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Subject: SB 1506

Dear Education Board Members:

I do support SB 1506 unreservedly. We know the statistics and we cannot deny the fact, we are losing a generation to a failed education system. In Fort Worth, we are losing 2,888 students per year. However, the fact is, if we lose one, that is one too many! Our goal is Education For All; for all who need it, want it, and deserve it. I believe education: is a human right and a force for social change; as the single most vital element in combating poverty, empowering women, safe-guarding children from exploitative and hazardous labor and sexual exploitation, promoting human rights and democracy, and as a path towards international peace and security. The message should resonate clearly as a crystal fountain: Education is the foundation of a free and fulfilled life. It is the right of all children and the obligation of all governments. **Genocide** is the mass killing of a group of people as defined by Article 2 of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (CPPCG) as "any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group, as such: killing members of the group; causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; **deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life, calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part**; imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group; and forcibly transferring children of the group to another group." We have an obligation to rescue our children from educational genocide. To abandon children in school with poor performance is educational genocide and social injustice. Unequal educational opportunity is the civil rights issue of our time, and therefore with the same voice as those who spoke concerning Brown vs the Board of Education in Kansas, we speak with a voice of courage, not complacency, please vote for this bill because 119,000 drops outs a year depend on it! We need the provision of this legislation with all deliberate speed. Anything else, is like unto criminal action on behalf of non supporters.

Lt. Governor David Dewhurst says "I see Texas as the place of big dreams and quiet miracles. A place where everyday, anybody, from any background or any community, can scale heights as improbable as they are breathtaking. But we must always ensure that our government is not an obstacle to hope, but a partner in prosperity." Ronald Regan said, "Universal access to education is simply not good enough. Americans need universal access to quality education – education that works." Voting for this bill says you agree with these fundamental statements. We all win if we choose school choice. Liberals like choice because it gives underprivileged students a chance for a better education. Conservatives like it because it is cheap, fosters competition among schools, and transfers power from administrators to parents. It's about parental choice; parents have the responsibility to decide what is best for their child and their education. The government should support the parent's right to choose, and should not be a blockade to freedom, while promoting poverty and disenfranchisement of a class of people. It is not just Afro American children or Hispanic children, there is a new caste system, it's called the "have and the have nots". Parents not only choose the best school for their child, not what is best for the system, but also voluntarily use less tax dollars for their child's education. Voting for this bill will increase education opportunities for low-income and middle class families and strengthen public education through reduced class sizes and increased funding in Texas.

Today, Elm Grove District Association and the church, who has always answered the call in humanitarian crisis, stand ready again to execute a remedy. We were there during the slave question, through black codes, Jim Crow, Women's Suffrage, Civil Rights, Vietnam, 911, Katrina and Hurricane Rita, and we stand on the threshold of this disaster poised to go into action and throw out the lifelines, 25 churches to create schools, free from the bureaucratic red tape of public schools. We are here as the moral compasses of your conscious. We represent the children who have the most to lose. Who will stand for the 16 economically disadvantaged youth who give up on school a day in Fort Worth? Who will defy the organizational mindset and break ranks and say, "I will stand for these children". In the final analysis the children are the winners and losers in this fight and they are already in the 12th round trailing by the score keepers card, help them avoid a knock out, vote in favor and support with your heart, SB 1506. A vote no says George Wallace and

others like him were right when they blocked access to education to African American students in Alabama. Don't be a blockade to freedom. Let freedom ring and let it resonate in this room, let justice roll down like waters for our minority children in the state of Texas.

So what about the children?

By Yolanda Adams

Tears streaming down, her heart is broken
And because her heart is hurting, so am I
He wears a frown, his dreams are choking
And because he stands alone, his dreams will die
So, humbly I come to you and I say
As I sound aloud the warfare of today
Please hear me, I pray

What about the children
To ignore is so easy
So many innocent children will choose the wrong way
So what about the children
Remember when we were children
And if not for those who loved us and who cared enough to show us
Where would we be today

So, where is your son
and where lies his refuge
And if that young man can't come to you, then where can that young man run to
She's such a foolish foolish girl, yet still, she's your daughter
And if you will just reminisce on all the crazy things that you did when you were that young
You see, it's not where you've been, nor what you've done
Because I know a friend who specializes in great outcomes
See His love overcomes

What about the children
To ignore is so easy
So many innocent children will choose the wrong way
So what about the children
Remember when we were children
And if not for those who loved us and who cared enough to show us
Where would we be today.....
What about the children they need our help today
And what about the children they need us
more than ever more than ever more than ever
what about the children where would we be today
where would we be today
what about the children

Where would we be today
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What about the the children

Humbly Submitted,