

Legislative Task Force Report

**Republican Party of Texas
August 2025**

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Legislative Task Force Members

Member	SREC Position	Task Force Position
Abraham George	Republican Party of Texas Chairman	Ex Officio Member of Task Force
Lisa Hendrickson	Senate District 12 Committeewoman	Legislative Task Force Chair
Christin Bentley	Senate District 1 Committeewoman	Stop Sexualizing Texas Kids Subcommittee Chair
Chuck Burnett	Senate District 20 Committeeman	Member
Vergel Cruz	Republican Party of Texas Secretary	Ex Officio Member of Task Force
Andrew Eller	Senate District 24 Committeeman	Secure Texas Elections Subcommittee Chair
Jerry Fisher	Senate District 2 Committeewoman	SREC Legislative Priorities Committee Co-Chair
Deborah Kelting Fite	Senate District 7 Committeewoman	Texas is Not for Sale and No Democrat Chairs Subcommittee Chair
Rolando Garcia	Senate District 15 Committeeman	Member
Rachel Horton	Senate District 30 Committeewoman	Border Enforcement Subcommittee Chair
Jon Ker	Senate District 22 Committeeman	End Federal Overreach Subcommittee Chair
Jeneria Lewis	Senate District 27 Committeewoman	Ban Taxpayer-Funded Lobbying Subcommittee Chair
Dr. Milinda Morris	Senate District 13 Committeewoman	Secure the Electric Grid Subcommittee Chair
Greg Murphy	Senate District 14 Committeeman	Member
Adolpho Telles	Senate District 29 Committeeman	Member
Leslie Thomas	Senate District 22 Committeewoman	SREC Legislative Priorities Committee Co-Chair

Correspondence from the Chairman

Dear Grassroots Conservatives,

For the first time in Republican Party of Texas history, I created a Legislative Task Force to prepare a comprehensive evaluation of the 89th Legislature. This Task Force, composed of State Republican Executive Committee members, have spent hours reviewing the work of the 89th Legislature on the Legislative Priorities decided by the delegates of the 2024 State Convention.

The Republican Party of Texas has a process to adopt legislative priorities. The process begins with the Legislative Priorities Committee of the County and Senatorial District Conventions, which makes recommendations of legislative priorities to the State Convention Temporary Legislative Priorities Committee. (RPT Rule Nos. 29, 30) At the State Convention, the Temporary Legislative Priorities Committee conducts multiple days of preliminary deliberations to make recommendations to the Permanent Legislative Priorities Committee. (RPT Rule No. 33) The Permanent Legislative Priorities Committee recommends proposed legislative priorities to the State Convention delegates for consideration. (RPT Rule No. 34(c)) The State Convention delegates select and adopt the biennium's Legislative Priorities, which "shall be for specific changes, additions to, or deletions from the law that directly support the Platform and the core values of the Republican Party of Texas." (RPT Rule No. 34(c)) The SREC is required to "expend reasonable Party resources to promote passage of legislation crafted in support of these priorities." (RPT Rule No. 34(c))

At the 2024 State Convention, the delegates adopted the following eight Legislative Priorities for the 2024-2026 biennium:

1. Ban Taxpayer-Funded Lobbying
2. Border Enforcement
3. End Federal Overreach
4. No Democrat Chairs
5. Secure the Electric Grid
6. Secure Texas Elections
7. Stop Sexualizing Texas Kids
8. Texas is Not for Sale

The SREC collaborated with grassroots activists to advocate for these priorities. As a result of this collective effort, forty-three bills that align with our Legislative Priorities finally passed the 89th Legislature. This achievement is a testament to our shared goals and priorities. Despite these efforts, some attempted to block our Legislative Priorities. In light of the work of our SREC, the Legislative Task Force reviewed these actions and incorporated them into this report.

For Texas,
Abraham George
Chairman, Republican Party of Texas

**Republican Party of Texas Legislative Priorities
89th Legislature Victories**

The 89th Legislature finally passed forty-three bills that align with the Republican Party of Texas Legislative Priorities for this biennium. All bill numbers herein refer to the 89th Legislature, Regular Session.

List of Bills Passed by Legislative Priority

Border Enforcement - 2 Priority Bills Passed		
Border Enforcement	<u>SJR 5</u>	<i>Proposing a constitutional amendment requiring the denial of bail under certain circumstances to persons accused of certain offenses punishable as a felony.</i>
Border Enforcement	<u>SB 9</u>	<i>Relating to the confinement or release of defendants before trial or sentencing, including regulating charitable bail organizations, and the conditions of and procedures for setting bail and reviewing bail decisions.</i>

End Federal Overreach - 13 Priority Bills Passed

End Federal Overreach	<u>SB 25</u>	<i>Relating to health and nutrition standards to promote healthy living, including requirements for food labeling, primary and secondary education, higher education, and continuing education for certain health care professionals; authorizing a civil penalty.</i>
End Federal Overreach	<u>SB 314</u> (HB 1290)	<i>Relating to prohibiting certain food additives from being included in free or reduced-price meals provided by school districts.</i>
End Federal Overreach	<u>SB 379</u>	<i>Relating to prohibiting the purchase of sweetened drinks and candy under the supplemental nutrition assistance program.</i>
End Federal Overreach	<u>SB 888</u>	<i>Relating to the attorney general's defense of a district or county attorney against certain lawsuits in federal court.</i>
End Federal Overreach	<u>SB 1271</u>	<i>Relating to the concurrent jurisdiction of this state over United States military installations with respect to certain subject matters.</i>
End Federal Overreach	<u>SB 1362</u>	<i>Relating to prohibiting the recognition, service, and enforcement of extreme risk protective orders; creating a criminal offense.</i>
End Federal Overreach	<u>SB 1596</u>	<i>Relating to the prohibition of short-barrel firearms.</i>
End Federal Overreach	<u>HB 1056</u>	<i>Relating to the recognition of gold and silver specie as legal tender and the establishment of a transactional currency based on gold and silver; authorizing a fee.</i>
End Federal Overreach	<u>HB 1586</u>	<i>Relating to an exemption from required immunizations for school enrollment.</i>
End Federal Overreach	<u>HB 2963</u>	<i>Relating to diagnosis, maintenance, and repair of certain digital electronic equipment.</i>
End Federal Overreach	<u>HB 3441</u>	<i>Relating to the liability of vaccine manufacturers that advertise a harmful vaccine.</i>
End Federal Overreach	<u>HB 4076</u>	<i>Relating to prohibiting organ transplant recipient discrimination on the basis of vaccination status.</i>
End Federal Overreach	<u>HB 4535</u>	<i>Relating to COVID-19 vaccine administration requirements.</i>

Secure the Electric Grid – 11 Priority Bills Passed

Secure the Electric Grid	<u>SB 6</u>	<i>Relating to the planning for, interconnection and operation of, and costs related to providing service for certain electrical loads and to the generation of electric power by a water supply or sewer service corporation.</i>
Secure the Electric Grid	<u>SB 75</u>	<i>Relating to the resilience of the electric grid and certain municipalities.</i>
Secure the Electric Grid	<u>SB 231</u>	<i>Relating to temporary emergency electric energy facilities.</i>
Secure the Electric Grid	<u>SB 1535</u>	<i>Relating to the establishment by the Texas Workforce Commission of an advanced nuclear energy workforce development program.</i>
Secure the Electric Grid	<u>SB 1762</u>	<i>Relating to the authority of the Railroad Commission of Texas to designate certain persons as the operator of an orphaned oil or gas well.</i>
Secure the Electric Grid	<u>SB 1789</u>	<i>Relating to electric service quality and reliability; providing an administrative penalty.</i>
Secure the Electric Grid	<u>SB 2148</u>	<i>Relating to the reliability of the electricity supply chain.</i>
Secure the Electric Grid	<u>HB 14</u>	<i>Relating to support for the development of the nuclear energy industry.</i>
Secure the Electric Grid	<u>HB 3228</u>	<i>Relating to the inclusion of certain provisions in lease agreements for wind or solar power facilities.</i>
Secure the Electric Grid	<u>HB 3809</u>	<i>Relating to the removal of battery energy storage facilities.</i>
Secure the Electric Grid	<u>HB 3824</u>	<i>Relating to fire safety standards and emergency operations plans for the operation of battery energy storage facilities; providing administrative penalties.</i>

Secure Texas Elections – 8 Priority Bills Passed

Secure Texas Elections	<u>SB 1470</u>	<i>Relating to requiring the Department of Public Safety to share data for the purpose of maintaining the statewide voter registration list.</i>
Secure Texas Elections	<u>SB 1862</u>	<i>Relating to interstate notification by the voter registrar of certain applicants for voter registration.</i>
Secure Texas Elections	<u>SB 2166</u>	<i>Relating to testing of voting tabulation equipment.</i>
Secure Texas Elections	<u>SB 2753</u>	<i>Relating to the integration of early voting by personal appearance and election day voting, including the manner in which election returns are processed and other related changes.</i>
Secure Texas Elections	<u>SJR 37</u>	<i>Proposing a constitutional amendment clarifying that a voter must be a United States citizen.</i>
Secure Texas Elections	<u>SB 510</u>	<i>Relating to the failure of a voter registrar to comply with voter registration laws.</i>
Secure Texas Elections	<u>SB 985</u>	<i>Relating to the combination of certain election precincts.</i>
Secure Texas Elections	<u>HB 1661</u>	<i>Relating to election supplies and the conduct of elections; creating criminal offenses; increasing criminal penalties.</i>

Stop Sexualizing Texas Kids - 7 Priority Bills Passed

Stop Sexualizing Texas Kids	<u>SB 12</u>	<i>Relating to parental rights in public education, to certain public school requirements and prohibitions regarding instruction, diversity, equity, and inclusion duties, and social transitioning, and to student clubs at public schools.</i>
Stop Sexualizing Texas Kids	<u>SB 13</u>	<i>Relating to a school district's library materials and catalog, the establishment of local school library advisory councils, and parental rights regarding public school library catalogs and access by the parent's child to library materials.</i>
Stop Sexualizing Texas Kids	<u>SB 20</u>	<i>Relating to the creation of the criminal offense of possession, promotion, or production of certain obscene visual material appearing to depict a child.</i>
Stop Sexualizing Texas Kids	<u>SB 412</u>	<i>Relating to defenses to prosecution for certain offenses involving material or conduct that is obscene or otherwise harmful to children.</i>
Stop Sexualizing Texas Kids	<u>SB 2420</u>	<i>Relating to the regulation of platforms for the sale and distribution of software applications for mobile devices.</i>
Stop Sexualizing Texas Kids	<u>HB 100</u>	<i>Relating to the purchase, adoption, and use of instructional materials by public schools.</i>
Stop Sexualizing Texas Kids	<u>HB 4623</u>	<i>Relating to liability of public schools and professional school employees for sexual misconduct involving students.</i>

Texas is Not for Sale - 2 Priority Bills Passed

Texas is Not for Sale	<u>HB 119</u>	<i>Relating to the registration as a lobbyist of persons who engage in certain lobbying activities on behalf of a foreign adversary and to prohibitions on the receipt of compensation related to those lobbying activities; providing a civil penalty.</i>
Texas is Not for Sale	<u>SB 17</u>	<i>Relating to the purchase or acquisition of an interest in real property by certain aliens or foreign entities; creating a criminal offense; providing a civil penalty.</i>

**List of Bills Passed by Legislative Priority
with Author(s) and Sponsor(s)¹**

Legislative Priority	Bill Number	Author(s)	Sponsor(s)
Border Enforcement	<u>SJR 5</u> <i>Proposing a constitutional amendment requiring the denial of bail under certain circumstances to persons accused of certain offenses punishable as a felony.</i>	Huffman, R – SD 17	Cook, R – HD 96 DeAyala, R – HD 133 Louderback, R – HD 30 Moody, D – HD 78 Smithee, R – HD 86
Border Enforcement	<u>SB 9</u> <i>Relating to the confinement or release of defendants before trial or sentencing, including regulating charitable bail organizations, and the conditions of and procedures for setting bail and reviewing bail decisions.</i>	Huffman, R – SD 17	Smithee, R – HD 86

¹ The Senate Journal and House Journal, available via [Texas Legislature Online](http://www.texaslegislature.com), provide additional detail including coauthors, cosponsors, and the dates each member signed on to the bill.

Legislative Priority	Bill Number	Author(s)	Sponsor(s)
End Federal Overreach	<u>SB 25</u> <i>Relating to health and nutrition standards to promote healthy living, including requirements for food labeling, primary and secondary education, higher education, and continuing education for certain health care professionals; authorizing a civil penalty.</i>	Kolkhorst, R – SD 18	Bucy, D – HD 136 Frank, R – HD 69 Hull, R – HD 138 Pierson, R – HD 33 VanDeaver, R – HD 1
End Federal Overreach	<u>SB 314 (HB 1290)</u> <i>Relating to prohibiting certain food additives from being included in free or reduced-price meals provided by school districts.</i>	Hughes, R – SD 1	Harris Davila, R – HD 52
End Federal Overreach	<u>SB 379</u> <i>Relating to prohibiting the purchase of sweetened drinks and candy under the supplemental nutrition assistance program.</i>	Middleton, R – SD 11	Gerdes, R – HD 17
End Federal Overreach	<u>SB 888</u> <i>Relating to the attorney general's defense of a district or county attorney against certain lawsuits in federal court.</i>	Kolkhorst, R – SD 18	Leach, R – HD 67
End Federal Overreach	<u>SB 1271</u> <i>Relating to the concurrent jurisdiction of this state over United States military installations with respect to certain subject matters.</i>	Hancock, R – SD 9	Buckley, R – HD 54 Frank, R – HD 69
End Federal Overreach	<u>SB 1362</u> <i>Relating to prohibiting the recognition, service, and enforcement of extreme risk protective orders; creating a criminal offense.</i>	Hughes, R – SD 1	Hefner, R – HD 5 Metcalf, R – HD 16 Patterson, R – HD 106
End Federal Overreach	<u>SB 1596</u> <i>Relating to the prohibition of short-barrel firearms.</i>	Hagenbuch, R – SD 30	Bumgarner, R – HD 63 Hayes, R – HD 57 Metcalf, R – HD 16 Pierson, R – HD 33 Virdell, R – HD 53

Legislative Priority	Bill Number	Author(s)	Sponsor(s)
End Federal Overreach	<u>HB 1056</u> <i>Relating to the recognition of gold and silver specie as legal tender and the establishment of a transactional currency based on gold and silver; authorizing a fee.</i>	Capriglione, R - HD 98 Dorazio, R - HD 122 Harris, R - HD 8 Hunter, R - HD 32 Raymond, D - HD 42	Hughes, R - SD 1
End Federal Overreach	<u>HB 1586</u> <i>Relating to an exemption from required immunizations for school enrollment.</i>	Bonnen, R - HD 24 Capriglione, R - HD 98 Hull, R - HD 138 Leach, R - HD 67 McQueeney, R - HD 97	Kolkhorst, R - SD 18
End Federal Overreach	<u>HB 2963</u> <i>Relating to diagnosis, maintenance, and repair of certain digital electronic equipment.</i>	Capriglione, R - HD 98 Curry, R - HD 56 Hayes, R - HD 57	Hall, R - SD 2
End Federal Overreach	<u>HB 3441</u> <i>Relating to the liability of vaccine manufacturers that advertise a harmful vaccine.</i>	LaHood, R - HD 121 Leach, R - HD 67 Longoria, D - HD 35 Luther, R - HD 62 Schofield, R - HD 132	Hall, R - SD 2
End Federal Overreach	<u>HB 4076</u> <i>Relating to prohibiting organ transplant recipient discrimination on the basis of vaccination status.</i>	Cook, R - HD 96 Hull, R - HD 138 Leach, R - HD 67	Kolkhorst, R - SD 18
End Federal Overreach	<u>HB 4535</u> <i>Relating to COVID-19 vaccine administration requirements.</i>	Bonnen, R - HD 24 Capriglione, R - HD 98 Hull, R - HD 138 McQueeney, R - HD 97 Patterson, R - HD 106	Hancock, R - HD 9

Legislative Priority	Bill Number	Author(s)	Sponsor(s)
Secure the Electric Grid	<u>SB 6</u> <i>Relating to the planning for, interconnection and operation of, and costs related to providing service for certain electrical loads and to the generation of electric power by a water supply or sewer service corporation.</i>	King, R – SD 10 Schwertner, R – SD 5	King, R – HD 88
Secure the Electric Grid	<u>SB 75</u> <i>Relating to the resilience of the electric grid and certain municipalities.</i>	Alvarado, D – SD 6 Bettencourt, R – SD 7 Blanco, D – SD 29 Campbell, R – SD 25 Cook, D – SD 15 Creighton, R – SD 4 Eckhardt, D – SD 14 Flores, R – SD 24 Hall, R – SD 2 Hughes, R – SD 1 Kolkhorst, R – SD 18 Menéndez, D – SD 26 Middleton, R – SD 11 Paxton, R – SD 8 Perry, R – SD 28 West, D – SD 23 Zaffirini, D – SD 21	Wilson, R – HD 20
Secure the Electric Grid	<u>SB 231</u> <i>Relating to temporary emergency electric energy facilities.</i>	King, R – SD 10	Guillen, R – HD 31
Secure the Electric Grid	<u>SB 1535</u> <i>Relating to the establishment by the Texas Workforce Commission of an advanced nuclear energy workforce development program.</i>	Parker, R – SD 12 Zaffirini, D – SD 21	Button, R – HD 112
Secure the Electric Grid	<u>SB 1762</u> <i>Relating to the authority of the Railroad Commission of Texas to designate certain persons as the operator of an orphaned oil or gas well.</i>	Blanco, D – SD 29	Darby, R – HD 72

Legislative Priority	Bill Number	Author(s)	Sponsor(s)
Secure the Electric Grid	<u>SB 1789</u> <i>Relating to electric service quality and reliability; providing an administrative penalty.</i>	Schwertner, R – SD 5	McQueeney, R – HD 97
Secure the Electric Grid	<u>SB 2148</u> <i>Relating to the reliability of the electricity supply chain.</i>	Hall, R – SD 2	Slawson, R – HD 59
Secure the Electric Grid	<u>HB 14</u> <i>Relating to support for the development of the nuclear energy industry.</i>	Harris, R – HD 8	Schwertner, R – SD 5
Secure the Electric Grid	<u>HB 3228</u> <i>Relating to the inclusion of certain provisions in lease agreements for wind or solar power facilities.</i>	Kitzman, R – HD 85 Lambert, R – HD 71 Patterson, R – HD 106 Slawson, R – HD 59	Perry, R – SD 28
Secure the Electric Grid	<u>HB 3809</u> <i>Relating to the removal of battery energy storage facilities.</i>	Anchía, D – HD 103 Darby, R – HD 72 Gerdes, R – HD 17	Schwertner, R – SD 5
Secure the Electric Grid	<u>HB 3824</u> <i>Relating to fire safety standards and emergency operations plans for the operation of battery energy storage facilities; providing administrative penalties.</i>	Gerdes, R – HD 17 King, R – HD 88	Schwertner, R – SD 5

Legislative Priority	Bill Number	Author(s)	Sponsor(s)
Secure Texas Elections	<u>SB 1470</u> <i>Relating to requiring the Department of Public Safety to share data for the purpose of maintaining the statewide voter registration list.</i>	Hughes, R – SD 1	Shaheen, R – HD 66
Secure Texas Elections	<u>SB 1862</u> <i>Relating to interstate notification by the voter registrar of certain applicants for voter registration.</i>	Hughes, R – SD 1	Hickland, R – HD 55
Secure Texas Elections	<u>SB 2166</u> <i>Relating to testing of voting tabulation equipment.</i>	Parker, R – SD 12	Shaheen, R – HD 66
Secure Texas Elections	<u>SB 2753</u> <i>Relating to the integration of early voting by personal appearance and election day voting, including the manner in which election returns are processed and other related changes.</i>	Hall, R – SD 2	Isaac, R – HD 73
Secure Texas Elections	<u>SJR 37</u> <i>Proposing a constitutional amendment clarifying that a voter must be a United States citizen.</i>	Birdwell, R – SD 22	Cortez, D – HD 117 Hunter, R – HD 32 Muñoz, D – HD 36 Noble, R – HD 89 Shaheen, R – HD 66
Secure Texas Elections	<u>SB 510</u> <i>Relating to the failure of a voter registrar to comply with voter registration laws.</i>	Bettencourt, R – SD 7	Shaheen, R – HD 66
Secure Texas Elections	<u>SB 985</u> <i>Relating to the combination of certain election precincts.</i>	Bettencourt, R – SD 7 Paxton, R – SD 8	Bumgarner, R – HD 63 Cook, R – HD 96 Hayes, R – HD 57 Hopper, R – HD 64
Secure Texas Elections	<u>HB 1661</u> <i>Relating to election supplies and the conduct of elections; creating criminal offenses; increasing criminal penalties.</i>	Cain, R – HD 128 Schofield, R – HD 132 Swanson, R – HD 150 Vasut, R – HD 25 Wilson, R – HD 20	Bettencourt, R – SD 7

Legislative Priority	Bill Number	Author(s)	Sponsor(s)
Stop Sexualizing Texas Kids	<u>SB 12</u> <i>Relating to parental rights in public education, to certain public school requirements and prohibitions regarding instruction, diversity, equity, and inclusion duties, and social transitioning, and to student clubs at public schools.</i>	Creighton, R – SD 4	Leach, R – HD 67
Stop Sexualizing Texas Kids	<u>SB 13</u> <i>Relating to a school district's library materials and catalog, the establishment of local school library advisory councils, and parental rights regarding public school library catalogs and access by the parent's child to library materials.</i>	Texas Senate Republicans	Buckley, R – HD 54 Frank, R – HD 69 Metcalf, R – HD 16 Spiller, R – HD 68
Stop Sexualizing Texas Kids	<u>SB 20</u> <i>Relating to the creation of the criminal offense of possession, promotion, or production of certain obscene visual material appearing to depict a child.</i>	Flores, R – SD 24 Hagenbuch, R – SD 30 Hinojosa, Juan, D – SD 20 Huffman, R – SD 17 King, R – SD 10 Parker, R – SD 12	Capriglione, R – HD 98
Stop Sexualizing Texas Kids	<u>SB 412</u> <i>Relating to defenses to prosecution for certain offenses involving material or conduct that is obscene or otherwise harmful to children.</i>	Middleton, R – SD 11	Hefner, R – HD 5 Hickland, R – HD 55 Metcalf, R – HD 16 Patterson, R – HD 106 Vasut, R – HD 25
Stop Sexualizing Texas Kids	<u>SB 2420</u> <i>Relating to the regulation of platforms for the sale and distribution of software applications for mobile devices.</i>	Paxton, R – SD 8	Button, R – HD 112 Fairly, R – HD 87 González, M., D – HD 75 Patterson, R – HD 106
Stop Sexualizing Texas Kids	<u>HB 100</u> <i>Relating to the purchase, adoption, and use of instructional materials by public schools.</i>	Buckley, R – HD 54 Dutton, D – HD 142 Davis, Aicha, D – HD 109 Leo Wilson, R – HD 23 Plesa, D – HD 70	Middleton, R – SD 11
Stop Sexualizing Texas Kids	<u>HB 4623</u> <i>Relating to liability of public schools and professional school employees for sexual misconduct involving students.</i>	Dutton, D – HD 142 Leo Wilson, R – HD 23 Little, R – HD 65	Paxton, R – SD 8

Legislative Priority	Bill Number	Author(s)	Sponsor(s)
Texas is Not for Sale	<p align="center"><u>HB 119</u></p> <p><i>Relating to the registration as a lobbyist of persons who engage in certain lobbying activities on behalf of a foreign adversary and to prohibitions on the receipt of compensation related to those lobbying activities; providing a civil penalty.</i></p>	<p>Bonnen, R – HD 24 Capriglione, R – HD 98 Gerdes, R – HD 17 Metcalf, R – HD 16 Troxclair, R – HD 19</p>	<p>Hughes, R – SD 1</p>
Texas is Not for Sale	<p align="center"><u>SB 17</u></p> <p><i>Relating to the purchase or acquisition of an interest in real property by certain aliens or foreign entities; creating a criminal offense; providing a civil penalty.</i></p>	<p>Bettencourt, R – SD 7 Birdwell, R – SD 22 Campbell, R – SD 25 Creighton, R – SD 4 Flores, R – SD 24 Hagenbuch, R – SD 30 Hall, R – SD 2 Hinojosa, Adam, R – SD 27 Hinojosa, Juan, R – SD 20 Huffman, R – SD 17 King, R – SD 10 Kolkhorst, R – SD 18 Middleton, R – SD 11 Parker, R – SD 8 Schwertner, R – SD 5 Sparks, R – SD 31</p>	<p>Hefner, R – HD 5 McQueeney, R – HD 97 Metcalf, R – HD 16 Patterson, R – HD 106 Spiller, R – HD 68</p>

Republican Party of Texas Legislative Priorities
89th Legislature Actions in Opposition to Legislative Priorities

The Legislative Task Force identified the following actions in opposition to the Legislative Priorities during this biennium. All bill numbers herein refer to the 89th Legislature, Regular Session.

Ban Taxpayer-Funded Lobbying

Bill Number	<u>SB 19</u> <i>Relating to the use by a political subdivision of public funds for lobbying and certain other activities.</i>
Officeholder's Name	Hancock, R – SD 9 Huffman, R – SD 17 Nichols, R – SD 3
Action in Opposition of Legislative Priority	Authored (Nichols) and voted for (Hancock, Huffman, Nichols) Floor Amendment No. 5, which diluted the bill (deleted “hires or”) allowing nonprofits and associations to hire lobbyists with taxpayer dollars. The bill originally banned taxpayer funds to these groups for both hiring and contracting with lobbyists. This vote resulted in an SREC resolution against this action
Date of Action in Opposition of Legislative Priority	March 19, 2025
Task Force Vote	12-0 (2 absent) <u>For:</u> Bentley, Burnett, Eller, Fisher, Kelting Fite, Garcia, Hendrickson, Horton, Lewis, Murphy, Telles, Thomas <u>Absent:</u> Ker, Morris

Ban Taxpayer-Funded Lobbying

Bill Number	<u>SB 1420</u> <i>Relating to the use by a county, municipality, or school district of public money for lobbying activities.</i>
Officeholder's Name	Nichols, R - SD 3
Action in Opposition of Legislative Priority	Authored bill in direct opposition to the Ban Taxpayer-Funded Lobbying Legislative Priority. The bill would allow dues and fees to associations and organizations with a full-time employee who is a lobbyist (page two, lines 17-18)
Date of Action in Opposition of Legislative Priority	February 19, 2025
Task Force Vote	12-0 (2 absent) <u>For:</u> Bentley, Burnett, Eller, Fisher, Garcia, Hendrickson, Horton, Kelting Fite, Lewis, Murphy, Telles, Thomas <u>Absent:</u> Ker, Morris

Ban Taxpayer-Funded Lobbying

Bill Number	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>HB 755</u> <i>Relating to certain requirements applicable to certain public entities that engage in lobbying.</i></p>
Officeholder's Name	<p style="text-align: center;">Spiller, R - HD 68</p>
Action in Opposition of Legislative Priority	Authored bill in direct opposition to the Ban Taxpayer-Funded Lobbying Legislative Priority, which codifies the practice of taxpayer-funded lobbying with zero incremental advancements toward a ban on taxpayer-funded lobbying
Date of Action in Opposition of Legislative Priority	November 12, 2024
Task Force Vote	<p style="text-align: center;">8-4 (2 absent)</p> <p><u>For:</u> Burnett, Eller, Fisher, Hendrickson, Lewis, Murphy, Telles, Thomas</p> <p><u>Against:</u> Bentley, Garcia, Horton, Kelting Fite,</p> <p><u>Absent:</u> Ker, Morris</p>

Ban Taxpayer-Funded Lobbying

Bill Number	<u>HB 755</u> Relating to certain requirements applicable to certain public entities that engage in lobbying.
Officeholder's Name	Metcalf, R – HD 16
Action in Opposition of Legislative Priority	Authored bill in direct opposition to the Ban Taxpayer-Funded Lobbying Legislative Priority, which codifies the practice of taxpayer-funded lobbying with zero incremental advancements toward a ban on taxpayer-funded lobbying
Date of Action in Opposition of Legislative Priority	November 12, 2024
Task Force Vote	8-4 (2 absent) <u>For:</u> Burnett, Eller, Fisher, Hendrickson, Lewis, Murphy, Telles, Thomas <u>Against:</u> Bentley, Garcia, Horton, Kelting Fite, <u>Absent:</u> Ker, Morris

Ban Taxpayer-Funded Lobbying

Bill Number	<u>HB 755</u> <i>Relating to certain requirements applicable to certain public entities that engage in lobbying.</i>
Officeholder's Name	Tepper, R – HD 84
Action in Opposition of Legislative Priority	Authored bill in direct opposition to the Ban Taxpayer-Funded Lobbying Legislative Priority, which codifies the practice of taxpayer-funded lobbying with zero incremental advancements toward a ban on taxpayer-funded lobbying
Date of Action in Opposition of Legislative Priority	November 12, 2024
Task Force Vote	8-4 (2 absent) <u>For:</u> Burnett, Eller, Fisher, Hendrickson, Lewis, Murphy, Telles, Thomas <u>Against:</u> Bentley, Garcia, Horton, Kelting Fite, <u>Absent:</u> Ker, Morris

Ban Taxpayer-Funded Lobbying

Bill Number	All Ban Taxpayer-Funded Lobbying Legislative Priority bills
Officeholder's Name	King, R - HD 88
Action in Opposition of Legislative Priority	Chaired the House Committee on State Affairs where Ban Taxpayer-Funded Lobbying Legislative Priority bills were assigned and heard and none advanced out of the committee
Date of Action in Opposition of Legislative Priority	89th Legislative Session
Task Force Vote	12-0 <u>For:</u> Bentley, Burnett, Eller, Fisher, Kelting Fite, Garcia, Hendrickson, Horton, Lewis, Murphy, Telles, Thomas <u>Absent:</u> Ker, Morris

Border Enforcement

Bill Number	<u>SB 324</u> <i>Relating to requiring state contractors, political subdivisions of this state, and private employers to participate in the federal electronic verification of employment authorization program, or E-verify.</i>
Officeholder's Name	King, R - HD 88
Action in Opposition of Legislative Priority	Failed to advance this bill in the House Committee on State Affairs
Date of Action in Opposition of Legislative Priority	Referred to the House Committee on State Affairs on May 2, 2025
Task Force Vote	<p style="text-align: center;">9-1 (4 absent)</p> <p><u>For:</u> Bentley, Eller, Fisher, Garcia, Hendrickson, Horton, Kelting Fite, Lewis, Thomas</p> <p><u>Against:</u> Morris</p> <p><u>Absent:</u> Burnett, Ker, Murphy, Telles</p>

<u>Border Enforcement</u>	
Bill Number	<u>HB 354</u> <i>Relating to measures to ensure the safety and welfare of the border region of this state, including protection from ongoing criminal activity and public health threats and the establishment of the Border Protection Unit; creating a criminal offense; creating a civil penalty.</i>
Officeholder's Name	King, R - HD 88
Action in Opposition of Legislative Priority	Failed to advance this bill in the House Committee on State Affairs
Date of Action in Opposition of Legislative Priority	Referred to the House Committee on State Affairs on March 28, 2025
Task Force Vote	<p style="text-align: center;">9-1 (4 absent)</p> <p><u>For:</u> Bentley, Eller, Fisher, Garcia, Hendrickson, Horton, Kelting Fite, Lewis, Thomas</p> <p><u>Against:</u> Morris,</p> <p><u>Absent:</u> Burnett, Ker, Murphy, Telles</p>

Border Enforcement

Bill Number	<u>HB 1308</u> <i>Relating to employment practices of governmental entities, state contractors, and private employers in this state regarding the legal status of employees, including requiring participation in the federal electronic verification of employment authorization program, or E-verify program, and authorizing the suspension of certain licenses held by private employers for certain conduct in relation to the employment of persons not lawfully present.</i>
Officeholder's Name	King, R - HD 88
Action in Opposition of Legislative Priority	Failed to advance this bill in the House Committee on State Affairs
Date of Action in Opposition of Legislative Priority	Referred to the House Committee on State Affairs on March 10, 2025
Task Force Vote	9-1 (4 absent) <u>For:</u> Bentley, Eller, Fisher, Garcia, Hendrickson, Horton, Kelting Fite, Lewis, Thomas <u>Against:</u> Morris <u>Absent:</u> Burnett, Ker, Murphy, Telles

<u>Border Enforcement</u>	
Bill Number	<u>HB 4745</u> <i>Relating to the prohibited use of public money to pay the costs of providing public benefits to certain persons.</i>
Officeholder's Name	King, R – HD 88
Action in Opposition of Legislative Priority	Failed to advance this bill in the House Committee on State Affairs
Date of Action in Opposition of Legislative Priority	Referred to the House Committee on State Affairs on March 14, 2025
Task Force Vote	<p style="text-align: center;">9-1 (4 absent)</p> <p><u>For:</u> Bentley, Eller, Fisher, Garcia, Hendrickson, Horton, Kelting Fite, Lewis, Thomas</p> <p><u>Against:</u> Morris</p> <p><u>Absent:</u> Burnett, Ker, Murphy, Telles</p>

<u>Border Enforcement</u>	
Bill Number	<u>HB 4914</u> <i>Relating to the organization, powers, and authority of the Texas State Guard, including the powers and authority of the adjutant general and governor relating to the Texas State Guard.</i>
Officeholder's Name	King, R - HD 88
Action in Opposition of Legislative Priority	Failed to advance this bill in the House Committee on State Affairs
Date of Action in Opposition of Legislative Priority	Referred to the House Committee on State Affairs on April 30, 2025
Task Force Vote	<p style="text-align: center;">8-2 (4 absent)</p> <p><u>For:</u> Bentley, Eller, Fisher, Garcia, Hendrickson, Horton, Kelting Fite, Lewis</p> <p><u>Against:</u> Morris, Thomas</p> <p><u>Absent:</u> Burnett, Ker, Murphy, Telles</p>

<u>Border Enforcement</u>	
Bill Number	<u>HB 5602</u> <i>Relating to the authority of a political subdivision to use public money to provide legal services for individuals unlawfully present in the United States.</i>
Officeholder's Name	King, R - HD 88
Action in Opposition of Legislative Priority	Failed to advance this bill in the House Committee on State Affairs
Date of Action in Opposition of Legislative Priority	Referred to the House Committee on State Affairs on April 7, 2025
Task Force Vote	<p style="text-align: center;">9-1 (4 absent)</p> <p><u>For:</u> Bentley, Eller, Fisher, Garcia, Hendrickson, Horton, Kelting Fite, Lewis, Thomas</p> <p><u>Against:</u> Morris</p> <p><u>Absent:</u> Burnett, Ker, Murphy, Telles</p>

End Federal Overreach

Bill Number	<u>SB 381</u> <i>Relating to the prohibited manufacture and sale of motor vehicles equipped with remote vehicle disabling technology.</i>
Officeholder's Name	Nichols, R - SD 3
Action in Opposition of Legislative Priority	Failed to advance this bill in the Senate Committee on Transportation
Date of Action in Opposition of Legislative Priority	Referred to the Senate Committee on Transportation on February 3, 2025
Task Force Vote	<p style="text-align: center;">11-1 (2 absent)</p> <p><u>For:</u> Bentley, Burnett, Eller, Fisher, Garcia, Hendrickson, Horton, Kelting Fite, Lewis, Murphy, Thomas</p> <p><u>Against:</u> Morris</p> <p><u>Absent:</u> Ker, Telles</p>

End Federal Overreach

Bill Number	<u>SB 1993</u> <i>Relating to a prohibition on certain roadway projects and to the distribution of affordable housing funds to local governmental entities that violate that prohibition.</i>
Officeholder's Name	Nichols, R – SD 3
Action in Opposition of Legislative Priority	Failed to advance this bill in the Senate Committee on Transportation
Date of Action in Opposition of Legislative Priority	Referred to the Senate Committee on Transportation on March 17, 2025
Task Force Vote	6-2 (6 absent) <u>For:</u> Eller, Hendrickson, Lewis, Murphy, Telles, Thomas <u>Against:</u> Garcia, Morris <u>Absent:</u> Bentley, Burnett, Fisher, Horton, Kelting Fite, Ker

<u>End Federal Overreach</u>	
Bill Number	<u>HB 1074</u> <i>Relating to the registration, ownership, and operation of certain motor vehicles.</i>
Officeholder's Name	King, R - HD 88
Action in Opposition of Legislative Priority	Failed to advance this bill in the House Committee on State Affairs
Date of Action in Opposition of Legislative Priority	Referred to the House Committee on State Affairs on March 7, 2025
Task Force Vote	<p style="text-align: center;">11-1 (2 absent)</p> <p><u>For:</u> Bentley, Burnett, Eller, Fisher, Garcia, Hendrickson, Horton, Kelting Fite, Lewis, Murphy, Thomas</p> <p><u>Against:</u> Morris</p> <p><u>Absent:</u> Ker, Telles</p>

End Federal Overreach

Bill Number	<u>HB 1304</u> <i>Relating to required labeling of certain products containing or derived from aborted human fetal tissue.</i>
Officeholder's Name	VanDeaver, R - HD 1
Action in Opposition of Legislative Priority	Failed to advance this bill in the House Committee on Public Health
Date of Action in Opposition of Legislative Priority	Referred to the House Committee on Public Health on March 10, 2025
Task Force Vote	10-2 (2 absent) <u>For:</u> Bentley, Burnett, Eller, Fisher, Hendrickson, Horton, Kelting Fite, Lewis, Murphy, Thomas <u>Against:</u> Garcia, Morris <u>Absent:</u> Ker, Telles

End Federal Overreach

Bill Number	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>HB 1725</u> <i>Relating to the applicability of certain federal environmental regulations to motor vehicles that are manufactured, sold, and operated exclusively in this state.</i></p>
Officeholder's Name	King, R – HD 88
Action in Opposition of Legislative Priority	Failed to advance this bill in the House Committee on State Affairs
Date of Action in Opposition of Legislative Priority	Referred to the House Committee on State Affairs on March 14, 2025
Task Force Vote	<p style="text-align: center;">10-2 (2 absent)</p> <p><u>For:</u> Bentley, Burnett, Eller, Fisher, Hendrickson, Horton, Kelting Fite, Lewis, Murphy, Thomas</p> <p><u>Against:</u> Garcia, Morris</p> <p><u>Absent:</u> Ker, Telles</p>

End Federal Overreach

Bill Number	<u>HB 2547</u> <i>Relating to the registration, ownership, and operation of certain motor vehicles.</i>
Officeholder's Name	King, R - HD 88
Action in Opposition of Legislative Priority	Failed to advance this bill in the House Committee on State Affairs
Date of Action in Opposition of Legislative Priority	Referred to the House Committee on State Affairs on March 17, 2025
Task Force Vote	11-1 (2 absent) <u>For:</u> Bentley, Burnett, Eller, Fisher, Garcia, Hendrickson, Horton, Kelting Fite, Lewis, Murphy, Thomas <u>Against:</u> Morris <u>Absent:</u> Ker, Telles

No Democrat Chairs

Bill Number	HR 4 (Record Vote 9)
Officeholder's Name	<p style="margin: 0;"> Ashby, R - HD 9 Barry, R - HD 29 Bell, C., R - HD 3 Bell, K., R - HD 4 Bonnen, R - HD 24 Buckley, R - HD 54 Button, R - HD 112 Capriglione, R - HD 98 Craddick, R - HD 82 Cunningham, R - HD 127 Curry, R - HD 56 Darby, R - HD 72 Dean, R - HD 7 DeAyala, R - HD 133 Dyson, R - HD 14 Fairly, R - HD 87 Frank, R - HD 69 Gates, R - HD 28 Gerdes, R - HD 17² Geren, R - HD 99³ Guillen, R - HD 31 Harless, R - HD 126 Harris, R - HD 8 Hefner, R - HD 5 Hickland, R - HD 55 Hull, R - HD 138 King, R - HD 88 Kitzman, R - HD 85 Lambert, R - HD 71 Landgraf, R - HD 81 Leach, R - HD 67 Lopez, J., R - HD 37 Lujan, R - HD 118 McLaughlin, R - HD 80 McQueeney, R - HD 97 Metcalf, R - HD 16 </p>

² Representative Gerdes was inadvertently not listed in the draft report as considered by the State Republican Executive Committee, but he registered a “Yea” vote on Record Vote 9.

³ Representative Geren was inadvertently not listed in the draft report as considered by the State Republican Executive Committee, but he registered a “Yea” vote on Record Vote 9.

	<p> Meyer, R – HD 108 Noble, R – HD 89 Orr, R – HD 13 Patterson, R – HD 106 Phelan, R – HD 21 Shaheen, R – HD 66 Smithee, R – HD 86 Spiller, R – HD 68 Tepper, R – HD 84 VanDeaver, R – HD 1 Villalobos, R – HD 34 Wharton, R – HD 12 Wilson, R – HD 20 </p>
<p>Action in Opposition of Legislative Priority</p>	<p>On January 23, 2025, HR 4 (Hunter) was filed and laid before the House. Representative Patterson moved the previous question on adoption of HR 4, which was seconded by 47 Republicans and 42 democrats. Then, 49 Republicans voted with democrats to move the previous question for adoption of HR 4. The SREC passed a resolution titled <i>Resolution Condemning Vote for Previous Question on House Rules</i>, which states that the SREC considers a vote in favor of Previous Question on HR 4 to be a violation of the Legislative Priority to Ban Democrat Chairs for the purpose of censure under RPT Rule No. 44.</p>
<p>Date of Action in Opposition of Legislative Priority</p>	<p>January 23, 2025</p>
<p>Task Force Vote</p>	<p>12-0 (2 absent)</p> <p>For: Bentley, Burnett, Eller, Fisher, Garcia, Hendrickson, Horton, Kelting Fite, Lewis, Murphy, Telles, Thomas</p> <p>Absent: Ker, Morris</p>

Secure Texas Elections

Bill Number	<u>SB 2743</u> <i>Relating to the prosecution of certain election offenses.</i>
Officeholder's Name	Nichols, R – SD 3
Action in Opposition of Legislative Priority	Voted no on second and third readings in the Texas Senate on this endorsed bill
Date of Action in Opposition of Legislative Priority	April 24, 2025
Task Force Vote	<p style="text-align: center;">11-0 (3 absent)</p> <p><u>For:</u> Bentley, Burnett, Eller, Fisher, Kelting Fite, Garcia, Hendrickson, Lewis, Murphy, Telles, Thomas</p> <p><u>Absent:</u> Horton, Ker, Morris</p>

Secure Texas Elections

Bill Number	<u>SB 2743</u> <i>Relating to the prosecution of certain election offenses.</i>
Officeholder's Name	Phelan, R - HD 21
Action in Opposition of Legislative Priority	Voted no in the House Committee on State Affairs on this endorsed bill
Date of Action in Opposition of Legislative Priority	May 23, 2025
Task Force Vote	11-0 (3 absent) <u>For:</u> Bentley, Burnett, Eller, Fisher, Kelting Fite, Garcia, Hendrickson, Lewis, Murphy, Telles, Thomas <u>Absent:</u> Horton, Ker, Morris

Secure Texas Elections

Bill Number	<u>HB 2442</u> <i>Relating to an application for an early voting ballot by mail.</i>
Officeholder's Name	Shaheen, R - HD 66
Action in Opposition of Legislative Priority	Voted in House Committee on Elections in favor of this bill, which is opposed by the Republican Party of Texas because it does not Secure Texas Elections
Date of Action in Opposition of Legislative Priority	April 28, 2025
Task Force Vote	10-0 (3 absent, 1 not voting) <u>For:</u> Bentley, Eller, Fisher, Kelting Fite, Garcia, Hendrickson, Horton, Lewis, Murphy, Thomas <u>Absent:</u> Burnett, Ker, Morris <u>Not Voting:</u> Telles

Secure Texas Elections

Bill Number	<u>HB 5138</u> <i>Relating to the duty of the attorney general to prosecute criminal offenses prescribed by the election laws of this state.</i>
Officeholder's Name	Nichols, R - SD 3
Action in Opposition of Legislative Priority	Voted no on second and third readings in the Texas Senate on this endorsed bill
Date of Action in Opposition of Legislative Priority	May 27, 2025 (second reading) May 28, 2025 (third reading)
Task Force Vote	11-0 (3 absent) <u>For:</u> Bentley, Burnett, Eller, Fisher, Kelting Fite, Garcia, Hendrickson, Lewis, Murphy, Telles, Thomas <u>Absent:</u> Horton, Ker, Morris

Secure Texas Elections

Bill Number	<u>HB 5138</u> <i>Relating to the duty of the attorney general to prosecute criminal offenses prescribed by the election laws of this state.</i>
Officeholder's Name	Phelan, R - HD 21
Action in Opposition of Legislative Priority	Voted no on second reading in the Texas House on this endorsed bill (House Record Vote 1875)
Date of Action in Opposition of Legislative Priority	May 8, 2025
Task Force Vote	11-0 (3 absent) <u>For:</u> Bentley, Burnett, Eller, Fisher, Kelting Fite, Garcia, Hendrickson, Lewis, Murphy, Telles, Thomas <u>Absent:</u> Horton, Ker, Morris

Stop Sexualizing Texas Kids

Bill Number	<u>SB 240</u> <i>Relating to the designation and use of certain spaces and facilities according to biological sex; authorizing a civil penalty and a private civil right of action.</i>
Officeholder's Name	King, R - HD 88
Action in Opposition of Legislative Priority	Died in House Committee on State Affairs - No hearing
Date of Action in Opposition of Legislative Priority	89th Legislature
Task Force Vote	9-2

<u>Stop Sexualizing Texas Kids</u>	
Bill Number	<u>HB 4623</u> <i>Relating to liability of public schools and professional school employees for sexual misconduct involving students.</i>
Officeholder's Name	Darby, R - HD 72⁴ Gates, R - HD 28 Hayes, R - HD 57 Schofield, R - HD 132 Smithee, R - HD 86
Action in Opposition of Legislative Priority	Voted no on third reading (Record Vote No. 2487)
Date of Action in Opposition of Legislative Priority	89th Legislature
Task Force Vote	9-2

⁴ Representative Darby voted against HB 4623 on third reading (Record Vote 2487) and subsequently changed his vote in the House Journal. Then, when Representative Little called up HB 4623 with senate amendments for consideration, Representative Darby voted against the motion to concur in the senate amendments to HB 4623 (Record Vote 4061).

Texas is Not for Sale

Bill Number	<u>HB 1743</u> <i>Relating to the holding or acquisition of an interest in real property by or on behalf of certain foreign individuals or entities; establishing an agricultural intelligence office; creating a criminal offense.</i>
Officeholder's Name	King, R - HD 88
Action in Opposition of Legislative Priority	As House Committee on State Affairs Chairman, Representative King failed to move this bill out of the State Affairs Committee (left pending)
Date of Action in Opposition of Legislative Priority	April 28, 2025
Task Force Vote	<p style="text-align: center;">9-1 (4 absent)</p> <p><u>For:</u> Bentley, Eller, Fisher, Kelting Fite, Hendrickson, Horton, Murphy, Telles, Thomas</p> <p><u>Against:</u> Garcia</p> <p><u>Absent:</u> Burnett, Ker, Lewis, Morris</p>

<u>Texas is Not for Sale</u>	
Bill Number	<u>HB 1907</u> <i>Relating to a prohibition on governmental contracts with Chinese companies for certain information and communications technology; authorizing a civil penalty; creating a criminal offense.</i>
Officeholder's Name	King, R - HD 88
Action in Opposition of Legislative Priority	As House Committee on State Affairs Chairman, Representative King failed to move this bill out of the State Affairs Committee (left pending)
Date of Action in Opposition of Legislative Priority	April 23, 2025
Task Force Vote	10-0 (4 absent) <u>For:</u> Bentley, Eller, Fisher, Garcia, Kelting Fite, Hendrickson, Horton, Murphy, Telles, Thomas <u>Absent:</u> Burnett, Ker, Lewis, Morris

<u>Texas is Not for Sale</u>	
Bill Number	<u>HB 4195</u> <i>Relating to contracts with and the acceptance of money from certain foreign sources by public schools and public institutions of higher education; providing administrative penalties.</i>
Officeholder's Name	Hefner, R - HD 5
Action in Opposition of Legislative Priority	As House Committee on Homeland Security, Public Safety, and Veterans' Affairs Chairman, Representative Hefner failed to set a hearing on this bill
Date of Action in Opposition of Legislative Priority	March 31, 2025
Task Force Vote	10-0 (4 absent) <u>For:</u> Bentley, Eller, Fisher, Kelting Fite, Garcia, Hendrickson, Horton, Murphy, Telles, Thomas <u>Absent:</u> Burnett, Ker, Lewis, Morris

<u>Texas is Not for Sale</u>	
Bill Number	<u>HB 4716</u> <i>Relating to the authority of filing and foreign filing entities to transact business in this state and the authority of the attorney general to investigate those entities.</i>
Officeholder's Name	Button, R - HD 112
Action in Opposition of Legislative Priority	As House Committee on Trade, Workforce, and Economic Development Chairman, Representative Chen Button failed to set a hearing on this bill
Date of Action in Opposition of Legislative Priority	April 3, 2025
Task Force Vote	10-2 (2 absent) <u>For:</u> Bentley, Eller, Fisher, Kelting Fite, Hendrickson, Horton, Lewis, Murphy, Telles, Thomas <u>Against:</u> Garcia, Morris <u>Absent:</u> Burnett, Ker

Notice from SREC

This report is not intended to be comprehensive. It only considers the Republican Party of Texas's eight Legislative Priorities. It does not include our Platform's Preamble or Principles. These other two elements of our Platform are included in Rule No. 44 considerations. We encourage local County and District Executive Committees to consider these other two portions of our Platform when considering censure actions.

County and District Executive Committees should independently verify the information in this report before using the information in a censure resolution.

Appendix A - Roll Call Votes



Republican Party of Texas – State Republican Executive Committee
Special Meeting – August 15-16, 2025
Roll Call Votes

Key to votes

1. To remove Senators Campbell, Kolkhorst, Perry, and Schwertner from action in opposition to SB 19 in the Legislative Task Force Report
2. To remove Senator Hancock from action in opposition to SB 19 in the Legislative Task Force Report
3. To remove Senator Huffman from action in opposition to SB 19 in the Legislative Task Force Report
4. To remove Senator Nichols from action in opposition to SB 19 in the Legislative Task Force Report
5. To remove action in opposition to HB 755 in the Legislative Task Force Report
6. To remove Senator Perry from action in opposition to SB 119 in the Legislative Task Force Report
7. To remove Senator Kolkhorst from action in opposition to SB 122 in the Legislative Task Force Report
8. To remove action in opposition to HB 4348 in the Legislative Task Force Report
9. To remove action in opposition to HR 4 (seconding the motion) in the Legislative Task Force Report
10. To remove Representatives Cain and Troxclair from action in opposition to HR 4 (Record Vote 9) in the Legislative Task Force Report
11. To remove action in opposition to HB 805 in the Legislative Task Force Report
12. To remove action in opposition to HB 1359 in the Legislative Task Force Report
13. To remove Representative Wilson from action in opposition to HB 2442 in the Legislative Task Force Report
14. Pikel amendment to add Representative Darby to those to be removed from action in opposition to HB 4623 in the Legislative Task Force Report
15. To remove Representatives Gates, Hayes, Schofield, and Smithee from action in opposition to HB 4623 in the Legislative Task Force Report
16. To remove action in opposition to HB 3741 in the Legislative Task Force Report

Key to votes

17. To remove action in opposition to HB 4195 in the Legislative Task Force Report
18. To add SB 314 (and companion HB 1290) as a Victory under the “End Federal Overreach” section in the Legislative Task Force Report
19. To reconsider the vote to remove action in opposition to HB 805 in the Legislative Task Force Report
20. To remove action in opposition to HB 805 in the Legislative Task Force Report (under reconsideration)
21. To include roll call votes from the August 15-16, 2025, Meeting in the Legislative Task Force Report
22. To remove action in opposition to HR 4 (related to the procedures the House used to pass HR 4) in the Legislative Task Force Report

	SREC Member	Proxy	Aug 15	Aug 15	Aug 15	Aug 15	Aug 15	Aug 15
		Votes in Yellow	Vote 01	Vote 02	Vote 03	Vote 04	Vote 05	Vote 06
1	Christin Bentley	Paul Anthony Hale	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
1	Paul Anthony Hale		YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
2	Jerry Fisher	Bruce Bishop	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	YES
2	Bruce Bishop		YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	YES
3	VACANT							
3	VACANT							
4	Gwen Withrow		YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
4	Dale Inman		YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
5	Susan Lucas		NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
5	Jeremy Story		NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
6	Dawn McDonald							
6	Keith Nielsen		NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES
7	Deborah Fite		NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
7	Ralph Fite		YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES
8	Margaret Whitt	Jim Pikel	YES	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO
8	Jim Pikel		YES	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO
9	Anne Gebhart		YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
9	Dan Tully		YES	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES
10	Susan Valliant	Matt Ticzkus	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES
10	Matt Ticzkus		YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES
11	Gaylyn DeVine		NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
11	Ken Moore	Gaylyn DeVine	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES
12	Lisa Hendrickson	David Wylie	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO	YES

	SREC Member	Proxy	Aug 15	Aug 15	Aug 15	Aug 15	Aug 15	Aug 15
		Votes in Yellow	Vote 01	Vote 02	Vote 03	Vote 04	Vote 05	Vote 06
12	David Wylie		NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
13	Dr. Milinda Morris	Dale Gibble	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES
13	Dale Gibble		YES	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES
14	Christiana Keeler	Gregory Murphy	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
14	Gregory Murphy		YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
15	Brenda Estis		YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES
15	Rolando Garcia		YES	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES
16	Susan Fountain		YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO
16	Matthew Patrick	Susan Fountain	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO
17	Becky Green	Roman Klein	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
17	Roman Klein		YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES
18	Cheryl Thompson-Draper	Susan Patrick	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
18	Sakki Joseph		YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	YES
19	Kelly Perry	Walter West	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO	YES
19	Walter West	Kelly Perry	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO	YES
20	Melissa Knerr	Chuck Burnett	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	ABSTAIN
20	Chuck Burnett		NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
21	Toni Treviño		YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
21	Randy Purham		YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES
22	Leslie Thomas		NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES
22	VACANT							
23	Elaine Cook	Ed Zenner	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES
23	Ed Zenner		YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES
24	Mary Jane Avery		YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

	SREC Member	Proxy	Aug 15	Aug 15	Aug 15	Aug 15	Aug 15	Aug 15
		Votes in Yellow	Vote 01	Vote 02	Vote 03	Vote 04	Vote 05	Vote 06
24	Andrew Eller		YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES
25	Lucy Trainor		YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES
25	Michael Wheeler		YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
26	Karen Marshall		YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
26	Francisco Canseco		YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO
27	Jeneria Lewis		NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
27	Royce Albrecht	Jeneria Lewis	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
28	Jane Cansino		YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
28	Steve Evans	Jane Cansino	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
29	Robyn Cooper	Adolpho Telles	YES	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES
29	Adolpho Telles	Robyn Cooper	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
30	Rachel Horton		NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES
30	Patrick Wamhoff		NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
31	Tisha Crow		NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES
31	Brandon Hodges							
Chair	Abraham George		YES	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES
Vice Chair	D'rinda Randall		YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES
YES			43	27	21	12	25	38
NO			16	32	38	47	34	20
ABSTAIN			0	0	0	0	0	1
RESULT			PASSES	FAILS	FAILS	FAILS	FAILS	PASSES

	SREC Member	Proxy	Aug 15	Aug 15	Aug 15	Aug 15	Aug 15	Aug 16
		Votes in Yellow	Vote 07	Vote 08	Vote 09	Vote 10	Vote 11	Vote 12
1	Christin Bentley	Paul Anthony Hale	YES	NO	YES	YES	NO	YES
1	Paul Anthony Hale		YES	NO	ABSTAIN	YES	NO	NO
2	Jerry Fisher	Bruce Bishop	YES	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO
2	Bruce Bishop		YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES
3	VACANT							
3	VACANT							
4	Gwen Withrow		YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
4	Dale Inman		YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
5	Susan Lucas		YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
5	Jeremy Story		YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO
6	Dawn McDonald							
6	Keith Nielsen		YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	YES
7	Deborah Fite		YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
7	Ralph Fite		YES	NO	YES	YES	NO	YES
8	Margaret Whitt	Jim Pikel	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
8	Jim Pikel		YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
9	Anne Gebhart		YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
9	Dan Tully		YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
10	Susan Valliant	Matt Ticzkus	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO
10	Matt Ticzkus		YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
11	Gaylyn DeVine		YES	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO
11	Ken Moore	Gaylyn DeVine	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
12	Lisa Hendrickson	David Wylie	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES
12	David Wylie		NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO

	SREC Member	Proxy	Aug 15	Aug 15	Aug 15	Aug 15	Aug 15	Aug 16
		Votes in Yellow	Vote 07	Vote 08	Vote 09	Vote 10	Vote 11	Vote 12
13	Dr. Milinda Morris	Dale Gibble	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO
13	Dale Gibble		YES	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO
14	Christiana Keeler	Gregory Murphy	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	YES
14	Gregory Murphy		YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	YES
15	Brenda Estis		YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
15	Rolando Garcia		YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
16	Susan Fountain		YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO
16	Matthew Patrick	Susan Fountain	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	YES
17	Becky Green	Roman Klein	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
17	Roman Klein		YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
18	Cheryl Thompson-Draper	Susan Patrick	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
18	Sakki Joseph		YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
19	Kelly Perry	Walter West	YES					NO
19	Walter West	Kelly Perry	YES					NO
20	Melissa Knerr	Chuck Burnett	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES
20	Chuck Burnett		YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO
21	Toni Treviño		YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
21	Randy Purham		YES	NO	YES	YES	NO	YES
22	Leslie Thomas		YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO
22	VACANT							
23	Elaine Cook	Ed Zenner	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
23	Ed Zenner		YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
24	Mary Jane Avery		YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
24	Andrew Eller		YES	NO	YES	YES	NO	YES

	SREC Member	Proxy	Aug 15	Aug 15	Aug 15	Aug 15	Aug 15	Aug 16
		Votes in Yellow	Vote 07	Vote 08	Vote 09	Vote 10	Vote 11	Vote 12
25	Lucy Trainor		YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
25	Michael Wheeler		YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
26	Karen Marshall		YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
26	Francisco Canseco		YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
27	Jeneria Lewis		YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO
27	Royce Albrecht	Jeneria Lewis	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO
28	Jane Cansino		YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
28	Steve Evans	Jane Cansino	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
29	Robyn Cooper	Adolpho Telles	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
29	Adolpho Telles	Robyn Cooper	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
30	Rachel Horton		YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO
30	Patrick Wamhoff		NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
31	Tisha Crow		YES	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO
31	Brandon Hodges							
Chair	Abraham George		YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Vice Chair	D'rinda Randall		YES	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO
YES			57	30	39	50	28	36
NO			2	27	17	7	29	22
ABSTAIN			0	0	1	0	0	1
RESULT			PASSES	PASSES	PASSES	PASSES	FAILS	PASSES

	SREC Member	Proxy	Aug 16	Aug 16	Aug 16	Aug 16	Aug 16	Aug 16
		Votes in Yellow	Vote 13	Vote 14	Vote 15	Vote 16	Vote 17	Vote 18
1	Christin Bentley	Paul Anthony Hale	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES
1	Paul Anthony Hale		YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES
2	Jerry Fisher	Bruce Bishop	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES
2	Bruce Bishop		YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES
3	VACANT							
3	VACANT							
4	Gwen Withrow		YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES
4	Dale Inman		YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES
5	Susan Lucas		NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES
5	Jeremy Story		NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES
6	Dawn McDonald							
6	Keith Nielsen		NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES
7	Deborah Fite		NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES
7	Ralph Fite		NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES
8	Margaret Whitt	Jim Pikel	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
8	Jim Pikel		YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
9	Anne Gebhart		YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
9	Dan Tully		YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
10	Susan Valliant	Matt Ticzkus	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES
10	Matt Ticzkus		YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES
11	Gaylyn DeVine		YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES
11	Ken Moore	Gaylyn DeVine	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	YES
12	Lisa Hendrickson	David Wylie	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES
12	David Wylie		NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO

	SREC Member	Proxy	Aug 16	Aug 16	Aug 16	Aug 16	Aug 16	Aug 16
		Votes in Yellow	Vote 13	Vote 14	Vote 15	Vote 16	Vote 17	Vote 18
13	Dr. Milinda Morris	Dale Gibble	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES
13	Dale Gibble		YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES
14	Christiana Keeler	Gregory Murphy	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES
14	Gregory Murphy		YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES
15	Brenda Estis		YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES
15	Rolando Garcia		YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES
16	Susan Fountain		YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES
16	Matthew Patrick	Susan Fountain	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	YES
17	Becky Green	Roman Klein	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
17	Roman Klein		YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
18	Cheryl Thompson-Draper	Susan Patrick	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
18	Sakki Joseph		YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	YES
19	Kelly Perry	Walter West	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES
19	Walter West	Kelly Perry	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES
20	Melissa Knerr	Chuck Burnett	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	YES
20	Chuck Burnett		NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	YES
21	Toni Treviño		YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
21	Randy Purham		NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES
22	Leslie Thomas		YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES
22	VACANT							
23	Elaine Cook	Ed Zenner	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES
23	Ed Zenner		YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES
24	Mary Jane Avery		YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
24	Andrew Eller		YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES

	SREC Member	Proxy	Aug 16	Aug 16	Aug 16	Aug 16	Aug 16	Aug 16
		Votes in Yellow	Vote 13	Vote 14	Vote 15	Vote 16	Vote 17	Vote 18
25	Lucy Trainor		YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
25	Michael Wheeler		YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
26	Karen Marshall		YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
26	Francisco Canseco		YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
27	Jeneria Lewis		NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES
27	Royce Albrecht	Jeneria Lewis	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES
28	Jane Cansino		YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
28	Steve Evans	Jane Cansino	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
29	Robyn Cooper	Adolpho Telles	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES
29	Adolpho Telles	Robyn Cooper	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES
30	Rachel Horton		NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES
30	Patrick Wamhoff		NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
31	Tisha Crow		YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES
31	Brandon Hodges							
Chair	Abraham George		YES	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES
Vice Chair	D'rinda Randall		YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES
YES			45	20	17	30	25	57
NO			14	39	42	29	34	2
ABSTAIN			0	0	0	0	0	0
RESULT			PASSES	FAILS	FAILS	PASSES	FAILS	PASSES

	SREC Member	Proxy	Aug 16	Aug 16	Aug 16	Aug 16
		Votes in Yellow	Vote 19	Vote 20	Vote 21	Vote 22
1	Christin Bentley	Paul Anthony Hale	YES	ABSTAIN	YES	NO
1	Paul Anthony Hale		NO	NO	YES	NO
2	Jerry Fisher	Bruce Bishop	NO	NO	YES	NO
2	Bruce Bishop		YES	YES	YES	NO
3	VACANT					
3	VACANT					
4	Gwen Withrow		NO	NO	YES	NO
4	Dale Inman		NO	NO	YES	NO
5	Susan Lucas		NO	NO	YES	NO
5	Jeremy Story		NO	NO	YES	NO
6	Dawn McDonald					
6	Keith Nielsen		NO	NO	YES	NO
7	Deborah Fite		ABSTAIN	ABSTAIN	YES	NO
7	Ralph Fite		YES	YES	YES	NO
8	Margaret Whitt	Jim Pikel	YES	YES	YES	YES
8	Jim Pikel		YES	YES	YES	YES
9	Anne Gebhart		YES	YES	YES	YES
9	Dan Tully		YES	YES	YES	YES
10	Susan Valliant	Matt Ticzkus	NO	NO	YES	NO
10	Matt Ticzkus		YES	YES	YES	YES
11	Gaylyn DeVine		NO	NO	YES	NO
11	Ken Moore	Gaylyn DeVine	NO	YES	YES	NO
12	Lisa Hendrickson	David Wylie	NO	NO	YES	NO

	SREC Member	Proxy	Aug 16	Aug 16	Aug 16	Aug 16
		Votes in Yellow	Vote 19	Vote 20	Vote 21	Vote 22
12	David Wylie		NO	NO	NO	NO
13	Dr. Milinda Morris	Dale Gibble	NO	NO	YES	NO
13	Dale Gibble		NO	NO	YES	NO
14	Christiana Keeler	Gregory Murphy	NO	NO	YES	NO
14	Gregory Murphy		NO	NO	YES	NO
15	Brenda Estis		YES	YES	YES	NO
15	Rolando Garcia		YES	YES	YES	NO
16	Susan Fountain		NO	NO	YES	NO
16	Matthew Patrick	Susan Fountain	YES	YES	YES	NO
17	Becky Green	Roman Klein	YES	YES	YES	YES
17	Roman Klein		YES	YES	YES	YES
18	Cheryl Thompson-Draper	Susan Patrick	YES	YES	YES	YES
18	Sakki Joseph		ABSTAIN	ABSTAIN	YES	NO
19	Kelly Perry	Walter West	YES	YES	YES	YES
19	Walter West	Kelly Perry	YES	YES	YES	YES
20	Melissa Knerr	Chuck Burnett	NO	NO	YES	NO
20	Chuck Burnett		YES	NO	YES	NO
21	Toni Treviño		YES	YES	YES	YES
21	Randy Purham		NO	NO	YES	NO
22	Leslie Thomas		NO	NO	YES	NO
22	VACANT					
23	Elaine Cook	Ed Zenner	YES	YES	YES	NO
23	Ed Zenner		YES	YES	YES	NO
24	Mary Jane Avery		YES	YES	YES	YES

	SREC Member	Proxy	Aug 16	Aug 16	Aug 16	Aug 16
		Votes in Yellow	Vote 19	Vote 20	Vote 21	Vote 22
24	Andrew Eller		NO	NO	YES	NO
25	Lucy Trainor		YES	YES	YES	YES
25	Michael Wheeler		YES	YES	YES	YES
26	Karen Marshall		YES	YES	YES	YES
26	Francisco Canseco		YES	YES	YES	YES
27	Jeneria Lewis		NO	NO	YES	NO
27	Royce Albrecht	Jeneria Lewis	NO	NO	YES	NO
28	Jane Cansino		YES	YES	YES	YES
28	Steve Evans	Jane Cansino	YES	YES	YES	YES
29	Robyn Cooper	Adolpho Telles	YES	YES	YES	YES
29	Adolpho Telles	Robyn Cooper	NO	YES	YES	NO
30	Rachel Horton		NO	NO	YES	NO
30	Patrick Wamhoff		NO	NO	YES	NO
31	Tisha Crow		NO	NO	YES	NO
31	Brandon Hodges					
Chair	Abraham George		YES	YES	YES	NO
Vice Chair	D'rinda Randall		NO	NO	YES	NO
YES			29	29	58	19
NO			28	27	1	40
ABSTAIN			2	3	0	0
RESULT			PASSES	PASSES	PASSES	FAILS

Appendix B – Correspondence from Members of the 89th Legislature



CHARLES SCHWERTNER

STATE SENATOR • DISTRICT 5

COMMITTEES: BUSINESS AND COMMERCE, CHAIR • FINANCE • STATE AFFAIRS

August 13, 2025

Chairman Abraham George
Republican Party of Texas
P.O. Box 2206
Austin, TX 78768

Dear Chairman George and Members of the State Republican Executive Committee,

As the author or sponsor of six of the successful Republican Party of Texas Legislative Priority bills, I am proud to stand by you as we uphold and advance legislation that ensures Texas remains the best state to live, work, and raise a family.

I have long supported efforts to ban taxpayer-funded lobbying and remain fully committed to ending the practice of using public dollars to influence the legislative process. Texans deserve accountability and the assurance that their hard-earned money is not being spent to advocate against them, growing government and undermining conservative reforms.

During the 89th Legislative Session, I supported legislation to stop the use of taxpayer dollars for lobbyists. At this time, I voted in a favor of an amendment by Senator Nichols (R-Jacksonville), based on direct input from county judges and mayors across Senate District 5, who expressed concerns about the potential impact on their rural communities. However, following that vote, I had the opportunity to hear input from our Senate District 5 Committeewoman, Susan Lucas, whose perspective was valuable. After reflecting on her input and engaging in further discussion with constituents, I have since proudly supported Senate Bill 12, without amendments, during the Special Session, first as a member of the Senate State Affairs Committee on July 22nd and again on August 1st when we passed it off the Senate Floor. I would ask that this proven support be accurately reflected in any reports or materials from the Party moving forward.

Let me be clear: I support Senate Bill 12 in its current form, without amendments, and I strongly encourage my colleagues in the Texas House to do the same. Like you, I look forward to finally banning taxpayer-funded lobbying in the State of Texas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C. Schwertner".

Charles Schwertner
State Senator

August 13, 2025

Chairman Abraham George
Republican Party of Texas
807 Brazos Street
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Chairman George,

I express my gratitude to the State Republican Executive Committee for acknowledging the significance of my key Republican Party of Texas priority legislation, Senate Joint Resolution 5 and Senate Bill 9. After multiple sessions of overcoming opposition from House Democrats, I successfully passed these critical public safety measures to prevent violent offenders from threatening our communities. Like the Republican Party of Texas, I am committed to fighting for the improvement of our great state, with public safety as my foremost priority. This dedication is why the Texas Senate and Lt. Governor Dan Patrick consistently rely on my leadership to advance essential conservative legislation that safeguards our communities and upholds our Constitutional Rights.

Following the SREC meeting from this past weekend, I was disappointed to learn about the concerns raised by the Legislative Task Force regarding my support for Floor Amendment Number 5 to Senate Bill 19 during the 89th Legislature, Regular Session. Senate Bill 19, as finally presented to the full Senate after amendments by Senator Middleton, already included an exemption for certain associations, such as the Sheriffs' Association of Texas, recognizing their critical role in public safety. I supported Floor Amendment Number 5 because the Texas District and County Attorneys' Association (TDCAA) deserved similar consideration. Both organizations have been instrumental in preserving public safety across Texas. The Legislative Task Force Report failed to recognize that TDCAA played a vital role in my successful efforts to pass Senate Joint Resolution 5 and Senate Bill 9, which strengthened protections against repeat and violent offenders, safeguarding our communities.

Additionally, I supported the amendment to address the stalled progress of a taxpayer-funded lobbying ban in the House of Representatives over several sessions. I hoped this amendment could provide the necessary momentum to gain House support and advance the bill into law. When it became evident that the amendment failed to secure House support, I redirected my efforts to support Senate Bill 12 during the First Called Special Session. On August 1, 2025, I fully supported Senate Bill 12 without amendments, demonstrating my dedication to a robust ban on taxpayer-funded lobbying.

I take pride in my conservative track record and the Republican Party of Texas priorities that I have both authored and successfully enacted. In 2025, I was the most effective legislator in the Texas Legislature, passing numerous bills, including many key priorities of the Republican Party of Texas. Furthermore, as Chair of the Senate Finance Committee, I have allocated more funding to secure our border than any other legislator in Texas history. Aligned with the Republican Party of Texas, my top priorities remain securing our border and protecting our communities.

I look forward to continuing to work with the Republican Party of Texas to advance its legislative priorities and serve the people of Texas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joan Huffman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joan Huffman
Texas Senator, District 17

THE SENATE OF TEXAS



LOIS W. KOLKHORST

STATE SENATOR
DISTRICT 18

August 13, 2025

Dear Chairman George, Vice Chair Randall, and SREC Committeemen and Committeewomen:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft version of The Legislative Task Force Report. For many years, I have deeply appreciated the hard work of our SREC members and Legislative Priority Committee to craft and pass conservative legislation, as we all agree that Texas must lead our nation in protecting our constitutional rights.

As the State Senator for Senate District 18, I'm honored to have worked on major platform issues through the years with great success and yes, some disappointments but never tiring in our mission to defend our God-given rights. This session, with the help of our grassroots, we passed major Republican priorities during the regular session. These victories have gained nationwide attention, such as my SB 17 (the toughest foreign land ownership prohibition in the country), my SB 25 (the Make Texas Health Again initiative — the first in nation — and now used as the standard by US Health Secretary Bobby Kennedy Jr.), as well as my SB 324 (E-Verify) and my SB 819 (taking on the Biden Green New Deal giveaway) which both passed the Senate with party support. Other bills, such as my SB 888 (Legal defense against federal lawfare), my sponsoring of HB 1586 (Improving school vaccine exemptions), and my sponsoring of HB 4076 (Prohibiting discrimination based on vaccine status) reached Governor Abbott's desk to become law, and are listed as priorities in the draft of your Legislative Task Force Report!

We have made a great team, so I was disappointed to see my name listed on the "strike list" in the draft of this report, as related to SB 19 (89R) and SB 122 (89R). Perhaps the following explanation will help clarify these two concerns:

Regarding SB 19, I am a joint-author on Senator Middleton's SB 12 during the ongoing special session and have given my full support for a complete ban on taxpayer-funded lobbying. As a joint-author of SB 12, I have shown that in no way do I support any weakening or exemption. Thankfully, SB 12 has already passed with no exemptions in the Senate on Friday, Aug. 1, with a vote of 17 for; 11 against; 1 PNV. Hopefully, my vote on SB 12 stands as a marker for my commitment to this critical issue.

Knowing your time is limited, I would like to share a story about why there is only one instance where I voted to allow county associations. Prior to SB 19 (89R), I had previously voted for

banning taxpayer lobbying three times (2019, 2021, 2023). This means that as of today, I have voted to ban taxpayer-funded lobbying five separate times since 2019. As you and the SREC are acutely aware, no form of banning taxpayer lobbying has ever passed in the Texas House.

Why would I vote for the “Nichols Amendment” on SB 19? During session, I had been asked by nearly all of my SD 18 Republican county judges (16 of the 18 counties) and several county commissioners to either vote no on SB 19 (that would never happen) or at least vote to exempt their associations. In the Senate, the debate focused on if we sent the House a softer version, perhaps they could finally pass something and the bill could then possibly be strengthened again during the House floor debate (just as we did on SB 17). It was a futile gesture. Even the amended version of SB 19 died in House State Affairs, never receiving a hearing.

My final lesson was learned less than two weeks later, after the March 19 vote on SB 19, when I would regret the flawed line of thinking that we should treat taxpayer-funded associations separately from taxpayer-funded hired-gun lobbyists.

The “thank you” gift given to me for my support of the “Nichols amendment” was to watch days later as the County Judges and Commissioners Association of Texas promptly testified against my SB 819, a sensible bill to reform wind and solar farms and push back on the Biden Green New Deal. This association was soon joined by TAC, who worked to kill SB 819 on behalf of the same county judges who’d begged me to exempt them from the lobbying ban!

I realized at that moment, just days after the “Nichols compromise amendment” that there is really no compromising with these groups. They are lobbyists, plain and simple.

When Senator Middleton thankfully re-filed SB 19 during special session as SB 12, I was the first in line to sign on to be a joint-author on the bill. He smiled and welcomed me to join him. The lesson here is that any twisted logic that seeks to voluntarily weaken a tough Texas Senate bill so it can possibly later pass the House is purely a fool’s errand. And please know this: I won’t be fooled again. Furthermore, as I have studied and reviewed, I feel an amendment exempting associations would codify certain lobbying associations and that would be a dangerous precedent and should be soundly rejected.

My joint authorship and vote of SB 12 (89th, 1st called session) should negate my error on the “Nichols Amendment,” and clarify where I stand moving forward. I have also taken the time to explain this to many of my Republican county judges who continue to call me. Done. Never again.

Regarding SB 122, I would like to first state that this is a good bill. Senator Bob Hall is a dear friend and we work on many conservative bills together. This session, 27 of his bills were referred to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee, where I serve as Chair and he is a member. We advanced many Medical Freedom Priorities. I have authored and carried many of these bills as well. It’s a priority list I take seriously, as evidenced by my earning this year’s “Senator of the Year Award” from Texans for Vaccine Choice.

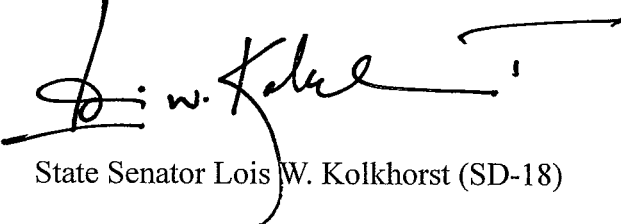
This session the SREC Legislative Priorities Committee and its Federal Overreach Subcommittee provided a list of Medical Freedom Priorities (an email received from Becky Greene dated March 27, 2025) that included 15 bills for us to consider but unfortunately never mentioned SB 122.

Similarly, in working with Senator Hall and his staff, we focused on his highest priority bills, but SB 122 was never included among those bills. I also asked my staff to review all notes, emails and phone calls from session, we have nothing from the Legislative Priorities Committee or the SREC contacting our office about SB 122.

I respectfully ask that my name be removed from the draft "strike list" for SB 122 and SB 19.

Please know I appreciate the work of the SREC and we can agree that Texas remains ground zero in the battle to protect liberty and freedom. I'm honored to be in that battle with patriots like you. Please accept this as my written rebuttal and request for a full and total removal from any mention of my name in your "Legislative Task Force Report" strike list.

Sincerely,



State Senator Lois W. Kolkhorst (SD-18)



Donna Campbell, M.D.

Texas State Senator
District 25

August 13, 2025

Chairman George,

During the 89th Regular Session, the Senate passed a Senate Bill 19 (SB 19), a bill to abolish Taxpayer-Funded Lobbying. Prior to final passage, the Senate added an amendment offered by Senator Robert Nichols that allowed for entities to "hire" individuals required to register as a lobbyist under Chapter 305. My support the Nichols Amendment was rooted in efforts to ensure public safety. While there was an exemption made to associations or organizations for elected sheriffs, no such exemption was made for district attorneys.

The Texas District and County Attorney Associations (TDCAA), is a nonprofit who assist district attorneys with tracking bills so they can provide input at the Capitol and to their legislators. TDCAA acts as an information gatherer and has access to the legislation tracking system to inform its members so the District and County Attorneys can effectively provide input to their State Representatives and Senators.

For example, Comal County District Attorney, Jennifer Tharp, has spent many hours at the Capitol providing testimony on several bills she worked on such as Organized Retail Theft, Bail Reform, Human Trafficking and Attempted Capital Murder of Police Officers. She is able to know when and which committee to provide this testimony based on the tracking and information TDCAA provides to her. Similarly, the Sheriff's Association does just this for Sheriffs. The District Attorney and Sheriff for Comal County do not have staff that have the ability or time to track legislation, but both the District Attorneys and Sheriffs of Senate District 25 are active at the Capitol and have influenced legislation good for the district and good for Texas. As filed during the regular session, SB 19 did not provide any protection for associations that assist law enforcement.

Ultimately, Senate Bill 19 failed to receive a hearing in the House Committee on State Affairs, and it died in the Texas House, the unfortunate and repeated fate for the ban on Taxpayer-Funded Lobbying. I have supported efforts to bring an end to this practice in the State of Texas, and most recently, I supported Senate Bill 12 during the 89th First-Called Special Session, that did not include the same language in the Nichols Amendment. While it remains to be seen if the Texas House will pass this legislation this time, I will continue to support and protect legislation that ends the practice of taxpayer-funded lobbying, like Senate Bill 19 (89R) and Senate Bill 12 (89S1) accomplished.

Sincerely,

Senator Donna Campbell
Senate District 25



CHARLES PERRY
TEXAS STATE SENATOR
DISTRICT 28

August 13, 2025

Mr. Abraham George
Chairman
Republican Party of Texas

Re: Response to the Legislative Taskforce Report

Dear Chairman George and Senate Republican Executive Committee members,

The Texas Senate passed Senate Bill 19 (SB 19), a bill to abolish taxpayer funded lobbying, during the 89th Legislative Session. During the Senate floor debate, the bill's author, Senator Middleton, offered an amendment that was adopted, to exempt the Texas Sheriffs' Association from the bill's prohibition on taxpayer funded lobbying. I supported this important amendment because the legislature's highest priority is preserving public health and safety. To achieve that goal, the law enforcement community must be able to communicate effectively, provide education, and, when necessary, lobby the legislature to enact strong law and order policies.

I was concerned however, that the Senator Middleton amendment did not include an exemption for other law enforcement associations such as the Texas Police Chiefs Association. While Senator Nichols' amendment was broader than what I initially sought to preserve for law enforcement, I voted for his amendment because I have always promised my constituents that I will stand with the men and women in blue, regardless of the political consequences.

During the First Called Special Session, Senate Bill 12 (SB 12) was filed with an exemption for both sheriffs and any other law enforcement officer association. I appreciate that Senator Middleton and Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick thoughtfully included these protections in SB 12 and therefore, I voted in favor of SB 12 during the special session. I firmly believe that taxpayer funded lobbying must be brought to a swift and definitive end, but I have also maintained that a reasonable exemption for law enforcement is essential.

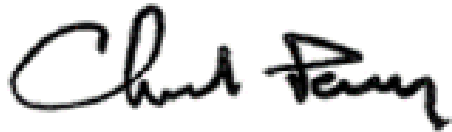
Additionally, Senate Bill 119 (SB 119) was heard during the 89th Regular Session, in the Senate Committee on Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs held on March 31, 2025. This bill would have amended current law to require that any person selling food or meat products label them if they contained mRNA vaccine material.

According to testimony from Dr. Penny Riggs, an associate professor of Functional Geonomics in the Department of Animal Sciences at Texas A&M University, no mRNA vaccines have been developed that have received full regulatory approval for use in animals raised for food. She further explained that additional research will be necessary before any such vaccine receives regulatory approval. The Texas Veterinary Medical Association testified against the bill and confirmed the facts that Dr. Riggs presented during her testimony.

At the conclusion of the hearing, after all the testimony was heard, there was not enough committee member support to pass the bill out of the committee. Out of respect for the bill author, Senator Bob Hall, and to preserve the decorum of the Senate, Senate committees traditionally refrain from voting on bills that do not have enough votes to pass out of committee. In regard to SB 119, the committee honored that tradition.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charles Perry". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Senator Charles Perry
Senate District 28

TEXAS HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES



KEITH BELL

DISTRICT 4

August 13, 2025

Abraham George
Chairman, Republican Party of Texas
Via: Electronic Delivery: ageorge@txgop.org

Re: Letter from RPT Chairman George and Legislative Task Force Report Pending SREC Approval

Dear Chairman George,

Thank you for providing the opportunity to review and comment on the draft *Legislative Task Force Report*. I watched the proceedings on Saturday, August 9th, and I appreciate your leadership. The stated intent for this process was to be transparent and factual, an honorable expectation. Though I value the grassroots engagement that drives our Legislative Priorities, the expectations should be reasonable and clearly defined. Accountability is essential in any organization, including the Legislature or the RPT; It should be bilinear, both preventative and punitive.

As you know, good conservative policy isn't created in a vacuum. The Texas Legislature is composed of 181 unique members, each representing districts with distinct priorities, local needs, rural or urban, and each with varying political philosophies, even within our Republican party. Given that Republicans do not hold a two-thirds majority in the House, passing critical conservative legislation often requires navigating procedural hurdles and overcoming Democrat obstruction designed to stall or kill Republican priorities.

With that said, I want to address the three "strikes" assigned to me in the draft report.

First Strike – HR 4 (House Rules) Yea Vote on Motion to Call the Question

Such motions exist to maintain order and efficiency, ensuring the body can proceed to a vote without undue delay. In this instance, it was used to conclude an extended floor discussion and move forward on the essential task of adopting rules, similar to how it has been used in the past, including in 2021, to safeguard the House's ability to conduct business amid procedural impasses. Without the ability to call the question, the House could be indefinitely stalled, preventing timely legislative action.

Second Strike – Yea Vote on HR 4 (House Rules) 2nd and 3rd Readings

Out of approximately 4,081 votes taken during the 89th Regular Legislative Session, two of my three strikes stem from voting "yea" on HR 4, the House Rules, on the fifth legislative day of the session. These rules were not part of the eight legislative priorities adopted by the state convention delegates. Under long-standing Texas House practice, the chamber operates under the rules of the previous legislature until new rules are adopted. As expressly stated in House Rule 1, Section 1 of the 88th Legislature: "The House shall adopt rules of procedure at the beginning of each regular session..." and "Until the adoption of the permanent rules, the House shall be governed by the rules of the preceding legislature, as far as applicable."



TEXAS HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES



KEITH BELL

DISTRICT 4

Without the adoption of HR 4, the House cannot organize committees, establish order of business, or carry out legislative work beyond electing a Speaker and adopting rules.

The same rules adopted in HR 4 now enable Republicans to levy \$500/day fines on Democrats breaking quorum and to enforce penalties affecting their pay, staffing, and office operations—provisions that have proven essential to maintaining order this session. Moreover, the votes on House Rules occurred on January 23, 2025, well before the RPT *Resolution Condemning Vote for Previous Question on House Rules* was adopted on February 6. There was no prior indication that a “yes” vote on House Rules would later be considered opposition to a legislative priority. Regardless, the question arises as to why these votes were counted twice as two separate strikes.

Third Strike – Vote on HB 805

HB 805 directed the Public Utility Commission to study the interconnection of Texas’s electric transmission facilities with Mexico, but not to make any decisions. The bill was driven by legitimate national security and border concerns, issues that directly align with our Legislative Priorities. As raised on the House floor, cartels influence nearly every aspect of infrastructure and governance in Mexico. Understanding whether these existing interconnections present vulnerabilities to Texas’s grid is vital, both for securing our energy infrastructure and for assessing if bad actors are profiting from these interconnections by influencing human trafficking, drug trafficking, sex trafficking, and facilitating border insecurity that harms Texas families. Categorizing this fact-finding measure as opposition to our priorities ignores the security rationale behind supporting it, which is counterproductive. Supporting this study should not be considered opposition to Republican priorities.

Conclusion

Rather than penalizing legislators who have worked tirelessly to advance Republican principles, we should focus on electing more Republicans to secure a two-thirds majority in the House, thereby giving us the numbers to pass Republican priorities without delay. I appreciate the work of the Task Force and welcome continued dialogue, but I respectfully request that the SREC Legislative Task Force reconsider their position on these three strikes.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith Bell".

Keith Bell
State Representative



TEXAS HOUSE *of* REPRESENTATIVES



Cole Hefner

District 5

August 13, 2025

Abraham George
Republican Party of Texas, Chair
807 Brazos St.
Austin, Texas 78701
ageorge@texasgop.org

DELIVERED VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Chairman George:

The Texas House banned Democrat chairs in the 89th Regular Session and fulfilled this RPT Legislative Priority. Any assertion to the contrary is simply untrue. I encourage you to consider the full context and actual outcome – that Democrat chairs were banned – when you consider this report. I am proud to have voted to ensure that Republicans control the Texas House and look forward to continuing to ensure that this remains the case.

In regard to the Secure the Electric Grid Legislative Priority and House Bill 805 and House Bill 1359, the priority reads: “Securing the integrity of Texas electricity production and delivery of abundant, reliable, and resilient energy, ensuring that the Texas grid can withstand any natural or manmade threat to include weather, cyber, physical, electromagnetic pulse (EMP) and geomagnetic disturbances (GMD).” I strongly disagree that an interconnection feasibility study and a customer assistance program are significantly relevant to achieving this priority and assert that these bills in fact have a tenuous connection to the legislative priority, at best. Again, I encourage you to consider the numerous bills passed by the Legislature that fulfill this priority and our outlined in this very report, and to consider the full context and positive outcome of that legislation.



TEXAS HOUSE *of* REPRESENTATIVES



Cole Hefner

District 5

Finally, regarding House Bill 4195 not receiving a hearing in the House Homeland Security, Public Safety and Veterans' Affairs Committee, I want to make sure you are aware of the following. I joint-authored and helped to pass Chairman Terry Wilson's House Bill 127, a comprehensive approach that protects our higher education institutions from foreign adversaries and their influence. Chairman Wilson and his staff worked tirelessly to get this bill passed and signed by the Governor and it is now law.

House Bill 127 contains the same content as House Bill 4195 and is even more comprehensive than House Bill 4195 that is cited in the SREC Legislative Priorities Report. When we have multiple bills containing the same provisions, we put our efforts behind the best bill and do not pass multiple bills, so the law is clear. To use House Bill 4195 to say I did not support the Texas is Not For Sale Legislative Priority is false, when I co-authored the bill that is now law that implements it.

Thank you for attention to this matter.

For Texas,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cole Hefner".

Cole Hefner



From: Jay Dean <Jay.Dean@house.texas.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, August 13, 2025 4:11 PM

To: Abraham George <ageorge@texasgop.org>

Subject: RE: Letter from RPT Chairman George and Legislative Task Force Report Pending SREC Approval

Chairman George,

I sincerely appreciate the report. I am proud to have supported and passed 42 RPT Priority Bills this Session! I look forward to working with the Republican Party of Texas to unite conservatives and strengthen Texas values and objectives. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me or my office if we can be of any assistance in these endeavors. I would love an opportunity to visit with our SREC rep in the future to make sure I am aware of all the information the RPT has available to legislators. Looking forward to a bright future for conservative voices in our great state!

God bless,

Jay

(903) 720-8460 my personal cell.



TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STAN GERDES

DISTRICT 17

August 13, 2025

Abraham George
Chairman, Republican Party of Texas
P. O. Box 2206
Austin, Texas 78768
ageorge@texasgop.org

Re: Response to Draft of Republican Party of Texas Legislative Task Force Report
dated August 9, 2025

Dear Chairman George,

I received the draft *Republican Party of Texas Legislative Task Force Report* dated August 9, 2025 ("Report") on the evening of Monday, August 11, 2025. Thank you for the opportunity to review the Report and provide commentary from my perspective. I understand that feedback is due by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 13, 2025, allowing time for the State Republican Executive Committee to reconvene on Friday, August 15, 2025, to consider all input before finalizing the Report.

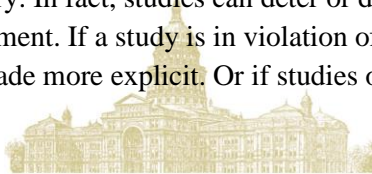
I have reviewed the SREC's Legislative Task Force report. I appreciate all of the hard work that went into evaluating the legislative actions taken during the Session, and the examination to determine their alignment to the RPT Legislative Priorities.

I'm proud to have authored, carried and passed 2 RPT Legislative Priority bills that were signed into law by Governor Abbott:

1. HB 119 - Cuts off foreign adversaries from buying statehouse influence. My bill is the first in the nation to do so and serves as a model for all 50 states to untangle the insidious web of CCP lobbying and political warfare. This important legislation protects our democracy by ensuring no lobbyist in Texas is paid by foreign adversaries.
2. SB 379 – Bans the use of taxpayer funds to purchase candy, sweetened drinks and soda with SNAP funding, ending taxpayer-funded junk that turns into taxpayer-funded healthcare.

In the spirit of thoughtful collaboration, I am responding with the following suggestions:

My vote on HB 805 enables a study. Studies are sometimes necessary to determine whether actual legislative actions are necessary. In fact, studies can deter or discourage legislative actions - particularly ones that expand government. If a study is in violation of the platform priority to "Secure the Electric Grid" it should have been made more explicit. Or if studies or looking into an issue before an



actual course of action is taken is a violation - that should be specifically spelled out. It is unclear why the act of voting for a study, in and of itself, adversely affects securing the electric grid. That conclusion can only be made once the study is complete, the facts are ascertained, and the actual action is before the body at hand.

In conclusion, I respectfully request that the vote HB 805 be removed from the final Legislative Task Force Report.

Thank you for your work and the opportunity to collaborate on this process. I value the partnership we share in ensuring the Republican Party of Texas has the strongest and most accurate Report possible, and appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

STAN GERDES

Stan Gerdes

State Representative, House District 17



From: Ellen Troxclair <Ellen.Troxclair@house.texas.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, August 13, 2025 2:04 PM

To: Abraham George <ageorge@texasgop.org>

Cc: Ciara Hall <Ciara.Hall@house.texas.gov>

Subject: RE: Letter from RPT Chairman George and Legislative Task Force Report Pending SREC Approval

Chairman George and SREC members,

As recorded in your report, on HR 4, Record Vote number 9, I changed my vote in the journal from yes to no. I made a mistake in registering a Yes vote, and changed it immediately to No.

In the chaos of that day, I was asked to sign a document to call the question with only other Republicans listed, and understood that it would only be used if Democrats began to “chub” or stall the debate. This is consistent with every other time the “call the question” tool had previously been used - by the majority party to halt the minority party from filibustering important legislation after many hours had lapsed. There was no indication at any time that there was a separate document with only Democrats listed. I would never have signed the document had I known how it would be used.

I have consistently and vocally advocated for ending the practice of appointing Democrat Chairs and reforming the Texas House. I helped develop multiple amendments to the House Rules and Housekeeping Resolutions, and signed onto many others, in clear anticipation of there being a robust debate on the House’s Rules package.

During this time of Democrats abdicating their responsibilities, we have a unique opportunity to come together to pass significant conservative victories. I look forward to doing so.

Sincerely,
Ellen Troxclair



Representative Ellen Troxclair House District 19
Burnet, Blanco, Gillespie, Kendall, Travis (Part)



DISTRICT 20
TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TERRY M. WILSON

August 13, 2025

Dear Chairman George:

At 8:33pm on August 11, 2025, I received your message containing the Republican Party of Texas Legislative Task Force Report (“the Report”), along with an invitation to provide feedback on context to the Report by 5pm Wednesday, August 13, 2025.

I appreciate the State Republican Executive Committee’s (SREC) willingness to engage with legislators more directly and gain feedback on the performance of the Texas Legislature in advancing the legislative priorities of the Republican Party of Texas (RPT) for the 89th Legislative session. The last few sessions have seen a slow degradation in the relationship between Republican elected officials and the RPT, exacerbated by a general lack of communication. Over the last two sessions I have sought to bridge that gap.

First, in both the 88th and 89th sessions, members of the Williamson County Republican Party Executive Committee were given a means to offer analysis and commentary on legislation directly into the HD20 bill tracking system, ensuring that both the HD20 staff and I are able to see their input directly and incorporate it into my voting, both in committee and on the floor.

Second, in the 87th, 88th, and 89th sessions, the HD20 staff worked with SREC member Tom Nobis to incorporate the SREC’s bill tracking spreadsheet into our bill tracking system, ensuring that every official position taken by the SREC was noted, along with any commentary and recommendations for amendments suggested by the legislative priorities committees.

Third, at the 2024 RPT Convention, the HD20 Chief of Staff, Jeff Frazier, served as the RPT Legislative Priorities Committee Member from SD14, taking his own vacation time to spend a week working with the 31 other committee members to craft the Legislative Priorities (LPs) for the 89th Legislative Session.

Having a member of the HD20 legislative staff working directly with those helping shape the priorities was invaluable both for the committee members and our staff. The committee members were able to gain a better understanding of the realities of the legislative process, and our staff was able to build deeper connections with those who made the last twenty-five years of Republican majority possible. Those relationships helped inform every part of the HD20 89th Legislative Session.

Finally, in that spirit of increased communication and cooperation, I offer the following feedback, commentary, and additional context as to the portions of the Report that pertain to myself, my voting record, and my actions in representing the people of Texas House District 20:



89th Legislative Victories:

1. HB 127 is missing from the victories on the “Texas is not for Sale” Legislative Priority.

Senator Mayes Middleton’s SB 1067, preventing employees of institutions of higher education in Texas from accepting gifts, grants, or donations from hostile foreign sources, was listed by the SREC LP Committee as an approved bill supporting the “Texas is Not for Sale” priority. Working in cooperation with Sen. Middleton and Sen. Hughes, SB 1067 was incorporated into the omnibus bill HB 127, along with other similar bills on the same topic.

This process of incorporating similar bills into one omnibus helps to ensure that all included policies are working with the same definitions, reducing unnecessary administrative burdens on state agencies, and reducing the procedural time required to pass all related legislation on the House and Senate floors.

As SB 1067 would have been included on the list of LP Victories had it passed as a standalone bill, it is only fitting that the omnibus bill it was rolled into, HB 127, be listed as an LP Victory in its place.

89th Legislative Actions in Opposition to Legislative Priorities

1. Secure Texas Elections: HB 2442 – Voted in House Committee on Elections to Advance this bill, which is opposed by the Republican Party of Texas because it does not Secure Texas Elections.

A. As I stated earlier, at my direction, the HD20 staff has worked diligently to incorporate Tom Nobis’s spreadsheet into my bill tracking system to ensure that nothing is missed on SREC recommendations, especially regarding bills that would impact a Legislative Priority. However, it was not communicated to our office that, for the 89th session, Mr. Nobis’s departure from the SREC meant that his spreadsheet was no longer fully official.

When the vote in committee was taken, the information provided by Mr. Nobis’s spreadsheet indicated that, while the bill had some opposition (indicated by the “RPT Status” field in the image below), that opposition had not risen to the level sufficient to warrant an official position by the SREC of “Against” (indicated by the blank field under the “position” column in the image below).

Ref	Bill	Last Action	Author	Caption	Topic	committee	position	comment	RPT Legislative Priority	RPT status
2440	HB 2440	03/14/2025 S Placed on intent calendar	Curry	certain restrictions with respect to a motor vehicle, including a motor vehicle powered by an internal combustion engine.	Environment	Environmental Regulation				
2441	HB 2441	03/17/2025 H Referred to Licensing & Administrative Procedures: Mar 17 2025 2:32PM	Bucy	Relating to the delivery and direct shipment of malt beverages to ultimate consumers; creating a criminal offense.	alcohol	Licensing & Administrative Procedures				
2442	HB 2442	05/15/2025 H Failed to pass	Bucy	Relating to an application for an early voting ballot by mail.	Election - Mail	Elections		If Apply for main election, then serves as application for runoff Voted out of Committee 6-3-0-0 Passed House 2nd rdg 78-57-2	Elections - LP	Oppose
2443	HB 2443	03/17/2025 H Referred to Public Education: Mar 17 2025 2:32PM	Hickland	Relating to requiring the Texas Education Agency to prepare a report regarding public education mandates.	TEA	Public Education				
2444	HB 2444	03/25/2025 H Referred directly to subcommittee by chair	Hickland	Relating to the creation of the criminal offense of harmful communication to a minor.	Sexual Conduct	Criminal Jurisprudence	For		Stop Sexualizing Kids	Watch



- B. Having heard no direct or formal opposition from any other groups against the bill, it was my understanding that allowing HB 2442 a hearing on the House Floor would prevent opposition on other LP supported bills in the committee, yielding an overall benefit to the LP on Election Integrity.
- C. Between HB 2442 being reported favorably by the House Committee on Elections and the bill coming before the House Floor on Second Reading, more information about the SREC's and other election integrity organization's reasons for opposing the bill was brought to light.
- D. As a result of that information, I voted "NAY" on both Second Reading on 5/14 and on Third Reading on 5/15.
- E. As a result of Republican opposition to HB 2442, the bill failed to pass on third reading.
- F. The Report does not cite the 13 Republicans who vote "YEA" on Second Reading as having violated the LP.
- G. In no other instance does the Report cite any other Republican for voting in favor of an SREC opposed bill that failed to pass, either in committee or on the floor.

Based on the foregoing, I respectfully request that HB 2442 be removed from the Report as those who voted "NAY" on the bill on the floor, including myself, were successful in preventing the bill from passing out of the chamber, and that the information available at the time of the committee hearing was incomplete.

2. Secure the Electric Grid: HB 1359 – Voted for democrat-sponsored bill that was unanimously opposed by SREC LP Committee.

- A. The Secure the Electric Grid Priority states that:
"Securing the integrity of Texas electricity production and delivery of abundant, reliable, and resilient energy, ensuring that the Texas grid can withstand any natural or manmade threat to include weather, cyber, physical, electromagnetic pulse (EMP) and geomagnetic disturbances (GMD)."
- B. HB 1359's inclusion in the Report came as a surprise to both me and to Senator Bob Hall, as the bill is not related to the Security of the Electric Grid in any way.
- C. HB 1359 would have created a program that provided assistance for certain retail electric customers who may have a difficult time paying their bill. While reasonable people may



disagree about the merits of such a program, no plain reading of the LP as quoted above could possibly result in the conclusion that such a program threatens the integrity of Texas electricity production, nor that it would in any way relate to the ability of the grid to withstand natural or manmade threats.

Based on the foregoing, I respectfully request that HB 1359 be removed from the Report as it is not related to the LP, and its inclusion would violate Platform Principles 1 and 4, which deal with strict adherence to language and intent of foundational documents, greatly weakening the integrity of the LP process and of the RPT overall.

3. No Democrat Chairs: HR 4 – Seconding Patterson’s Motion for the Previous Question & No Democrat Chairs: HR4 – Voting for Previous Question on the House Rules

A. The “No Democrat Chairs” LP states that:

The Republican-controlled Texas Legislature shall end the practice of awarding committee chairmanships to Democrats and require all committees to be majority Republican.

B. Principle 1 of the 2024 RPT Platform states:

We believe in “The laws of nature and nature’s God,” and we support the strict adherence to the original language and intent of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States and of Texas.

C. Principle 4 of the 2024 RPT Platform states:

We believe in limiting government power to those items enumerated in the United States and Texas Constitutions.

D. To quote the late Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia:

“Originalism is sort of subspecies of textualism. Textualism means you are governed by the text. That’s the only thing that is relevant to your decision, not whether the outcome is desirable, not whether legislative history says this or that. But the text of the statute.”

E. If Principles 1, 4, & 5 of the 2024 RPT Platform are true, then it is an adopted principle of RPT that laws and code should be read using the original language and intent. It would make little sense for RPT to advocate that statutes, bylaws, and other similar documents be held to a different standard than the foundational documents from which they were derived.

F. The rules adopted in HR4 made clear that, for the first time in Texas history, no Democrats were appointed to chair standing committees.



- i. Prior to the adoption of HR4, no party had been able to maintain sole control of all committee chairmanships without controlling at least 130 of the 150 total seats in the House of Representatives.
 - ii. In 1975, the 64th Texas House of Representatives, composed of 133 Democrats and 16 Republicans, saw 26 committees chaired by Democrats and 2 chaired by Republicans.
 - iii. In the 89th Legislature, composed of 88 Republicans and 62 Democrats, 0 members of the minority party held chairmanships of standing committees.
- G. Nowhere in the “No Democrat Chairs” LP was it stated that Democrats could not be appointed as Vice-Chair of a committee.
- H. If the appointment of Democrat Vice-Chairs of committees were a violation of the “No Democrat Chairs” LP, a censure should have been adopted for Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick, who appointed three Democrat Senators to Vice Chairmanships of committees in the Texas Senate:
 - i. Senator Nathan Johnson – Vice Chairman of the Senate Committee on Jurisprudence
 - ii. Senator Judith Zaffirini – Vice Chairwoman of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources
 - iii. Senator Royce West – Vice Chairman of the Senate Committee on Transportation
- I. Nowhere in the “No Democrat Chairs” LP was it stated that Democrats serving as Vice-Chairs could not receive a budget stipend for the additional workload required to carry out that duty.
- J. If the granting of an additional budget for a Democrat Vice-Chairman were a violation of “No Democrat Chairs” LP, a censure should have been adopted for Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick, who did not disclose in any form how much of the “Caucus Budget” was apportioned to Democrats compared to Republicans.
- K. Principle 5 of the 2024 RPT Platform states:

We believe in personal accountability and responsibility.
- L. While some may take issue with how the House of Representatives apportioned its budget, it is the only chamber to give an accounting of how its budget was allocated. To hold the members of the House of Representatives liable for how it apportioned its budget, while not holding the Texas Senate liable for not even giving an accounting of how much of their budget was allocated to Democrats would be a violation of Principle 5 of the RPT Platform.



- M. The Committee Chairman/Vice Chairman structure in HR 4 was modeled of the procedure used in the United States House of Representatives, where each committee has a “Chairman” from the majority party and a “Ranking Member” from the minority party. In the discussions within the Legislative Priorities Committee on the “No Democrat Chairs” LP, committee members frequently referenced the US House as an example of not awarding chairmanships to members of the minority party. While their discussions are not controlling, this interpretation is well within the text of the LP.
- N. The appointment of Democrats to subcommittee chairmanships violates neither the text nor the original intent of the “No Democrat Chairs” LP. The stated intent during the Legislative Priorities Committee was to prevent Democrats from using leadership positions to kill Republican legislation.
- i. Per the House Rules and Masons Manual of Legislative Procedure, any bill before a sub-committee may be called before the controlling standing committee at any time by a majority vote.
 - ii. Since all House Committees were majority Republican, any Democrat Subcommittee Chairman who attempted to hold a bill back from being heard could be overruled by the majority Republican membership of the controlling committee.
 - iii. Throughout the 89th session, no evidence was put forward that any conservative legislation was killed by being put before a Subcommittee chaired by a Democrat. Had such evidence been put forward, the liability for that decision would be squarely on the Republican Chairman of the standing committee for not calling the bill forward, as is well within their authority.
- O. As demonstrated by the Texas Senate and the US House of Representatives, it is unreasonable to assume that the “No Democrat Chairs” LP was intended to require the chamber with the smallest ratio of Republicans to Democrats to completely exclude all members of the minority party from any role in administration of committees.
- i. Without 100 members, the majority party cannot pass constitutional amendments without members of the minority party. One need look no further than the failure of SJR 87 to pass, despite unanimous support from the House Republican Caucus.
 - ii. The necessity of securing minority party support for constitutional amendments can also be seen in the appointment of three Democrats to vice-chair positions in the Texas Senate.
- P. Penalizing members for voting to end debate, rather than on their vote for the rules themselves, does not accurately reflect a member’s support or opposition to the LP.
- i. At the time of the motion, debate on HR4 had already exceeded one hour.
 - ii. Multiple Democrats had filed amendments, with the intention of dragging debate on for the remainder of the day.



- iii. The motion to end debate prevented any Democrat from proposing a change to the rules that would have allowed them to serve as chairs of committee.
 - iv. Ending debate ended those proposed amendments.
- Q. The double counting of both the vote to end debate on HR4 and seconding of Rep. Patterson's motion to call the previous question as violations of the "No Democrat Chairs" LP is among the most egregious violations of process I have witnessed in my time as a legislator.
- i. The signing of a petition for a motion is part of making the motion itself.
 - ii. The purpose of requiring multiple seconding signatures is to indicate to the chair that a motion has sufficient support to be considered without wasting the time of body on continual motions that have insufficient support to prevail.
 - iii. Those signing on to the motion were indicating their intent to vote in favor of the motion to end debate, which they then followed through on in the vote.
 - iv. Penalizing a member for voting in favor of a motion means you believe it was wrong for them to hold that position, but penalizing a member for seconding a motion means you believe it is also wrong that they spoke up to support a position that they held.
 - v. It should never be the position of the RPT that anyone, whether they be a private citizen, a party official, or an elected official, should be penalized merely for being willing to indicate their position on an issue.

Based on the foregoing, I request that the SREC bring itself into a position of consistency regarding the "No Democrat Chairs" LP. Doing so would require either removing both HR4 censure reports or issuing censure reports for the Lieutenant Governor and all Republican Senators who voted for the Senate Rules for the 89th Session that allowed Democrats to serve as vice-chairs of standing committees and provided them with an undisclosed budget.

It is my preference that both of the HR 4 censure reports be removed, as both the House and Senate rules and committee appointments fall well within the textualist reading of the "No Democrat Chairs" LP. However, should the SREC choose to treat the LP as a "Living Document" open to reinterpretation at any point, I would ask that they at least do so equally to both chambers.

Attempted Interference and Censure Threats in the 89th Legislative Session

In addition to the items above, the SREC should be made aware of the environment in which these decisions were made, and the fog of war that permeated the 89th Legislative Session. For the sake of brevity, I will focus on one example, the debate surrounding SB 618 in the House Committee on Elections.

Following the bill's hearing in committee, multiple grassroots organizations and Williamson County Precinct Chairs advocated for provisions to be added back into the bill that had been stripped off on the Senate Floor. Those precinct chairs made direct threats that voting for the bill without those provisions added back in would be a censurable offense.



Following these censure threats, Rep. Wilson worked with Rep. Tinderholt to reach out Chairman George for guidance, which resulted in RPT making a formal decision to endorse the Senate Engrossed version of the bill that was before the committee. These precinct chairs continued to threaten censure on this matter, even with full knowledge of the endorsed RPT position.

To: Terry Wilson, Terry Putnam, Michelle Evans, Marcia Strickler-Watson, Laura Pressley

Text Message • SMS
Fri, May 16 at 1:11 PM

This is Jeff Frazier, Rep Wilson's Chief of Staff. I have included the following people in this thread regarding SB 618 before the Formal Meeting of the House Committee on Elections this afternoon, a copy of the Senate Committee Report of SB 618 is attached:

Michelle Evans (WilCo GOP Chair)
Marcia Strickler-Watson (CCDA)
Dr. Laura Presley (True Texas Elections)
Terry Putnam (Sun City Republican Precinct Chair Emeritus)
Colonel Terry M. Wilson

Over the last 12 hours we have received conflicting information regarding what different parties involved advise on this issue.


When Rep. Wilson and I spoke with Mrs. Strickler-Watson and Dr. Presley, it was made clear that the preference from House District 20's and from the organizations they represented was for SB 618 to ONLY pass out of the House Committee on Elections if it contained the highlighted language, Subsections (k) - (r) on lines 2-57 through 3-18 of the Senate Committee Report.

Yesterday, we received conflicting information that a few individuals were advising that SB 618 must be voted out at all cost, regardless of the aforementioned subsection were included.

Please advise as to the official position of the Williamson County Republican Party, CCDA, TTE, and any individual feedback you have to clear up this conflict of information would be greatly appreciated.

We will also be reaching out to the SREC and Chairman George for clarification but would like to receive your feedback before doing so.

Please reply in this thread. Thank You all for your work in this area and dedication to passing good elections policy for Texans.

 SB00618 .pdf
PDF Document • 130 KB

Not Delivered

Michelle Evans

The Wilco GOP follows the lead of the RPT and SREC, which is that SB 618 in its current form is ENDORSED as an RPT priority and Republican Representatives are encouraged to vote it out of committee and onto the floor ASAP.

Further questions can be directed to Andy Eller, the head of the SREC Secure TX Elections LP Committee and the SREC Committeeman for much of HD 20

Debbie Lindstrom of Citizens Defending Freedom has also communicated with me about the bill and they support

Terry Putnam

I much prefer the version with the added language, but, a half loaf is better than no loaf. We can add SOS to the bill this session on the floor or next session.

TP

Marcia Strickler-Watson

As you are aware CACRC and MANY other grassroots groups across the state believes it is arguably censurable as we have already communicated to Rep Wilson and other. As the WilCo GOP Resolution Chair, I have learned that the censure process begins at the CEC level first and foremost. It is then reviewed and vetted at the SREC Resolution Committee and then the ENTIRE SREC votes on it. Not just 1-2 committee members.

Our position is still the same as it was with the Senators. Jeff I know you and Rep Wilson have received that coalition letter and package of information.

Michelle Evans

To be clear, it is an RPT endorsed bill (Andy reconfirmed that today on the RPT grassroots call) and voting no would be considered potentially censurable

The resolutions chair of a county party does not determine what is censurable. That is determined by the SREC

Edited

Marcia Strickler-Watson

I did not say that the Resolution Committee chair has any determination. I personally am not in HD20 and don't get a vote.

IF this is so questionable then perhaps it's best if those in committee don't show up to vote.

I just received a call from Dr. Presley who was not able to text, Dr. Presley, please correct me if any of the following is incorrect.

Dr. Presley stated that SB 618, without subsections (k)-(r) should not be supported and that any censure follow a vote to oppose the bill as currently presented before the committee should also be opposed.

Michelle Evans

She is not a member of the SREC or the Wilco CEC and therefore has no involvement with any censure

And cannot speak on behalf of either organization



Through communication with RPT, and with the assistance of our Williamson County Republican Party Chair, Michelle Evans, we were able to reach a clear answer. However, not every Representative was afforded the time or ability to reach out on every vote on which there may have been confusion, and that “fog of war” should be considered in these matters.

Furthermore, at the 8/9/25 meeting of the SREC, those same precinct chairs who openly advocated against the endorsed SREC position on SB 618 were in attendance, aggressively lobbying SREC members to add the censure items listed above.

I provide this information to provide SREC members with context on the constant back and forth threats of censure for every policy important to these precinct chairs, even when it went against RPT endorsed positions.

Should the SREC choose to take any disciplinary action to these elected officials who took direct action in opposition to a endorsed LP, such action would help establish credibility in the process, as it would be applied equally to all elected officials, and not simply targeted at legislators alone.

Conclusion

It is my hope that these responses are taken in the manner they are intended, as constructive context given to fill in the gaps in information inevitable in any situation as complex and time sensitive as a Texas Legislative Session. I have worked alongside the Williamson County Republican Party and the HD20 staff to help bridge that gap in communication for my entire time in elected office, and I will continue to do so for as long as the people of Texas ask me to serve.

In closing I would like to address one term that has been used repeatedly across this debate, that we must hold out elected officials “accountable”. By its very definition and background, “Accountability” is the ability of a person or organization to give an accounting of their actions. It is not the act of punishing actions found to have violated a principle, rule, or statute, that is why we have the word “Liability”.

By its very definition, a person cannot be held “Accountable” without being afforded that ability to give an accounting of their actions and tell their side of the story. I greatly appreciate that the SREC chose to change from its original course and offer this opportunity for actual “accountability” rather than simply establishing liability without a true accounting first.

I look forward to continuing this process of developing increased lines of communication between RPT and Republican elected officials going forward. We must work together, or we risk handing control of our great state to those who do not share our principles and values.

I respectfully request that the SREC do the following at your upcoming 8/15 meeting:

1. Add HB 127 to the Legislative Victories list under the “Texas Is Not for Sale” LP



2. Remove HB 2442 from the Report, as no Report was issued for those Republicans who Joint Authored the bill, nor for those who voted in favor of the bill on Second or Third Reading, and as the bill did not pass out of the House.
3. Remove HB 1359 from the Report, as it bears no relation to LP other than simply relating to electricity. To quote SD 14 Legislative Priority Committee member and HD20 Chief of Staff Jeff Fraizer:

“The LP Committee never debated, mentioned, or even considered extending the Defend the Grid priority to include something as tangential as billing assistance. Including HB 1359 is a slap in the face to the 32 people who dedicated their time, energy, and credibility to this process, and the thousands of delegates who voted for it to be included in the Top 8 Legislative Priorities”

4. Remove both HR 4 related items from the Report. Should RPT wish to further refine the wording of the LP, our own adopted principles dictate that those changes be made at the next convention, rather than treating LPs as “Living Documents” that do not mean exactly what their text plainly states.

Yours in Service,



Terry M. Wilson
Colonel, US Army, Retired
Representative, House District 20
Chairman, Higher Education
Texas House of Representatives
Terry.Wilson@House.Texas.Gov
o:(512) 463-0309 | c:(830)637-9216



August 13, 2025

Dear Members of the State Republican Executive Committee,

At the State Republican Executive Committee meeting on Saturday, August 9, 2025, it was brought to my attention that concerns were raised regarding my votes during the 89th Legislative Session on House Bill 805, House Bill 1359, and House Bill 4623. I appreciate the opportunity to clarify my votes and legislative intent on each of these issues.

First, I would like to address my vote on third reading for H.B. 805, which 32 of my Republican House colleagues also supported. This bill would have directed the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) to conduct a one-time study — due by September 1, 2026 — on the interconnection of electric transmission service facilities between Texas and the United Mexican States. This was a narrowly focused, informational study that would have utilized existing PUC resources and had no authority to implement any interconnection plans or new infrastructure.

Texas and Mexico already share limited electricity through four existing interconnections. The purpose of this study was not to endorse expanding those links, but to analyze the reliability, regulatory compatibility, and energy implications of current and potential future interconnections. It would have equipped lawmakers with more knowledge to make future policy decisions in the best interest of Texans, up to and including, severing the existing connections. Is it not our duty as legislators to seek information that can help us govern more effectively?

Second, regarding my vote on third reading for H.B. 1359, which 36 of my Republican House colleagues also voted for, this bill would have created a state-level assistance program for low-income retail electric customers, especially those vulnerable during extreme weather events or facing emergency disconnection. Texas previously operated a similar program, the System Benefit Fund, from 1999 until the funds were depleted in 2013. Since then, we have relied entirely on federal funding to provide this program. If we as conservatives advocate for state-led solutions over federal reliance on programs, then it makes sense to use available Texas-based funds. This approach gives us much greater control over how the program runs.

Third, and most notably, I want to clarify my third reading vote on H.B. 4623, authored by Representative Mitch Little and sponsored by Senator Angela Paxton. On page 38 of the *Republican Party of Texas Legislative Task Force Report*, the section titled, "Stop Sexualizing Texas Kids" — which might more accurately be termed the "Trial Lawyers Empowerment Act" — falsely suggests that I "voted against protecting our kids from sexual predators." That accusation is both deeply misleading and offensive. Nothing is more important to me than the safety and well-being of Texas children, and I take that charge very seriously.

First and foremost, it is important for you to know that I voted for the final passage of this legislation before it was sent to the Governor to sign. As amended by the Senate, this bill had my full and vocal support. However, as originally filed, H.B. 4623 contained language that I believed would have had severe unintended consequences for school districts across Texas. Specifically, the bill would have:

- Removed all immunity protections for public school districts;
- Allowed lawsuits for up to \$500,000 per incident with no cap on damages

- Exposed schools to liability for actions or inactions under the Family Code, including situations outside the school's control;
- Left school districts vulnerable to multiple lawsuits over the same incident, potentially totaling millions of dollars.

With over 1,200 school districts in Texas, 400 of which operate on annual budgets under \$5 million — if passed as originally written— H.B. 4623 could have bankrupted schools or led to massive local tax increases. I raised these concerns with Rep. Little, but the bill was not amended on the House floor. I then worked directly with Lt. Governor Dan Patrick and his Chief of Staff to find a path forward that would both protect students and avoid devastating financial impacts on our schools and taxpayers.

The Senate amended H.B. 4623 in a responsible way:

- Capping actual damages at \$500,000 per claimant;
- Clarifying liability provisions to avoid overreach;
- Providing that reasonable attorney's fees and court costs would be awarded to the prevailing party

The bill's sponsor, Senator Paxton, and fellow Republican co-sponsors, Senators Bettencourt, Campbell, Creighton, Hagenbuch, Hancock, A. Hinojosa, Huffman, Hughes, King, Kolkhorst, Middleton, Parker, Perry, and Sparks, supported amending H.B. 4623 to provide the needed clarification and parameters in the legislation. With the Senate's changes, I was proud to be among the 106 House members who voted to concur with the Senate amendments and vote FOR sending the final, enrolled version of H.B. 4623 to the Governor's desk for his signature into law.

The entire point of the legislative process is to weed out bad legislation and to remove the unintended consequences of potentially good legislation. It is very frustrating to be called out by the SREC for actively engaging in the legislative process on behalf of my constituents. Again, I voted, "Yes", for the final passage of this legislation.

I would also like to mention that my record during the 89th Legislative Session reflects my continued support for students and taxpayers, most notably through the passage of H.B. 20 and H.B. 21:

- **H.B. 20** created the **Applied Sciences Pathway Program**, which expands career and technical education opportunities for Texas students and helps prepare them for high-demand, high-paying jobs. Students will have the opportunity to concurrently earn high school diplomas and a Level I or Level II certificates from institutions of higher education. This legislation directly supports workforce readiness and gives students more pathways to success.
- **H.B. 21** delivered critical reforms to **Housing Finance Corporations (HFCs)** by closing a more than \$5 billion loophole that allowed out-of-jurisdiction HFCs to exploit property tax exemptions without delivering true affordable rent to tenants. The bill established geographic limitations on where HFCs can operate, added stricter affordability requirements for favorable tax treatment, mandated annual independent compliance audits, and clarified the distinction between and HFC and its user to increase transparency around

multifamily developments. The bill protects Texas taxpayers and restores integrity to the market by ensuring that exemptions are earned— not given away— and truly serve low-income families.

Taken together, my votes on H.B. 805, H.B. 1359, and the final amended version of H.B. 4623— along with my work on H.B. 20 and H.B. 21—reflect a consistent and principled approach to conservative governance and policymaking—one that protects children, supports our schools, empowers students with meaningful opportunities, gathers information to make informed decisions, and ensures responsible stewardship of taxpayer resources.

With this information, I respectfully ask the State Republican Executive Committee to consider the full context of my votes and my record, which demonstrates a clear commitment to conservative values and to the people of Texas.

Thank you for allowing me to set the record straight.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gary Gates', written in a cursive style.

Gary Gates
State Representative, House District 28
Chair, House Committee on Land and Resource Management

From: Jeff Barry <jeff.barry@barryinsurancegroup.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 13, 2025 5:35:06 PM
To: Abraham George <ageorge@texasgop.org>
Subject: FW: Letter from RPT Chairman George and Legislative Task Force Report Pending SREC Approval

Please excuse the late of this response. I have been trying to get as much work in as I can before the second special session starts.

Kindest Regards,

Jeffrey M. Barry, CIC
Barry Insurance Group(BIG)
Licensed Risk Manager
4418 Broadway St
Pearland, TX 77581
Office: 281-464-3384
Fax: 281-464-3050
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Risk Management, Plan Design, Benefits, Surety

"WHEN YOU THINK CONSTRUCTION, THINK **BIG**"



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From: Jeff Barry

Sent: Wednesday, August 13, 2025 5:33 PM

To: 'Jeff Barry' <Jeff.Barry@house.texas.gov>

Subject: RE: Letter from RPT Chairman George and Legislative Task Force Report Pending SREC Approval

Chairman George, Thank you for sending this report and I want to thank the committee for all of their time in preparing this report. I was able to watch the last hour of the meeting.

Within this report I have been flagged twice for HR4:

1. For seconding the motion to Call the Question.
2. Voting to approve House Rules under the guise of voting for Democrat chairs.

I take exception to both of these issues.

Calling the question is a valid Roberts Rules of Order motion. I have been in government for 10+ years at the local level and I do not take calling the question lightly.

This motion did not come until more than an hour of discussion at which point there were no motions or amendments offered. Knowing that we had a lot of work to get done I was eager to get on with the work of the State of Texas.

To address the vote to approve the House Rules. It is my understanding that anyone that had concern with the rules could have filed a rule change with the Speaker to be assigned to the House Committee and take up that rule change with the committee. Secondly, there is nowhere in the House rules where we assign committee chairs to Democrats. In fact, the number of committees were reduced in order to accommodate the RPT Priority and in my case this was directly addressed.

Kindest Regards,

Jeffrey M. Barry, CIC
Barry Insurance Group(BIG)
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From: Jeff Barry <Jeff.Barry@house.texas.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, August 13, 2025 5:06 PM

To: Jeff Barry <jeff.barry@barryinsurancegroup.com>

Subject: Fwd: Letter from RPT Chairman George and Legislative Task Force Report Pending SREC Approval

Sent from my iPhone

Regards,

Jeffrey M. Barry
281-352-3525

To Abraham George, Chairman, Republican Party of Texas

Dear Chairman George,

I am in receipt of your letter and report. Thank you for your acknowledgement of myself, Governor Abbott, Speaker Burrows, and Representative Little working with you on uniting together for what is best for Texas. Thank you for your work for party unity and a conservative majority in Texas. Also, I appreciate you and the Vice Chairman working with me as a state representative and our constructive discussion about the Calendars Committee.

I also look forward to the State Republican Executive Committee (SREC) meeting in Corpus Christi on September 5-6 2025 for its third-quarter meeting. I look forward to seeing you and SREC members in our great Coastal and South Texas community.

Thank you also for giving us an opportunity to provide commentary to the report. I was very glad to be recognized for my authorship of HB 1056 and sponsorship of SJR 37, which were in the list of bills passed as a legislative priority.

On page 22 of the report, HB 4348 was raised as an issue. The bill was filed on March 11, 2025. The bill arrived in the Calendars Committee on May 10, 2025, which was around 60 days after filing. May 13, 2025 was the last day the Calendars Committee could meet on House Bills. Once a bill has been received by the Calendars Committee, a bill list is circulated to all members of the Calendars Committee for each member to review, research, and consider. Basically, there was not much time left before the May 13, 2025 deadline. Factors that could affect the non-setting of a bill could include late receipt of the bill, committee members reviewing and researching the bill, and/or no advocacy by the author to move the bill. Also, most of the time, the advancement of a bill is determined by all committee members, not just the chair. It appears that SB 1993 was the companion bill in the Senate, and it appears no movement occurred and no action took place on that particular bill in the Senate.

I cannot specifically recall the reasons for the bill, not making the calendar. However, I do respect you and the SREC concern. I don't recall being informed about the priority status of this bill. I am glad to know its priority and help in any way in the future. There was no intention on my part to fail to advance this bill.

On page 27 of the report, HB 805 was raised as an issue. The bill relates to a study by the Public Utility Commission of Texas regarding interconnection of electric transmission service facilities with the United Mexican States. Being a South Texas legislator, I thought this concept should be reviewed not necessarily passed. In economic, business, and industry circles in Texas, power, water and labor are strong needs and concerns. I looked at this bill as an option for power needs. In review of the bill, there was no witness opposition at the hearing, and the Public Utility Commission of Texas and Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) testified on the bill. The committee that heard the bill voted 12 to one in favor. Also, it was a non-binding study. I was not clear that it was an opposed priority bill. Again, I would not intentionally oppose a priority. I'm glad to help this concern going forward.

On page 29 of the report, HB 1359 was raised as an issue. This bill had no witness opposition in the committee hearing. The committee that heard the bill voted 13 to 0 for the bill. I was unaware that this was an opposed bill. My interest in this bill is connected to hurricanes and winter storm Uri. The bill references utility assistance for "extreme weather emergency." Because of my involvement in hurricane matters including insurance and utility issues, I believe this matter was one that should be heard, especially regarding post-storm Uri and post-hurricane impacts in my area and others. I was not opposing a priority. I am glad to assist on this issue with you and SREC.

On page 41 of the report, HB 3741 was raised as an issue. Many of my comments relating to HB 4348, previously raised in this commentary, apply to this bill. This bill got to the Calendars Committee on May 8, 2025, and the last Calendars Committee meeting on House Bills was May 13, 2025. The bill took around 60 days to arrive in the Calendars Committee. The underlying committee held a hearing on April 29, 2025, which was near the Calendars Committee deadline. I cannot recall if Calendar Committee members, after receipt, had concerns or not. The entire Calendars Committee is involved in the bill setting, not just the chair. Also, the House Bill had no Senate Bill companion. It appears to be only a House Bill. Again, I was not opposing a priority.

Overall, thank you for reviewing my commentary. I am always glad to meet and confer with you and the SREC. I'm always open for ideas to make the process constructive. Any help in a method to clarify the bills with priorities would be appreciative.

I thank you again for our conversations and meetings. I look forward to visiting again.

Very truly yours,
Todd Hunter

From: Katharine Chambers <Katharine.Chambers@house.texas.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 13, 2025 4:41:53 PM
To: Abraham George <ageorge@texasgop.org>
Subject: RE: Letter from RPT Chairman George and Legislative Task Force Report Pending SREC Approval

Good afternoon, Abraham,

Thank you for your excellent report.

Representative Harris Davila is asking if you will add her bill HB 1290/SB 314 in the area of bills that address the same thing issue addressed by SB 25 by Senator Kolkhorst. SB 314 by Hughes/HB 1290 by Harris Davila prohibits certain harmful food additives from being included in student lunches.

Another bill that works with DOGE is HB 2832 which would have required state agencies that accept federal money including institutions of higher education to submit a report to the Comptroller detailing the usage of the federal funds.

Thank you so much!!!

Best,

Katharine



Katharine Chambers | Chief of Staff
Representative Caroline Harris Davila
District Office: 512.255-6612
Capitol office: 512-463-0670
katharine.chambers@house.texas.gov



TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

RICHARD HAYES

DISTRICT 57

August 12, 2025

Chairman George and Members of the State Republican Executive Committee,

I am in receipt of your August 11 letter and the accompanying Legislative Task Force Report, pending SREC Approval. Thank you for the opportunity to respond. The report identifies my name a total of four times. Once favorably as a Joint Author on HB 2963, twice favorably as a Sponsor (SB 985 & SB 1596), and once unfavorably as being in opposition to HB 4623 because of my No vote on the third reading on 5/15/25.

1. The thrust of the originally filed HB 4623 bill was to make a school district liable for the negligence or criminal acts of the district or an employee. I know of no other cause of action or lawsuit where an employer is liable for the criminal acts of an employee.
2. There appears to be a misunderstanding of the effect of third reading votes. Normally, a Third Reading Vote in the House is a final vote if the Bill originated in the Senate. However, if the Bill (as did HB 4623) originates in the House, it must pass the House and then be considered by the Senate. The Senate will also have three readings. If the Senate makes any changes, the Bill must return to the House to concur, amend, or reject. The Third Reading on May 15, 2025, resulted in the Bill going from the House over to the Senate for the first time. This is the legislative process. It is a rare bill that is perfectly drafted and requires no revision (amendment) in committee, on the House floor, in Senate Committee, or Senate floor. It is the process by which different stakeholders and legislators review and perfect a Bill that results in a better Bill. Amending a Bill is the legislative process.



TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

RICHARD HAYES

DISTRICT 57

3. HB 4623 plowed new ground in removing school district governmental immunity in certain circumstances. The original was filed (3/12/25). It was heard in committee on 4/9/25. I had discussions with the Bill author. There ended up being a Committee Substitute (5/01/25), three amendments adopted on the House floor (5/13/25), a Senate Committee Substitute (5/26/25), amended on the Senate Floor (5/27/25), and the House finally concurred (5/30/25). HB 4623 went through many iterations.
4. While it is true that on May 15, 2025, Third Reading in the House (Record Vote 2487), I voted Nay on HB 4623, I did so because there were provisions I found concerning or objectionable.
 - a. “Sec. 118.002 Liability. (a)” used the word “negligent” (Page 2 Line 15 Engrossed Version), a broader term that opens a district to more civil liability. The language needed to be tightened to accomplish the Bill’s objective, protect the taxpayer, and discourage frivolous lawsuits. A civil penalty applied to a school district is a penalty on the taxpayers of that district. We need to be very targeted and specific when the ultimate payer of the penalty is the taxpayer. Our property taxes are high enough already.
 - b. Sec. 118.002 Liability (b) contained the following (Page 2 Lines 24-26 Engrossed Version): “The public school and the professional school employee are jointly and severally liable for an award in an action under this chapter.” This would mean that if the public school employee could not pay all or part of the penalty that is assessed by the court against the public school employee, then the school district would have to pay that portion. Again, the taxpayers of the district pay this.
 - c. In “Sec. 118.003 Damages” a prevailing claimant is awarded “court costs; and reasonable and necessary attorney’s fees” (Page 2 Line 27 through Page 3 Line 5 Engrossed Version). There was no limitation on the amount. If



TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

RICHARD HAYES

DISTRICT 57

the claimant does not prevail then the school district would have to cover the court costs and attorneys fees for the district. Once again, the taxpayers of the district bear this cost.

- d. I want to be clear that even though taxpayers would pay a civil penalty against a district, I was open to changes to the law that would allow such if the actions of the district were intentional or negligent. Balance is key.
 - e. The Third Reading being scrutinized was just one step in a five step process: House Committee, House Floor, Senate Committee, Senate Floor, House final vote. To focus on or criticize the House Third Reading vote is premature and should not be considered as opposition to the Legislative Priority; especially when on May 30, 2025, I voted for the last version of the Bill (Record Vote 4061).
5. The Senate made several amendments to HB 4623, which I felt addressed my concerns with the House version. When the bill came back from the Senate with Amendments, I voted to concur with Senate Amendments. [Record Vote 4061](#) on May 30, 2025, shows me voting Aye to concur in Senate Amendments. See attached. The following are the changes that improved the bill and addressed my concerns:
- a. Sec. 118.002 Liability. (a) language was added to tighten the liability of the public school to “grossly negligent or reckless, or engages in intentional misconduct” (Page 2 Lines 15-16 Enrolled Version). This higher level should protect school districts and discourage frivolous lawsuits.
 - b. The language regarding “jointly and severally liable” was removed from the bill. Any penalties assessed against the district would still have to be paid by the taxpayers, but the taxpayers are no longer on the hook for penalties assessed against the individual professional school employee. This protects the district and the taxpayer.



TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

RICHARD HAYES

DISTRICT 57

- c. The court costs and attorney's fees language were removed from Sec. 118.003 Damages and moved to be a standalone in Sec. 118.004. Additionally, the language was amended so that the party who prevails is entitled to "court costs; and reasonable and necessary attorneys fees." Previously only the plaintiff was entitled to attorneys fees if they prevailed. Once again, this change protects the taxpayer. If the court finds the public school not liable, then the plaintiff in the lawsuit would have to reimburse the district and the taxpayer would not have to foot the bill.
6. The amendments made in the Senate to HB 4623 brought a balance to protecting taxpayers and bringing new reforms and protections for Texas children. When the bill came back to the House with the Senate Amendments, I voted to Concur in Senate Amendments.
7. I respectfully request that you and the State Republican Executive Committee remove the Third Record Vote in the House as opposition to the RPT legislative Priority when the Bill was amended significantly and I voted for the final amended HB 4623. As an aside, I note that three other Republican Representative Members find themselves in the exact same boat as I and should not be dinged for their vote: Gary Gates, Mike Schofield, and John Smithee. They all voted for the final Bill as amended by the Senate.
8. Bottom line, I voted for the final Bill.
9. Last point. The 89th Legislature passed 42 bills that support the RPT Priorities. That is a huge increase over the 88th Legislature where we passed six (and we were pretty dang happy!). The 89th Legislature delivered a historic increase of 36 additional bills. I think of how many of the bills I filed that received no hearing, were not voted out of committee, or that did not make it out of Calendars in time to be considered on the House floor. RPT should take a victory lap for the historic increase. RPT worked hard. RPT communicated well



TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

RICHARD HAYES

DISTRICT 57

with members. Members worked hard. Bottom line: huge increase. We should not be overly disappointed with the shortcomings or failures. Especially because overall (despite my significant early reservations and frustrations), much was accomplished in the 89th Regular Session and more will be accomplished in the Special Sessions. We all know that some ideas or bills take multiple Sessions to pass. Look how long banning abortion, Constitutional Carry, and school choice took to finally pass.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond, share my thoughts, and for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard D. Hayes". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Richard D. Hayes

Texas State Representative, House District 57

Vice Chair, Subcommittee on Family & Fiduciary Relationships

Sec. 2116.104. RULES. The comptroller shall adopt rules as necessary or convenient to implement and administer this subchapter, including rules to:

(1) provide for the security of transactions in gold and silver specie and gold and silver currency and related information;

(2) determine the value of the gold and silver currency described by Section 2116.102 at the time of a transaction or in a commercially reasonable manner;

(3) establish a fee that is reasonable and necessary to administer this subchapter;

(4) authorize and approve vendors, including financial institutions, to provide an electronic system described by Section 2116.102; and

(5) adopt policies and procedures to prevent:

(A) fraud; and

(B) transactions in gold and silver specie or gold and silver currency involving a foreign adversary, or a person associated with a foreign adversary, as determined under 15 C.F.R. Section 791.4.

SECTION 2. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b) of this section, this Act takes effect September 1, 2026.

(b) Section 2116.101, Government Code, as added by this Act, takes effect May 1, 2026.

Senate Amendment No. 2 (Senate Floor Amendment No. 2)

Amend Floor Amendment No. 1 by Hughes to **CSHB 1056** on page 3, line 2, by striking "September 1, 2026" and substituting for "May 1, 2027" and on page 3, line 4 striking "May 1, 2026" and substituting for "September 1, 2026".

HB 4623 - HOUSE CONCURS IN SENATE AMENDMENTS TEXT OF SENATE AMENDMENTS

Representative Little called up with senate amendments for consideration at this time,

HB 4623, A bill to be entitled An Act relating to liability of public schools and professional school employees for certain acts or omissions involving students.

Representative Little moved to concur in the senate amendments to **HB 4623**.

The motion to concur in the senate amendments to **HB 4623** prevailed by (Record 4061): 106 Yeas, 28 Nays, 2 Present, not voting.

Yeas — Alders; Anchia; Bell, C.; Bhojani; Bonnen; Bowers; Bryant; Buckley; Bucy; Bumgarner; Button; Cain; Canales; Capriglione; Cook; Craddick; Cunningham; Curry; Davis, A.; Dean; DeAyala; Dorazio; Dutton; Dyson; Fairly; Frank; Garcia, L.; Garcia Hernandez; Gates; Gerdes; Geren; Guerra; Guillen; Harless; Harris Davila; Hayes; Hefner; Hickland; Hinojosa; Holt; Hopper; Howard; Hull; Hunter; Isaac; Kerwin; King; Kitzman; LaHood; Lalani; Landgraf; Leach; Little; Lopez, J.; Lopez, R.; Louderback; Lozano; Lujan; Luther; Martinez; Martinez Fischer; McLaughlin; McQueeney; Metcalf; Meyer;

Money; Moody; Morales, C.; Morales, E.; Morales Shaw; Morgan; Muñoz; Noble; Olcott; Oliverson; Ordaz; Orr; Patterson; Paul; Perez, M.; Perez, V.; Pierson; Raymond; Richardson; Schatzline; Schofield; Schoolcraft; Shaheen; Shofner; Simmons; Slawson; Smithee; Spiller; Swanson; Talarico; Tepper; Troxclair; Turner; VanDeaver; Villalobos; Virdell; Walle; Ward Johnson; Wilson; Wu; Zwiener.

Nays — Ashby; Barry; Bell, K.; Cole; Darby; Flores; Gámez; Gervin-Hawkins; González, J.; González, M.; Goodwin; Harrison; Hernandez; Johnson; Jones, J.; Leo Wilson; Longoria; Lowe; Meza; Plesa; Rodríguez Ramos; Romero; Rose; Rosenthal; Thompson; Tinderholt; Toth; Wharton.

Present, not voting — Mr. Speaker; Vasut(C).

Absent, Excused — Allen; Garcia, J.; Harris; Jones, V.; Lambert; Phelan.

Absent — Bernal; Campos; Collier; Cortez; Davis, Y.; Manuel; Reynolds; Vo.

STATEMENTS OF VOTE

When Record No. 4061 was taken, I was shown voting yes. I intended to vote no.

Bowers

When Record No. 4061 was taken, I was in the house but away from my desk. I would have voted yes.

Manuel

When Record No. 4061 was taken, I was presiding in the chair and was shown voting present, not voting. I intended to vote yes.

Vasut

Senate Committee Substitute

CSHB 4623, A bill to be entitled An Act relating to liability of public schools and professional school employees for sexual misconduct involving students.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Title 5, Civil Practice and Remedies Code, is amended by adding Chapter 118 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 118. LIABILITY OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOR CERTAIN ACTS OR OMISSIONS

Sec. 118.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Open-enrollment charter school" has the meaning assigned by Section 5.001, Education Code.

(2) "Professional school employee" includes:

(A) a superintendent or administrator serving as educational leader and chief executive officer of the school, principal or equivalent chief operating officer, teacher, including a substitute teacher, supervisor, social worker, school counselor, nurse, and teacher's aide employed by a public school;

(B) a teacher employed by a company that contracts with a public school to provide the teacher's services to the school;

(C) a student in an education preparation program participating in a field experience or internship;

(D) a school bus driver certified in accordance with standards and qualifications adopted by the Department of Public Safety of the State of Texas;

(E) a member of the board of trustees of an independent school district or a member of the governing body of an open-enrollment charter school; and

(F) any other person employed by a public school whose employment requires certification and the exercise of discretion.

(3) "Public school" means an independent school district or an open-enrollment charter school.

(4) "Sexual misconduct" means sexual abuse or conduct described by Section 20A.02, 21.02, 21.07, 21.08, 21.11, 21.12, 21.15, 21.16, 21.165, 21.17, 21.18, 21.19, 22.011, 22.012, 22.021, or 43.25, Penal Code.

Sec. 118.002. LIABILITY. (a) A public school that is grossly negligent or reckless, or engages in intentional misconduct, in hiring, supervising, or employing a professional school employee is liable for an act or omission that is committed by a professional school employee against a student enrolled in the school and that is:

(1) sexual misconduct; or

(2) failure to report suspected child abuse or neglect under Section 261.101, Family Code.

(b) In an action against a public school under this chapter, the professional school employee who committed the act or omission on which the claim is based must be named as a defendant.

Sec. 118.003. DAMAGES. A claimant who prevails in an action under this chapter shall be awarded money damages in a maximum amount of \$500,000 for each claimant.

Sec. 118.004. COURT COSTS AND ATTORNEY'S FEES. A party who prevails in an action under this chapter is entitled to:

(1) court costs; and

(2) reasonable and necessary attorney's fees.

Sec. 118.005. REMEDIES NOT EXCLUSIVE. The remedies authorized by this chapter are in addition to any other legal remedies.

Sec. 118.006. WAIVER OF GOVERNMENTAL IMMUNITY; OFFICIAL IMMUNITY ABOLISHED. (a) A public school's governmental immunity to suit and from liability is waived to the extent of liability created by this chapter.

(b) A professional school employee may not assert official immunity under Subchapter B, Chapter 22, Education Code, the common law, or any other law in an action brought under this chapter.

SECTION 2. Chapter 118, Civil Practice and Remedies Code, as added by this Act, applies only to an act or omission that occurs on or after the effective date of this Act.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

Senate Amendment No. 1 (Senate Floor Amendment No. 1)

Amend **CSHB 4623** (senate committee report) by striking all below the enacting clause and substituting the following:

SECTION 1. Title 5, Civil Practice and Remedies Code, is amended by adding Chapter 118 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 118. LIABILITY OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOR CERTAIN ACTS OR OMISSIONS

Sec. 118.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Open-enrollment charter school" has the meaning assigned by Section 5.001, Education Code.

(2) "Professional school employee" includes:

(A) a superintendent or administrator serving as educational leader and chief executive officer of the school, principal or equivalent chief operating officer, teacher, including a substitute teacher, supervisor, social worker, school counselor, nurse, and teacher's aide employed by a public school;

(B) a teacher employed by a company that contracts with a public school to provide the teacher's services to the school;

(C) a student in an education preparation program participating in a field experience or internship;

(D) a school bus driver certified in accordance with standards and qualifications adopted by the Department of Public Safety of the State of Texas;

(E) a member of the board of trustees of an independent school district or a member of the governing body of an open-enrollment charter school;
and

(F) any other person employed by a public school whose employment requires certification and the exercise of discretion.

(3) "Public school" means an independent school district or an open-enrollment charter school.

(4) "Sexual misconduct" means sexual abuse or conduct described by Section 20A.02, 21.02, 21.07, 21.08, 21.11, 21.12, 21.15, 21.16, 21.165, 21.17, 21.18, 21.19, 22.011, 22.012, 22.021, or 43.25, Penal Code.

Sec. 118.002. LIABILITY. (a) **A public school that is grossly negligent or reckless, or engages in intentional misconduct, in hiring, supervising, or employing a professional school employee is liable for an act or omission that is committed by the employee against a student enrolled in the school and that is:**

(1) sexual misconduct; or

(2) failure to report suspected child abuse or neglect under Section 261.101, Family Code.

(b) In an action against a public school under this chapter, the professional school employee who committed the act or omission on which the claim is based must be named as a defendant.

Sec. 118.003. DAMAGES. A claimant who prevails in an action under this chapter shall be awarded actual damages in a maximum amount of \$500,000 for each claimant.

Sec. 118.004. COURT COSTS AND ATTORNEY'S FEES. A party who prevails in an action under this chapter is entitled to:

(1) court costs; and

(2) reasonable and necessary attorney's fees.

Sec. 118.005. REMEDIES NOT EXCLUSIVE. The remedies authorized by this chapter are in addition to any other legal remedies.

Sec. 118.006. WAIVER OF GOVERNMENTAL IMMUNITY; OFFICIAL IMMUNITY ABOLISHED. (a) A public school's governmental immunity to suit and from liability is waived to the extent of liability created by this chapter.

(b) A professional school employee may not assert official immunity under Subchapter B, Chapter 22, Education Code, the common law, or any other law in an action brought under this chapter.

SECTION 2. Chapter 118, Civil Practice and Remedies Code, as added by this Act, applies only to an act or omission that occurs on or after the effective date of this Act.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

HB 3000 - HOUSE CONCURS IN SENATE AMENDMENTS TEXT OF SENATE AMENDMENTS

Representative King called up with senate amendments for consideration at this time,

HB 3000, A bill to be entitled An Act relating to a grant program to provide financial assistance to qualified ambulance service providers in certain rural counties.

Representative King moved to concur in the senate amendments to **HB 3000**.

The motion to concur in the senate amendments to **HB 3000** prevailed by (Record 4062): 112 Yeas, 24 Nays, 2 Present, not voting.

Yeas — Anchía; Ashby; Barry; Bell, C.; Bell, K.; Bernal; Bhojani; Bonnen; Bowers; Bryant; Bucy; Button; Canales; Capriglione; Cole; Collier; Cook; Craddick; Curry; Darby; Davis, A.; Dean; DeAyala; Dorazio; Dutton; Dyson; Fairly; Flores; Frank; Gámez; García, L.; García Hernandez; Gates; Gerdes; Geren; Gervin-Hawkins; González, J.; González, M.; Goodwin; Guerra; Guillen; Harless; Harris Davila; Hayes; Hefner; Hernandez; Hinojosa; Holt; Hopper; Howard; Hunter; Johnson; Jones, J.; Kerwin; King; Kitzman; Lalani; Landgraf; Leach; Little; Longoria; Lopez, J.; Lopez, R.; Louderback; Lozano; Lujan; Luther; Martinez; Martinez Fischer; McLaughlin; Metcalf; Meyer; Meza; Moody; Morales, C.; Morales, E.; Morales Shaw; Morgan; Muñoz; Noble; Ordaz; Orr; Paul; Perez, M.; Perez, V.; Plesa; Raymond; Richardson; Rodríguez Ramos; Romero; Rose; Rosenthal; Schatzline; Schoolcraft; Simmons; Smithee; Spiller; Talarico; Tepper; Thompson; Troxclair; Turner; VanDeaver; Villalobos; Virdell; Vo; Walle; Ward Johnson; Wharton; Wilson; Wu; Zwiener.

Nays — Alders; Bumgarner; Cain; Cunningham; Harrison; Hickland; Hull; Isaac; LaHood; Leo Wilson; Lowe; McQueeney; Money; Olcott; Oliverson; Patterson; Pierson; Schofield; Shaheen; Shofner; Slawson; Swanson; Tinderholt; Toth.

From: Nick Carona <Nick.Carona@house.texas.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, August 12, 2025 11:14:26 AM

To: Abraham George <ageorge@texasgop.org>

Subject: Rep. Luther Response to HB 1359 (RV 1149)

Chairman George,

On HB 1359 where Rep. Luther is being called out for a bad vote (on 3rd Reading), Rep. Luther put in a journal statement reflecting the error on 3rd reading.

On 2nd reading she voted no.

On 3rd reading (Record Vote 1149) she meant to vote no, it showed voting yes, but Rep. Luther put a journal statement reflecting it was supposed to be No. Please see the evidence in the following attached photos.

Also please note, that other Reps who accidentally voted yes and changed in the journal, are not on the list you sent out by the SREC. Those are Reps Bumgarner, Cunningham, Gerdes, and Holt.

Please confirm receipt.

Best Regards,

Nick Carona

Chief of Staff

State Representative Shelley Luther

Texas House of Representatives | House District 62

Tel: 512-463-0297 | Office: E2. 404



STATEMENTS OF VOTE

When Record No. 1149 was taken, I was shown voting no. I intended to vote yes.

Bumgarner

When Record No. 1149 was taken, I was shown voting no. I intended to vote yes.

Cunningham

When Record No. 1149 was taken, I was shown voting no. I intended to vote yes.

Gerdes

When Record No. 1149 was taken, I was excused because of illness in the family. I would have voted no.

Holt

When Record No. 1149 was taken, I was shown voting yes. I intended to vote no.

Luther

CSHB 1359, as amended, was passed to engrossment by (Record 1079): 92 Yeas, 50 Nays, 2 Present, not voting.

Yeas — Allen; Anchía; Ashby; Barry; Bell, C.; Bell, K.; Bhojani; Bonnen; Bowers; Bryant; Buckley; Bucy; Button; Campos; Capriglione; Cole; Collier; Cortez; Craddick; Curry; Darby; Davis, A.; Davis, Y.; Dean; Dutton; Dyson; Fairly; Flores; Gámez; Garcia, J.; Garcia, L.; Garcia Hernandez; Gerdes; Geren; Gervin-Hawkins; González, J.; González, M.; Goodwin; Guerra; Guillen; Harless; Hernandez; Hinojosa; Howard; Hull; Hunter; Johnson; Jones, J.; Jones, V.; Kerwin; King; LaHood; Lalani; Lambert; Leach; Longoria; Lopez, J.; Lopez, R.; Lujan; Manuel; Martinez; Martinez Fischer; McQueeney; Metcalf; Meyer; Meza; Morales, C.; Morales, E.; Morales Shaw; Noble; Ordaz; Perez, M.; Perez, V.; Phelan; Plesa; Raymond; Reynolds; Rodríguez Ramos; Romero; Rose; Rosenthal; Shaheen; Simmons; Talarico; Thompson; Turner; Villalobos; Vo; Walle; Ward Johnson; Wu; Zwiener.

Nays — Alders; Bumgarner; Cain; Canales; Cook; Cunningham; DeAyala; Dorazio; Frank; Gates; Harris Davila; Harrison; Hayes; Hefner; Hickland; Hopper; Isaac; Landgraf; Leo Wilson; Little; Louderback; Lowe; Lozano; Luther;

Secure the Electric Grid	
Bill Number	HB 1359 Relating to a program to provide assistance for certain retail electric customers.
Officeholder's Name	Ashby (R - HD 9) Bell, C. (R - HD 3) Bonnen (R - HD 24) Buckley (R - HD 54) Button (R - HD 112) Caprigione (R - HD 98) Craddick (R - HD 82) Curry (R - HD 56) Darby (R - HD 72) Dean (R - HD 7) DeAyala (R - HD 133) Dorazio (R - HD 122) Dyso (R - HD 14) Fairly (R - HD 87) Gates (R - HD 28) Geren (R - HD 99) Guillen (R - HD 31) Harless (R - HD 126) Hefner (R - HD 5) Hull (R - HD 138) Hunter (R - HD 32) Kerwin (R - HD 58) Kitzman (R - HD 85) LaHood (R - HD 121) Lambert (R - HD 71) Landgraf (R - HD 81) Leach (R - HD 67) Lopez, J. (R - HD 37) Luther (R - HD 62) McQueeney (R - HD 97) Meyer (R - HD 108) Noble (R - HD 89) Phelan (R - HD 21) Smithee (R - HD 86) VanDeaver (R - HD 1) Villalobos (R - HD 34) Wilson (R - HD 20)
Action in Opposition of Legislative Priority	Voted for democrat-sponsored bill that was unanimously opposed by SREC Legislative Priorities Committee (Record Vote 1149)

From: Matt Shaheen <Matt.Shaheen@house.texas.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, August 13, 2025 4:40 PM

To: Abraham George <ageorge@texasgop.org>

Cc: matt@mattshaheen.com <matt@mattshaheen.com>

Subject: RE: Letter from RPT Chairman George and Legislative Task Force Report Pending SREC Approval

Chairman George:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond and recognizing I personally passed and sponsored several RPT priorities bills.

Regarding Bill Number HB 2442 - Relating to an application for an early voting ballot by mail.

“Voted in House Committee on Elections in favor of this bill, which is opposed by the Republican Party of Texas because it does not Secure Texas Elections.”

Response - HB 2442 does help secure Texas Elections by limiting the number of applications that can be manipulated as the bill ensures an application applies to both the main election and a runoff election. HB 2442 reduces the number of applications that can be stolen and manipulated for fraudulent votes. Additionally, not voting for legislation that isn't an RPT priority is not listed on the RPT website as a priority and is not practical. Otherwise, every Republican legislator who voted to reduce property taxes would have to be censured since property tax reduction wasn't listed as an RPT priority.

Bill Number HR 4 - Seconded Patterson Motion for the Previous Question.

“On January 23, 2025, HR 4 (Hunter) was filed and laid before the House. Representative Patterson moved the previous question on adoption of HR 4, which was seconded by 47 Republicans and 42 democrats. The SREC passed a resolution titled Resolution condemning Vote for Previous Question on House Rules, which states that the SREC considers a vote in favor of Previous Question on HR 4 to be a violation of the Legislative Priority to Ban Democrat Chairs for the purpose of censure under RPT Rule No. 44.”

“On January 23, 2025, HR 4 (Hunter) was filed and laid before the House. Representative Patterson moved the previous question on adoption of HR 4, which was seconded by 47 Republicans and 42 democrats. Then, 49 Republicans voted with democrats to move the previous question for adoption of HR 4. The SREC passed a resolution titled *Resolution Condemning Vote for Previous Question on House Rules*, which states that the SREC considers a vote in favor of Previous Question on HR 4 to be a violation of the Legislative Priority to Ban Democrat Chairs for the purpose of censure under RPT Rule No. 44.”

Response - A motion calling the previous question is a parliamentary motion and does not introduce subcommittees. Additionally, subcommittees act at the direction of the Chair of the standing committee and do not have the authority to vote out a bill to be considered on the Floor of the Texas House. All bills to be considered for debate on the Floor, must pass through a standing committee, which are all chaired by Republicans. Subcommittees have always operated in this fashion. I voted for HR 4 which banned Democrat Chairs, so this should not be a censurable offense.

Regards,

Matt

TEXAS HOUSE *of* REPRESENTATIVES



DAVID SPILLER

DISTRICT 68

August 13, 2025

Abraham George
Chairman, Republican Party of Texas
P. O. Box 2206
Austin, Texas 78768
ageorge@texasgop.org

Re: Response to Draft of Republican Party of Texas Legislative Task Force Report
dated August 9, 2025

Dear Chairman George,

I am in receipt of the draft of the Republican Party of Texas Legislative Task Force Report dated August 9, 2025 ("the Report"). I received the Report on the evening of Monday, August 11, 2025, at 8:33 p.m. Thank you for providing me and others with the opportunity to review it and provide commentary and feedback from my perspective. It is my understanding that I have until 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 13, 2025, to provide such commentary and feedback, providing time for the State Republican Executive Committee to meet again on Friday, August 15, 2025, to consider all feedback before finalizing the Legislative Task Force Report.

First, I want to thank you for the job that you do as Chairman of the Republican Party of Texas. I am sure it is an overwhelming task. Our paths have crossed several times at several locations throughout your term and throughout the State of Texas. Thank you for your hard work, dedication and commitment to advancing and defending the conservative principles, values and beliefs of the Republican Party of Texas.

Second, I want to thank the members of the State Republican Executive Committee (SREC) for the job that they do, advancing and defending those same conservative principles, values and beliefs, while representing their respective districts. With House District 68 overlapping with five (5) Senatorial Districts, I have come to know many SREC members that share counties with me, and have developed relationships with each of them, appreciating and respecting the positions that they hold.

Third, I want to thank those that have served as members of the first-ever Legislative Task Force. I know that it is not easy reviewing bills, monitoring bills, reaching out to senators and

representatives, and proposing amendments to help may bills better. I respect and appreciate the time and expertise that they each lend to the process.

Lastly, I offer the following commentary, factual background, context, rationale, positions, analysis, suggestions and requests (collectively “commentary”) to the portions of the Report that pertain to me, my votes and my actions. Herein, I have not addressed those portions of the Report that do not directly pertain to me. While I may have opinions on those matters, I do not have the time and resources to dedicate to those issues in such a short period of time. Further, please accept my commentary below in the spirit in which it is provided – respectful and honest. My commentary below is not meant as a criticism of any individual or group of individuals or the dedicated work product that they have created, but rather a commitment to the Republican Party of Texas to have the best, most fair, and most accurate Report that it can.

As such, I offer the following commentary to the Report addressing those purported actions claimed to be in opposition to the Legislative Priorities as contained in the Report that pertain to me, with the numbered paragraphs to each section not necessarily being listed in the order of importance or significance:

A. Ban Taxpayer-Funded Lobbying (HB 755)
(Page 4 of the Report)

Legislative Priority: Prohibiting all forms of taxpayer-funded lobbying, including the use of tax dollars to hire lobbyists and payment of tax dollars to associations that lobby the Legislature.

1. HB 755 is the exact language of a bill passed and voted on by every Republican member of the Texas Senate (absent Senator Seliger) as SB 10 in the 87th Legislative Session in 2021, when I first came into the House. SB 10, however, failed to pass the House. Since every Republican Senator (except Seliger) approved of the bill and the language, I filed it in both the 88th Legislative Session and the 89th Legislative Session. My filing the bill was not meant to be in opposition to the legislative priorities. To the contrary, the bill (1) imposes certain **transparency and accountability requirements** on lobbying as it currently exists and operates under the law and (2) imposes **prohibitions** on lobbying as it currently exists and operates under the law. In short, HB 755 supplements and imposes requirements and restrictions on governmental lobbying that do not currently exist under the law. While the bill may not go as far as some would like relative to the prohibition of taxpayer-funded lobbying, it is in no way in opposition to the legislative priority. Further, mandating government transparency and accountability are long-standing positions of the Republic Party of Texas platform.
2. Further, the bill caption says nothing about taxpayer-funded lobbying. It states that it is a bill “relating to certain requirements applicable to certain public entities that engage in lobbying.” Correctly, it imposes additional requirements that do not currently exist under the law.

3. The Report incorrectly states that HB 755 codifies the practice of taxpayer-funded lobbying with zero incremental advances toward a ban on taxpayer-funded lobbying. The bill (1) expands the types of public entities subject to restriction, (2) it requires governmental entities to vote on any such measure as a stand-alone item on the agenda (as opposed to a consent agenda), and (3) requires the governmental entity to post the amounts, names, entire contracts and percentages of dues for any applicable associations to be posted on the governmental agency's website. It also (4) prohibits any such person to communicate with a member of the legislature regarding matters in the Texas Tax Code, specifically as it relates to a legislation regarding "no-new-revenue" and "voter-approval" tax rates. It also (5) implements penalties for noncompliance. None of those restrictions are currently codified under existing Texas law. To state or claim otherwise is a complete falsehood and misrepresentation of the law.
4. The first time I understood that HB 755 was a potential problem was this past Saturday when someone sent me a video clip of the SREC meeting. If I had known it was a problem, I would have never filed the bill. Unfortunately, once a bill is filed, it can't be "unfiled." Even though I filed it in the 88th Legislative Session, nobody with the SREC or RPT informed me of a potential problem. This session, an SREC member apparently came by my Capitol office and said that if it advanced out of committee, they had certain amendments that they would like for me to consider. I am always willing to consider amendments to bills, but the bill never advanced out of committee. In fact, sometimes bills are voted out of committee in a certain form with the intention of making them stronger when they come to the House floor. HB 755 never had that opportunity.
5. It should be noted that I have never voted against any bill proposing in any way to ban taxpayer-funded lobbying. Incidentally, I had previously signed on as a Co-Author to HB 46 by Olcott for this Special Session which bans taxpayer-funded lobbying.
6. Since Governor Abbott placed this issue on the call for the Special Session beginning on July 21, 2025, not knowing it was a potential issue with the SREC, I filed the same bill again. It is HB 86. On Monday, after I respectfully discussed the issue two SREC members, I took the following actions:
 - a. I signed on as a Co-Author to the following bills that ban taxpayer-funded lobbying: HB 36 by Patterson, HB 64 by Cain, HB 173 by Troxclair, and HB 209 by Leo Wilson.
 - b. I filed HB 296 which bans taxpayer-funded lobbying, and which is identical to SB 12 by Senator Mayes Middleton.
 - c. I also pledged to the two SREC members that I spoke with, and to others, that, although I absolutely do not believe that HB 755 is in opposition to an

RPT legislative priority, I would not be filing a bill like HB 755 in any future session.

Based on the foregoing, I respectfully request that HB 755 be removed from the Report as being in opposition to the Legislative Priorities. I also respectfully request that no adverse action be made or referenced against me for HB 755, nor against Joint Authors, Representative Will Metcalf and Representative Carl Tepper, nor Co-Author, Keresa Richardson.

B. No Democrat Chairs (HR 4)
(Page 23 and Page 25 of the Report)

Legislative Priority: The Republican-controlled Texas Legislature shall end the practice of awarding committee chairmanships to Democrats and require all committees to be majority Republican.

1. When I came into the Texas House in 2021, I came in on a special election on February 23, 2021 (when Representative Drew Springer was elected to the Senate) and was not sworn in until March 9, 2021. Representative Dade Phelan had already been sworn in as Speaker and had made committee assignments. I did not support having Democrat Committee Chairs, have never supported having Democrat Committee Chairs, and have never voted for Democrat Committee Chairs. I have always been very vocal about my position. In fact, the following is an excerpt from my Statement issued on December 3, 2024, supporting David Cook as Speaker of the House – two (2) days before Speaker Phelan withdrew from the Speaker race:

“I endorse and will be voting for Representative David Cook for Speaker when the Texas House Republican Caucus meets this week to select our nominee. David Cook possesses the leadership skills, integrity, knowledge, discernment and fairness necessary to be Speaker of the Texas House.

“David Cook understands how important it is to appoint conservative Republicans as committee chairs in the Texas House. While some say appointing Democrats as committee chairs is necessary in order to work with Democrats, I disagree. **As I’ve consistently stated many times, I don’t support Democrat chairs, I’ve never supported Democrat chairs, and I’ve never voted for Democrat chairs.** Under David Cook’s leadership, we’re not going to have Democrat chairs this next session.

“I will only support a Speaker Candidate that shares that philosophy. Further, I’m going to continue to follow the Platform of the Republican Party of Texas and the Texas House Republican Caucus Bylaws relating to the selection of our Endorsed Speaker Candidate and the election of our Speaker of the House.”

2. Under HR 4, for the first time in history, Democrats can only be Vice Chairs of committees and not Chairs of committees. As such, according to HR 4, Democrats don't get additional powers. Democrat Vice Chairs have the right to work with the Republican Chair of the committee to ask for a hearing and call witnesses, but not to decide any bills voted out of committee. According to HR 4, Democrat Vice Chairs of committees can't stop Republican bills, can't pass Democrat bills, and can't call for a vote on bills. No committees are controlled Democrats, as per the RPT priority that I supported.
3. It is unclear and ambiguous as to apparently having two (2) strikes for HR 4. On Page 24, it states "The SREC passed a Resolution titled *Condemning Vote for Previous Question on House Rules*, which states that the SREC considers a vote in favor of Previous Question on HR 4 to be a violation of the Legislative Priority to Ban Democrat Chairs for the purpose of censure under RPT Rule No. 44." On Page 26, it states "The SREC passed a Resolution titled *Condemning Vote for Previous Question on House Rules*, which states that the SREC considers a vote in favor of Previous Question on HR 4 to be a violation of the Legislative Priority to Ban Democrat Chairs for the purpose of censure under RPT Rule No. 44." **The two rationales state the exact same thing.** First, why are you double-dipping, since the two condemnations state the exact same thing on the same resolution. Second, please explain to me how adopting the rule banning Democrat Chairs of committees is a violation of the legislative priority to "*end the practice of awarding committee chairmanships to Democrats.*"
4. Since when does initiating a procedural mechanism to call the question and end needless debate and proposed amendments by Democrats constitute the violation of a legislative priority? Where is calling the question included in the RPT legislative priorities? You've changed the rules after the game has started, moved the goalposts, and changed the score after the game is completed. As to debate, the House had debated HR 4 for over an hour, there were Democrat amendments that I know were going to be filed, and it was necessary to call the question. How is that a violation of a legislative priority? How did that result in Democrat Chairs of committees being allowed?
5. Please name one Democrat that was named a Chair of a committee. It didn't happen.
6. Please name one conservative Republican bill that was killed by a Democrat in a committee. It didn't happen.
7. Quite frankly, based on the foregoing, your position on both condemnations under HR 4 make no sense, can't be rationally explained or legally justified, and are unfairly punitive.

8. To vote against HR 4 would have been a vote to allow Democrat Chairs of committees. For me to vote against that would have made me out to be a liar to all of my constituents to whom I've promised since 2021 to follow the Platform of the RPT and vote against allowing Democrat Chairs of committees. Honestly, for the SREC to now condemn my vote to ban Democrat Chairs of committees is hypocritical and disingenuous. You demand that we do something, threaten us with censure if we don't follow your rule, and then criticize, condemn and advocate censure when we do exactly what you demand that we do. Frankly, it's offensive.
9. Also, respectfully, in my opinion the SREC's current position on this issue undermines the credibility of the SREC and the RPT's leadership. I don't want that and you don't want that. I acknowledge that the SREC and Legislative Task Force Committee have a job and function to perform, but, to the extent we can, now more than ever in our state and our nation is the time for Republicans to unite. The nation is looking to Texas for Republicans to unite, lead and set the example. It is not the time to attack each other – especially needlessly and without merit, basis or justification.

Based on the foregoing, I respectfully request that HR 4 be removed from the Report as being in opposition to the Legislative Priorities, and for ambiguously and unfairly double-dipping with no distinction between the two identical claims. I also respectfully request that no adverse action be made or referenced against anyone that voted for HR 4 or voting to call the question on HR 4.

Conclusion

Again, please accept my commentary in the spirit in which it is provided – respectful and honest. My commentary is not meant as a criticism of any individual or group of individuals or the dedicated work product that they have created, but rather a commitment to the Republican Party of Texas to have the best, most fair, and most accurate Report that it can. Thank you again for the job that you, the SREC and the members of the Legislative Task Force perform for the Republican Party of Texas.

I respectfully ask that:

1. HB 755 be removed from the Report as being in opposition to the Legislative Priorities; and that no adverse action be made or referenced against me for HB 755, nor against Joint Authors, Representative Will Metcalf and Representative Carl Tepper, nor Co-Author, Keresa Richardson.
2. HR 4 be removed from the Report as being in opposition to the Legislative Priorities, and for ambiguously and unfairly double-dipping with no distinction between the two identical claims; and that no adverse action be made or referenced against anyone that voted for HR 4 or voting to call the question on HR 4.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ David Spiller

Representative David Spiller

DS



From: John Smithee <john@srlawtx.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 13, 2025 4:08 PM
To: Abraham George <ageorge@texasgop.org>
Subject: SREC Meeting

Mr. George:

I understand that some concerns were raised at the August 9 State Republican Executive Committee meeting regarding my third reading vote on House Bill 4623 (89R, 2025), authored by Representative Mitch Little and sponsored by Senator Angela Paxton. I disagree with any suggestion that I “voted against protecting our kids from sexual predators.”

HB 4623, as it came for House vote, included language that caused me concern, regarding its potential effect on school districts and taxpayers I represent. Specifically, in the version before the House, the bill would have:

- Removed all immunity protections for public school districts and the taxpayers who support them;
- Permitted lawsuits against school districts (and ultimately their taxpayers) for up to \$500,000 per incident with no cap on damages, possibly resulting in millions of dollars of liability to one claimant;

- Exposed school districts and their taxpayers to liability for actions or inactions under the Family Code, including situations outside their control; and
- Subjected school districts and their taxpayers to multiple lawsuits over the same incident, potentially totaling millions of dollars.

Most of the school districts I represent are small rural districts with enrollments under 500 and budgets under \$5 million. Some will not be able to obtain insurance to insure against the risk that would have been created by the House version. Without insurance, one claim – even if frivolous – would have easily bankrupted many of these school districts, resulting in closure of the town’s only school. Many people do not understand that school districts do not pay for insurance or adverse judgments rendered against them. The taxpayers do; and taxpayers are already pretty much taxed to the limit.

I, together with several of my Republican colleagues including Reps. Mike Schofield, Richard Hayes, Drew Darby, and Gary Gates, recognized and discussed our concerns with the bill’s prior language. There were a number of ways to modify HB 4623 to reduce the unreasonable risk created by the House version. I understood that Rep. Gary Gates met with Rep. Little to share the concerns of these House members, and discuss changes that could be made. However, Rep. Gates was unsuccessful in attempting to persuade Rep. Little to amend the bill. Consequently, several House Republicans voted against that version of the bill.

Fortunately, when the bill reached the Senate, Lt. Governor Patrick and the bill’s Senate sponsor, Sen. Angela Paxton, took these concerns seriously and decided to make several common sense and practical changes to the legislation without compromising its overall purpose.

The Senate amendments:

- Capped actual damages at \$500,000 per claimant;
- Clarified liability provisions to avoid unfair overreach; and
- Provided for recovery of reasonable attorney’s fees and court costs by the prevailing party, thus helping protect districts from frivolous claims.

The bill’s sponsor, Sen. Paxton, and fellow Republican co-sponsors, Sens. Bettencourt, Campbell, Creighton, Hagenbuch, Hancock, A. Hinojosa, Huffman, Hughes, King, Kolkhorst, Middleton, Parker, Perry, and Sparks, all supported amending H.B. 4623 to provide the needed clarification and parameters in the legislation.

On May 30, 2025, when the bill returned to the House with Senate Amendments, I voted in favor of Rep. Little’s motion to concur with Senate amendments, and the bill was enrolled and sent to the Governor for signature. Thus, I voted FOR HB 4623 in its final form, and I remain convinced that those of us who advocated for the changes did the right thing.

Thus, I voted FOR the bill in its final form.

If I can provide additional information, please let me know.

John Smithee

I served as a Precinct Chair and an Election Judge for 20 years. Then I served on the SREC for eight years where I was the Chair of both the Grassroots Club and the Resolutions Committee. Four of those years I was also on the Officials Committee. I do thank you for the hours of work, the money it costs you to serve and the time away from your families to do that work.

It is at an even greater personal cost that I serve to do the work of State Representative.

As a House Member I read all the bills that come before me, so I likewise did my homework on the items you sent. Therefore, I compiled a response to the document for all the things in the House. I did not respond to the Senate information because I do not serve in that body.

1. In your first section (Priority Bills): It is disingenuous to list the Author and Joint Authors in alphabetical order, giving no credit to the one who ACTUALLY did all the work getting a bill filed in the House or Senate, while calling out specific authors on specific bills in the censurable items. This does not give credit where credit is due, nor does it reflect the work that is required for each bill to be passed. My work passing the Constitutional Amendment to prohibit non-citizens voting was a heavy lift in the House, and yet I'm given no credit in your document.
2. To be consistent with your current line of logic, all Co-Authors should be given credit on every bill that they "helped" pass. Evidently what each person passed or didn't pass doesn't seem to have any weight on your scale of justice in your censurable items.
3. Your list of "Priority Bills" and the work that was done to advance the bills is far from complete. I contend that several of the bills that I passed should have been considered victories under those headings, but the list failed to include quite a few bills from many Members that met those criteria. Also, my work to prevent EPIC City (HB 4211) should have been a Priority, but it was not on your radar at Convention last year. I know each member would like to have credit for the work we do on the behalf of Texas, and the way you listed the authors minimalized that great effort.

Now to the Censurable items: Since I only serve in the House, I will confine my answers to those that have to do with the House.

Pages 4, 5, 6, of Censures: HB 755 Spiller, Metcalf, Tepper. Almost every filed bill changes along the way. If just filing a bill, no matter how much it changes and is amended in the process of working on legislation is enough for Censure, that will have a chilling effect on anyone wanting to file a bill, or sign on to a bill. This Censure, even though it does not include me, should be out of bounds since most legislation we file are working documents and not the final product by any means. By this measure, only Members who file no bills would be assured of avoiding this type of censure.

Pages 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 37, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43: Blaming the Chairs for bills that were not heard or were heard and subsequently not voted out of committee is likewise blaming our Texas ancestors who wanted limited government and allowed for only 140 days to do our work. Those forefathers wanted a tight funnel to limit all that went through it, and therefore, from this logic, it would be better not to be a Chair. Just like the previous paragraph, being completely ineffective by avoiding leadership is the only way to avoid these censures.

Page 23-26: As a member of the National Association of Parliamentarians, this Censure is the most objectionable. **A motion to end debate doesn't indicate if a person is for or against the measure, it simply means they have heard enough to make up their minds**, and therefore should be out of bounds as a censurable element. Since the RPT uses Robert's Rules of Order as the official and adopted means of conducting business, you should be well aware that the PROCESS of getting to a decision is not the DECISION itself. Likewise, voting FOR the first House Rules in the history of Texas **that does not allow for any Democratic Chairs** fulfilled the Legislative Priority goal. In fact, if we had not put it in the rules and the Speaker had just appointed only Republicans (as he did) we would have fulfilled that priority as well. We took the hard vote and made it part of our rules going forward.

Sec. 4A. Additional Restrictions. If, at the time the Speaker announces the membership of standing committees, **the members of the House of one political party constitute a majority of the membership of the house, the speaker shall designate a member of that party to serve as chair** of each standing committee.

It is unclear just how many different censures are included on pages 23-26. It seems duplicative.

Page 27: While I am not listed on this one, I find your analysis of the bill (HB 805) to be flawed. The reason I voted against it was because I didn't think we needed the study. To censure 33 Republican House Members on flawed information is a Democrat tactic, and certainly not a Republican one.

Page 29: Another example of a flawed analysis of the bill itself. **In no way did this bill provide any assistance for illegal aliens.** Instead, it would allow the Public Utility Commission (PUC) to establish rules to issue a one-time electric bill assistance to low-income Texas households following an extreme weather emergency. The proposed fund, while it might include some seed money from the budget, was to be mostly from donations and grants for this purpose. Imagine if we had this fund set up after winter storm Uri and people across the nation had contributed to it to help our needy citizens. The sort of rhetoric included in this censure makes it clear that we, as Republicans, are not for helping Texan citizens keep their homes after such an

unexpected expense, and frankly, it plays into the lie that Republicans don't care about the poor.

Pages 32, 33 and 34: Again, you are censuring someone for showing up to do a vote. Would you prefer that we not vote in Committees? I guess by this reasoning the best way to avoid censure is not to do the job we were elected to do. By the way, HB 2442 passed the Full House 98-40 because for those of us who have college kids who live out of the area, having them fill out only one application for ballot by mail in a single election (that might include a runoff) is cutting government red tape. Filling out two different ballot by mail applications in no way helps "Secure Texas Elections."

Page 36: Second reading votes are not Constitutionally required to be a recorded vote, and therefore are not used as anything except informational. To censure on a Second Reading Vote should be out of bounds.

Page 38: Members evaluating this bill logically had questions as to if HB 4623 would be good policy or just open our Texas ISDs and their taxpayers to frivolous lawsuits. To Censure five members, when they may have been concerned about a Pandora's box of expensive lawsuits, is not a good use of the Censure process.

Thank you to anyone who read to the bottom of my concerns about these Censures.

While I was on the SREC we actually had 102 Republicans in the Texas House because Chairman Steve Munisteri encouraged party growth. This splitting of hairs doesn't solve the real issues that face our state. We have an opportunity to grow our party or tear it down. **I ask you, and pray for you, that we go back to celebrating our wins and stop beating the drum on the things that didn't turn out as we wished.**

Again, thank you for your service.

Candy Noble

House District 89



August 13, 2025

Mr. Abraham George, Chairman
Republican Party of Texas
807 Brazos St
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Chairman George:

I did not receive a copy of your letter and Legislative Task Force Report but had a copy forwarded to me today via a colleague. There are a number of items in the report which merit correction.

The report says that I am identified as being opposed to RPT Legislative Priority 4-Banning Democrat Chairs, which states “The Republican-controlled Texas Legislature shall end the practice of awarding committee chairmanships to Democrats and require all committees to be majority Republican.” This is false.

I voted for HR 4, the House Rules for the 79th Legislative Session, which does exactly that. The House Rules, adopted with 116 votes, contain changes that were easily understood by the members and there were only a handful, each underlined, so the changes were easy to find. Members were free to make suggestions before they were adopted and debate ensued for over an hour before they were voted on. Rather than look at the vote on the Rules, the Report cites two actions, seconding the motion for the previous question and voting for the motion for the previous question after over an hour of debate.

A motion to call the previous question has nothing to do at all with the legislative priority. It is a non-substantive procedural motion that was overwhelmingly approved by a majority of Republican members. Indeed, Roberts Rules is very clear that the seconding of the procedural Motion for the Previous Question is not a vote on the main motion to Ban Democrat Chairs. Similarly, the vote for the previous question brings the main motion, which was adoption of the Rules, before the body. After an hour of debate by multiple members, none had brought forward any amendments. I and over 50 other Republicans believed it was time to get on with the main motion, which was to adopt the Rules, which included an express prohibition on the speaker designating a member of the Democrat Party to be a chair of a standing committee. I proudly voted for the Rules, which stood the test of time this session. It is false to say I opposed Legislative Priority 4.

Similarly, the Legislative Task Force Report says I opposed RPT Legislative Priority 6-Secure the Electric Grid, which states, “Securing the integrity of Texas electricity production and delivery of abundant, reliable, and resilient energy, ensuring that the Texas grid can withstand any natural or manmade threat to include weather, cyber, physical, electromagnetic pulse (EMP) and geomagnetic disturbances (GMD).” This is false.

The two bills cited, HB 805 and HB 1359, have little, if anything, to do with this legislative priority. In fact, HB 805 would have only conducted a one time study on the interconnection of Mexico and Texas electric grids. Texas and Mexico already share limited electricity through four existing interconnections. The purpose of this study was not to endorse expanding those links, but to analyze the reliability, regulatory compatibility, and energy implications of current and potential future interconnections. Understanding the risks of these interconnections and potential improvements that could be made to improve our grid reliability supports this Legislative Priority. To say this bill opposes it is flatly, false. HB 1359 had nothing at all to do with grid reliability, and should be struck from the Report.

Sincerely

Charlie Geren

August 13, 2025

Response to the Republican Party of Texas's Legislative Task Force Report:

Thank you for your Legislative Task Force Report and for the opportunity to respond regarding HR 4 (Record Vote 9).

As you noted, I changed my vote in the journal because I intended to vote “No,” not “Yes.” At the time, I believed I had already voted “No.” Frustrated with the process, I clicked “No,” then turned to my computer to do some research and stepped away to speak with other members about possible next steps—unaware that my vote had not been recorded correctly. Once I discovered the error, I promptly corrected the record and issued multiple public statements explaining exactly what had happened.¹

In addition, I authored several amendments to the proposed House rules. These would have required that the chair of each standing subcommittee be a member of the majority party, that a majority of committee and subcommittee members come from the majority party, and that the speaker pro tempore also be a member of the majority party.

I proudly supported Representative Cody Vasut’s amendments to remove the prohibition on using House resources for political purposes from the Housekeeping Resolution—which, in 2023, was used to block a proposed rules amendment to ban Democrat Chairs—and a separate amendment to end the practice of appointing Democrat Chairs altogether.

I wanted to have a thorough floor debate on substantive changes to the proposed House rules and continue the reform efforts I began during the interim. Unfortunately, as you also noted, none of these amendments were allowed to be debated or voted on.

Leading up to the 89th Texas Legislature, I have consistently been recognized as a reformer committed to changing how the Texas House operates, including ending the practice of appointing Democrat committee chairs. Before the 88th Texas Legislature in 2023, I signed the Republican Party of Texas Pledge to ban Democrat Chairs, reflecting that commitment.

I participated in the Reform Caucus process and voted for the Reform candidate during the GOP Caucus and on the House floor in the vote to select our chamber’s presiding officer. I believe that my record of reform reflects the respect I have for our party, its legislative priorities, and the ability to govern Texas in line with the conservative values we all embrace and champion.

Other organizations that score legislators based on their votes, like Texans for Fiscal Responsibility, chose not to score the Record Vote 9, recognizing the complexities of the session.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond, and thank you for your service to our party and our state.

God Bless Texas,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Briscoe Cain". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Briscoe" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Cain".

Briscoe Cain
Texas State Representative
House District 128

ⁱ <https://x.com/BriscoeCain/status/1882827503598735431>



TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MANO DEAYALA

DISTRICT 133

August 14, 2025

Abraham George
Chairman, Republican Party of Texas
P. O. Box 2206
Austin, Texas 78768

ageorge@texasgop.org

Response to Draft of Republican Party of Texas Legislative Task Force Report dated August 9, 2025

Dear Chairman George,

I am in receipt of the Republican Party of Texas Legislative Task Force Draft Report dated August 9, 2025 ("the Report"). I received the Report yesterday from a colleague so my apologies for not getting this reply to you sooner. I have had an opportunity to review the Report and have re-reviewed some of the legislation referenced. This response is limited to a few of the referenced bills due to time constraints and so as not to duplicate comments from other members.

- 1. RPT Priority – No Democrat Chairs (HR4, Motion for the Previous Question)**
- 2. RPT Priority – No Democrat Chairs (HR4, Voting in Favor)**

These are considered not one but two votes against a legislative priority. I will address these in order. On Page 24 of the Report, it states:

*"The SREC passed a Resolution titled *Condemning Vote for Previous Question on House Rules*, which states that the SREC considers a vote in favor of Previous Question on HR 4 to be a violation of the Legislative Priority to Ban Democrat Chairs for the purpose of censure under RPT Rule No. 44."*

On Page 26 of the Report, it recites the same resolution verbatim. As I understand it, after both votes were taken the SREC established a rule in order to make the vote actionable. Is it the SREC's position that a vote to call to question HR4 (a procedural vote) and a vote on HR4 are two separate violations of the same resolution that was enacted after both votes? The first vote was not a vote on the matter and cannot be considered such a vote. Here the SREC is misguided. A motion to end debate simply means the movant has heard enough to make up his/her mind for or against the bill or resolution. It is not a vote on the substantive matter. Since when does ending needless debate, after an hour of debate, and preventing proposed Democrat amendments constitute the violation of a legislative priority? Where is it in the RPT legislative priorities prior to the SREC changing the rules? But even if the procedural vote was a vote on the matter and even if such a procedural vote was a legislative priority – both big ifs -, the Report is



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double dipping. I disagree that either vote violates an RPT priority regardless of whether the priority was established before or after the vote. On the contrary, both votes were clearly supportive of the priority.

Voting for HR 4 was the first time in Texas history that the minority party was banned from chairing committees. HR4 expressly states:

Sec. 4A. Additional Restrictions. If, at the time the Speaker announces the membership of standing committees, *the members of the House of one political party constitute a majority of the membership of the house, the speaker shall designate a member of that party to serve as chair of each standing committee.*

HR 4 provided for Democrats to be Vice Chairs of committees. Despite misrepresentations by some, including SREC members, of the role of committee Vice Chairs, HR4 did not empower them. Vice Chairs did not have such powers because HR4 prohibited it. Because of HR4, Democrat Vice Chairs were powerless to stop Republican bills, or to pass Democrat bills, or even to call for a vote on bills. No committees are controlled Democrats, as per the RPT priority. It boggles the mind how voting for HR4 that banned Democrat Chairs is a violation of the legislative priority to *“end the practice of awarding committee chairmanships to Democrats.”*

Objectively, voting for HR4 cannot be considered a violation of this legislative priority and should be removed from the Report. HR4 did not allow Democrats to chair committees. No Democrat was named Chair of any committee. Furthermore, no Republican bill was killed in committee by a Democrat Vice Chair. The SREC’s position on HR4 is illogical, cannot be rationally or legally justified, and should be a cause for concern among all Texas Republicans.

3. RPT Priority – Securing the Electric Grid (HB1359, Voting in Favor)

According to the Report, HB1359 “was unanimously opposed by SREC Legislative Priorities Committee.” Assuming the RPT made its position known prior to the vote, that did not connect with me and, if so, I would have at least analyzed it further. But as to the merits of HB1359, it established rules to issue one-time electric bill assistance to low-income Texans following an extreme weather emergency. The funding was largely provided from private donations and grants and would provide a vehicle through the PUC for donors to help those who suffered from severe hurricanes, floods or fires. In 2017, Hurricane Harvey hit my district extremely hard destroying thousands of homes with rebuild costs in the billions of dollars. If this vehicle was available for donors from Texas, the US and the world, then some real help would be available in real time. It would already be established and credible. We can stick to our core principles of limited government and fiscal responsibility and still care about our fellow Texans. Regardless, voting for HB1359 is in no way inconsistent with securing the electric grid.

Conclusion

I appreciate the spirit of what the RPT is trying to accomplish. Aaron Tippin said it best, *“you’ve got to stand for something or you’ll fall for anything.”* Before becoming a State Representative, I served for 10 years as a board member of the Hispanic Republicans of Texas and as Chairman of HRT for much of that time. We worked closely with county parties in the valley and elsewhere and with the RPT. We

worked on engagement, messaging and what we termed “winning hearts and minds.” Our goal was to grow the party. As 2020 was approaching and Democrat donors from across the country were pouring tens of millions of dollars into Texas to turn Texas blue ahead of redistricting. I served as Chair of Engage Texas, the largest paid effort focused exclusively on registering conservative voters in Texas. The RPT was engaged in a similar volunteer effort, and we were both successful. In 2018, we had recently lost 12 House seats and if we lost 9 more, we would be in the minority during a redistricting year. At least 9 Republicans had only narrowly won their 2018 elections. It was an all-hands-on deck effort and collectively we were successful. During the 2020 election when the Democrat Harris County Clerk was firing Republican poll workers during early voting, I, working with Alan Vera, filed suit pro bono on behalf of HCRP to stop the firing.

Why do I bring this to your attention? Because in recent years the RPT focus has shifted away from growing our majority and defeating Democrats. When our party is unified, we are an unstoppable force. Families throughout Texas are counting on all of us as leaders in our party to deliver common sense conservative legislation that limits government, keeps taxes low, protects children and provides opportunities for generations to come. We can’t always count on the Democrats being so awful and delusional. Eventually, they will figure out how to grow their party in Texas. Let’s not help them. Texans and the Country are counting on us.

For Texas,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. F. Mano DeAyala". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "E" and "F" and a stylized "M" and "D".

E. F. Mano DeAyala