

Association of Texas Professional Educators

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Supporting Your Freedom to TeachSM

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Parents, educators support maintaining class-size limits

AUSTIN – The following is a statement by Brock Gregg, governmental relations director for the 115,000-member Association of Texas Professional Educators, regarding the release of the Financial Allocation Study of Texas (FAST) and its implication on the state’s class-size law:

“Both parents and educators strongly believe in the importance of maintaining a concrete class-size limit because it is a proven tool that has shown a return-on-investment since it was first established nearly three decades ago.

“Of course, there are cost savings to be realized for packing more kids into classrooms. No one disputes that the state can save money with larger class sizes. The question is whether we should eliminate a program that we know works and helps us give students the best opportunity to succeed. As most parents will agree, we simply can’t afford to take away opportunities from students and increase the already tremendous burden on teachers.

“Proponents of eliminating class-size limits state that having a qualified, effective teacher in the classroom is more important than having small classes. We agree that effective teachers are crucial to student learning and success; however, effective teaching is only part of the equation. Our students deserve a classroom setting that is conducive to learning. Putting elementary students in large classes is not the answer.”

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The 115,000-member Association of Texas Professional Educators is the largest educators’ group in Texas and the largest nonunion educators’ group nationwide. Its membership consists of classroom teachers, para-educators, administrators, college students and retired educators. ATPE is committed to advocating for better benefits for all educators, promoting a collaborative work environment and the right of educators to choose the association they feel represents their interests, and providing the best education possible for all Texas school children.