



July 17, 2017

The Honorable Joe Straus
Texas House of Representatives
P.O. Box 2910
Capitol Station
Austin, TX 78768

Members of the Bexar County Delegation
Texas House of Representatives & Senate
P.O. Box 2910
Capitol Station
Austin, TX 78768

RE: Privacy Legislation

Dear Speaker Straus and members of the Bexar County Delegation:

Texas businesses depend on many things in order to sustain economic growth in our state, including attracting a skilled workforce to our state. This is why the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce and San Antonio Area Superintendents oppose any legislation that seeks to regulate bathroom usage in public spaces and public schools.

Currently, campus administrators are able to accommodate students and families, for any number of reasons, in order to ensure privacy and dignity to each child who attends our area public schools. This includes the use of a bathroom in a clinic or faculty area depending on the situation allowing for true privacy protection of each child who attends our area schools. In short, the proposed legislation offered during the 85th Legislature was seeking to solve a problem that does not exist in our schools.

Governor Greg Abbott recently remarked to a group of constituents that, "In education, one size does not fit all. There's a different size for each student." We agree that each student is unique with varying interests and career paths. If the Governor and others trust and allow for local ISDs to develop

individual and creative approaches for educating students, why would we not do the same with regards to privacy issues?

The San Antonio Chamber of Commerce and our San Antonio area superintendents strongly believe that the best way to serve our young people and ensure their safety and privacy is to allow decisions to be made by those closest to them. That would be our local ISDs, the administrators who manage the campuses, and a child's parents/guardians.

As this issue continues to be discussed during this special session, we hope to serve as a resource in the dialogue and share our perspective on the issue. We all want to ensure our children are safe, but more importantly, treated respectfully and with dignity.

On behalf of our nearly 2,100 San Antonio Chamber members, who provide more than 500,000 jobs in our city, and our 15 Superintendents who educate 327,000 children, thank you for your continued dedication to our state and our more than 5 million Texas school children.

If you should have any questions regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to contact Priscilla Camacho, VP of Education/Workforce Development at pcamacho@sachamber.org or 210-326-3751.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kevin Brown, Superintendent, *Alamo Heights ISD*
Mr. Roland Toscano, Superintendent, *East Central ISD*
Dr. Emilio Castro, Superintendent, *Edgewood ISD*
Dr. Gail Siller, Superintendent, *Fort Sam Houston ISD*
Mr. Rey Madrigal, Superintendent, *Harlandale ISD*
Dr. Carl Montoya, Superintendent, *Judson ISD*
Dr. Burnie Roper, Superintendent, *Lackland ISD*
Dr. Brian Gottardy, Superintendent, *North East ISD*
Dr. Brian Woods, Superintendent, *Northside ISD*
Mr. Lance Johnson, Superintendent, *Randolph Field ISD*
Mr. Pedro Martinez, Superintendent, *San Antonio ISD*
Dr. Greg Gibson, Superintendent, *Schertz-Cibolo-University City ISD*
Dr. Abe Saaverda, Superintendent, *South San Antonio ISD*
Mr. Mark Eads, Superintendent, *Southside ISD*
Dr. Lloyd Verstuyft, Superintendent, *Southwest ISD*
Mr. Richard Perez, President & CEO, *San Antonio Chamber of Commerce*

cc: Office of the Governor
Office of the Lt. Governor
Senate Committee on Education
House Committee on Public Education