



PO Box 676
Pflugerville, TX 78691
(512) 251-8101
fax: (512) 251-8152
e-mail: textbook@texas.net
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STATEMENT by KIM SLOUGH President, Textbook Coordinators' Association of Texas

Madame Chairman, Members:

My name is Kim Slough. I am the textbook coordinator for Abilene ISD and am serving this year as president of the Textbook Coordinators' Association of Texas, or TCAT.

TCAT wants to provide some input on Senate Bill 6. First, let me say that the members of TCAT are dedicated to working with the Texas Education Agency and with publishers to assure that our students get the materials they need in a timely manner. That will not change when Senate Bill 6 becomes law.

We want to underscore the profound impact that Senate Bill 6 will have on our instructional materials system. It will take years before we know if this experiment is a failure or a success. School districts and open enrollment charter schools all across Texas are still trying to cope with the changes from the 2009 Legislature, with the creation of the open-source instructional materials and the commissioners lists. Senate Bill 6 will have a far greater impact.

We would feel more comfortable if the bill made specific disposal to the credits that have been generated in good faith by schools under the 2009 legislation. Credits should be preserved and passed into each school's instructional materials account.

TCAT also believes that, as long as we're going to make such major changes, we should go all the way. We urge the Committee to amend Section 50 of the bill (dealing with Section 31.102 of the Education Code) and allow any instructional material – printed or electronic – to be the property of the school district or open enrollment charter school. With all the changes in technology, it makes little sense to differentiate: The district would own the Kindle version of "To Kill a Mockingbird," but wouldn't own the hard copy version?

Plus, this would do away with the complex and inefficient surplus redistribution system that has limped along since TEA closed its central redistribution facility in 2003. As you know a 2007 State Auditor's report pointed out that the state's instructional materials were going unaccounted-for, to the tune of \$18 million. The system that created that problem has been tweaked but is still inherently inefficient. It doesn't work. We believe that if Senate Bill 6 would transfer title of the printed instructional materials to the local schools, free market forces would come into play and streamline the operations to the benefit of our children.

Thank you for the opportunity to air our concerns. We stand ready to assist the Committee in any way.