child to school... This is a civil rights issue;”

WHEREAS, Lt. Governor Patrick has reiterated that school choice is his top policy priority for 2017, second only to protecting life;

WHEREAS, Senator Cruz has observed that “[s]chool choice is the civil rights issue of the 21st century;

BUT WHEREAS, State Representative Dan Huberty, the Chair of the Public Education Committee of the Texas House of Representatives, responded affirmatively when asked “Is school choice dead to you?”;

WHEREAS, when asked whether school choice legislation favored by Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick was "dead, dead, dead," Chairman Huberty said “yes;”

WHEREAS, when asked whether there was anything that could change his mind on the issue of school choice legislation favored by Lt. Gov. Patrick, Huberty said “no;”

WHEREAS, Chairman Huberty, elected as a Republican, has the power to deny school choice legislation a hearing in his committee and thereby deny the legislation from ever being voted on by the Texas House of Representatives, which would ensure that the Governor never has a chance to enact this Republican Party legislative priority into law;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Republican Party of Texas censures Chairman Huberty’s position on school choice legislation as antithetical to the views of the Republican Party of Texas as expressed by the Party’s delegates and executive committee; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Republican Party of Texas urges Chairman Dan Huberty to allow school choice legislation designated as a legislative priority of the Republican Party of Texas to be voted on by the full House of Representatives;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the text of this resolution be sent to the offices of Governor Greg Abbott, Lt. Governor Dan Patrick, Speaker Joe Straus, and every Republican member of both the Texas Senate and the Texas House of Representatives;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the text of this resolution shall be sent to all Texas Republican county chairs in order that the county parties forward to all endorsing groups and organizations within their respective counties.