



**Association of Texas
Professional Educators**
305 E. Huntland Dr., Suite 300
Austin, TX 78752-3792

Phone: (512) 467-0071
Fax: (512) 467-2203
Email: info@atpe.org
Online: atpe.org

PRESS RELEASE

April 6, 2023

MEDIA CONTACT:

Kate Johanns
512-766-4428
kjohanns@atpe.org

Senate Bill 9 Is No “Teacher Bill of Rights”

State’s largest educator association points to the trade-offs educators are being asked to take in exchange for a meager one-time \$2,000 stipend for only some teachers

On Thursday, the Texas Senate voted 22-9 to pass Senate Bill (SB) 9 by Senate Education Committee Chairman Brandon Creighton (R–Conroe). Dubbed the “Teacher Bill of Rights”—and touted as a counterpart to the voucher-containing SB 8, the “Parental Bill of Rights”—SB 9 is anything but positive for classroom teachers and the countless other education professionals and support staff serving the state’s 5.4 million public school students.

“Providing a one-time \$2,000 stipend to some classroom teachers at a time when we are experiencing historic inflation and the state has a historic budget surplus will not address the critical recruitment and retention challenges districts across the state are experiencing,” ATPE Executive Director Shannon Holmes said. “Many educators, including school librarians, counselors, and nurses, wouldn’t even receive the stipend. We believe a \$10,000 across-the-board raise for educators is both achievable and necessary.

“There are also huge tradeoffs in the bill for such a disappointingly low stipend, including changes that will negatively affect educators’ working conditions. The voices of Texas educators are missing in this so-called ‘bill of rights.’

“We are grateful to the nine senators who stood strong and asked for better for Texas educators. We will continue educating the remaining members of the Legislature about the solutions that will improve our state’s ability to recruit and retain educators.”

###

About the Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE)

Founded in 1980, ATPE is the leading educators’ association in Texas with approximately 90,000 members statewide. With its strong collaborative philosophy, ATPE speaks for classroom teachers, administrators, and future, retired, and para-educators and works to create better opportunities for Texas’ more than five million public school students. | atpe.org