



21 November 2024

[Delivered via electronic mail]

Dear Chairman Eltife and Regents of the University of Texas System:

Thank you for your service to the University of Texas System (UT System) and to the State of Texas. As current and incoming members of the Texas Legislature, we want the greatest success for the UT System because few things are more important than a well-educated citizenry.

There is perhaps no greater responsibility we share than to be good stewards with tax dollars, and we are extremely troubled by the recent decision to provide "free" tuition UT System wide to undergraduate students whose families earn up to \$100,000.

As the constitutional officers who bear the sole and heavy authority to direct and determine how our constituents' hard-earned tax dollars – which is their money forcibly taken from them by the government – are used, we have the following questions:

- 1) What specific statutory authority did the regents rely on to make a decision this consequential, which will have direct financial consequences for our constituents, many of whom are already struggling to put gas in their tanks and food on their tables?
- 2) Was the legislature consulted in any way in this decision?
- 3) Which branch of government has the authority to authorize and appropriate state funds?
- 4) How much does the UT System estimate this new program will cost, what are the sources of funds, and is money fungible within the UT System?
- 5) In making this determination, did the UT System undertake any analysis on the impact on employment markets and potential depressive effects on salaries from employees who may wish to reduce their wages to qualify for this program?
- 6) Will this apply to students who are enrolled in the "LGBTQ/Sexualities Studies" Minor?
- 7) Joe Biden's tuition reimbursement program was recently struck down as being unconstitutional. How is UT's program constitutional, and how does it differ from Biden's?
- 8) Is it true that a working class Texan, who did not attend a college or university and is making \$45k/year, would effectively be subsidizing the child of a parent who makes \$100k/year?
- 9) Does this program take into account the net worth of applicant families? Could a child in a family with a net worth of \$50 million, but a taxable income of \$100k, qualify?
- 10) Is it possible there will be any inflationary pressure on tuition for non-qualifying students?
- 11) Will this program apply to non-citizens, illegal aliens, or children of either?
- 12) Is anything government does "free?"
- 13) Do you plan to use "free" in any of your marketing materials for this program?
- 14) How much state funding does the UT System receive?

Finally, since the regents appear to believe the UT System has excess funding sufficient to provide "free" tuition to families making \$100k/year, does the UT System plan on asking for a reduction in state funding in the next budget?

We greatly appreciate your prompt attention to this important issue and look forward to continuing to work with you for the betterment of the UT System and the State of Texas.

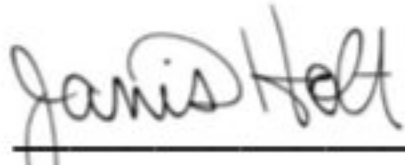
For liberty,



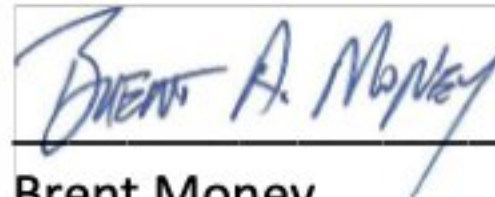
Brian Harrison
Texas State Representative District 10



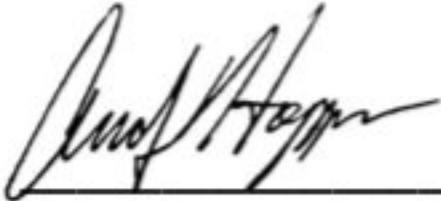
Mike Olcott
Texas State Representative-elect District 60



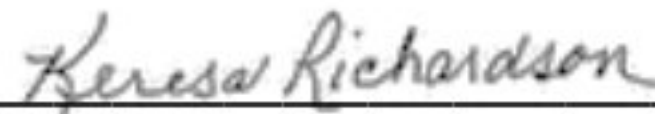
Janis Holt
Texas State Representative-elect District 18



Brent Money
Texas State Representative-elect District 2



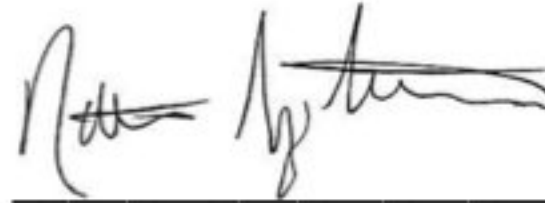
Andy Hopper
Texas State Representative-elect District 64



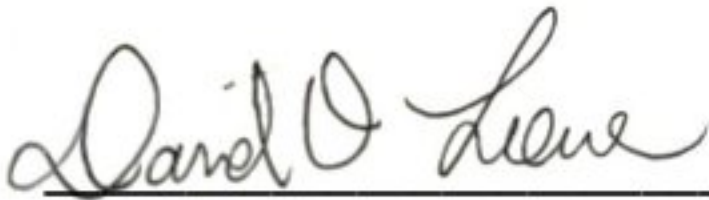
Keresa Richardson
Texas State Representative-elect District 61



Helen Kerwin
Texas State Representative-elect District 58



Nate Schatzline
Texas State Representative District 93



David Lowe
Texas State Representative-elect District 91



Wes Virdell
Texas State Representative-elect District 53



Steve Toth
Texas State Representative District 15