

PHIL KING
State Representative
District 61

COMMITTEES:

Public Safety
Ways & Means

COUNTIES:

Parker • Wise

March 17, 2010



State of Texas
House of Representatives
Austin

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Dr. Deborah Cron
Superintendent
Weatherford Independent School District
1100 Longhorn Dr.
Weatherford, Texas 76086-5095

Dear Dr. Cron:

I serve on the board of the Texas Conservative Coalition (www.txcc.org) and its sister organization, the Texas Conservative Coalition Research Institute (www.txccri.org). As the largest conservative caucus at the state capitol, TCC and TCCRI are a driving policy force in the Texas Legislature.

We are seeking your help in drafting school finance legislation for the upcoming legislative session. The state will face an unprecedented \$12-15 billion budget shortfall so funding options will be extremely limited. Therefore, it is our hope at TCC to develop a series of bills designed to help schools cut costs by eliminating mandates that are either unnecessary or whose cost outweighs their benefit.

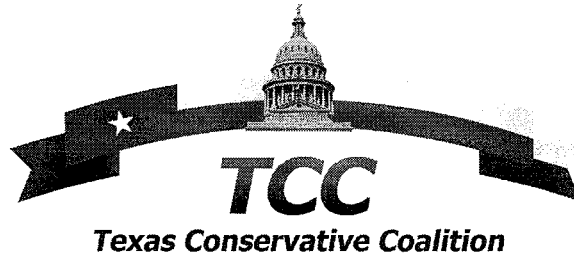
The enclosed letter briefly discusses mandates and asks for specific recommendations from school administrators. I encourage each school board to discuss these mandates with their superintendent and let my office know of your recommendations by April 30, 2010. Again, I stress specificity because we envision drafting a series of very target specific legislation. And please think outside the box. We need some fresh ideas.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to hearing from you and working with you to provide relief for your school district.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phil King", written over a white background.

Phil King



March 17, 2010

Dr. Deborah Cron
Superintendent
Weatherford Independent School District
1100 Longhorn Dr.
Weatherford, Texas 76086-5095

Dear Dr. Cron:

Since 1995, state authorities have imposed more than 60 new mandates on school districts. These mandates cover the following areas:

- Curriculum: Instructional programs; special programs; and, testing.
- Employee relations: Employee issues, professional development, and benefits.
- Governance: Policy making; administrative policies; and facilities policy.
- State reporting requirements: Notifications to district residents; notifications to district personnel; parental notification; and, reporting to the state.

As state legislators, we are extremely concerned about the financial impact that many of these mandates have on local school districts, and particularly those mandates that are imposed by the state but not funded by the state. We are also concerned that some mandates may unnecessarily impede the ability of successful school districts to provide educational services in the manner that is most effective for their local communities.


Ahead of the 82nd Session of the Texas Legislature, which convenes in January 2011, we would like to establish a clear picture of the mandates that are unfunded and any other mandates that you would like to see repealed. Please be specific. We need to have a precise understanding of those mandates which adversely impact your financial situation and/or impede your ability to teach Texas schoolchildren.

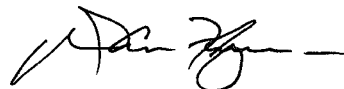
After you provide this information to us, we would like to work with you to begin the process of identifying mandates that could be repealed in the upcoming session. In order to facilitate this process, please send your response by **April 23, 2010** so that we are able to begin formulating recommendations well in advance of the 2011 legislative session.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to hearing from you.


Sincerely,



State Representative Warren Chisum
House District 88



State Representative Wayne Christian
House District 9


State Representative Dan Flynn
House District 2


State Representative Phil King
House District 61


State Representative Jodie Laubenberg
House District 89


State Representative Tan Parker
House District 63


State Representative Larry Taylor
House District 24