



League of United Latin American Citizens

**RESOLUTION Opposing the Texas Education Agency
Takeover of Houston Independent School District**

WHEREAS, the League of United Latin American Citizens is this nation's oldest and largest Latino organization, founded in Corpus Christi, Texas on February 17, 1929; and

WHEREAS, LULAC throughout its history has committed itself to the principles that Latinos have equal access to opportunities in employment, education, housing and healthcare; and

WHEREAS, in November, 2019, the Texas Education Agency, through Education Commissioner Mike Morath, proposed a takeover of the Houston Independent School District Board, replacing these elected officials with an appointed Board of Managers, thereby invoking HB 1482 in response to the academic achievement of one of its over 280 schools; Phillis Wheatley High School, as well as allegations of Board violations,

WHEREAS, in November, 2019, the Texas Education Agency further proposed the replacement of the temporary Superintendent with a permanent Superintendent,

WHEREAS, through the elections held in November, 2019, and through a subsequent run-off, four members of the Board have been replaced through the fair and free elections participated in by registered voters living in the Houston Independent School District area, therefore reflecting the will of the people, and ensuring that they have rightfully and democratically chosen their own representatives. The rights of the voters in the community to select representatives as members of the Houston Independent School District Board would therefore be nullified by the takeover,

WHEREAS, House Bill 1842 grants the TEA an egregious and arbitrary authority to take over the Houston Independent School District; in spite of the fact that only a single school (in a district with over 280) in that district failed to meet state education standards for five or more years, and during the period in which the school district had the lowest-number of low-performing schools in its history, and that the district, using the TEA's own evaluation standards earned a "B" on the most recent evaluation cycle (on an A – F range),

WHEREAS, the research shows that state takeovers do not improve districts either fiscally or academically,

WHEREAS, public neighborhood schools are the backbone of our democracy, are inclusive for all children;

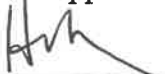
WHEREAS, the academic achievement record of public charters in the area has not been examined using the same standards as the Houston Independent School district,

WHEREAS, the research shows schools and districts with the most local controls are the ones that succeed. Active local participation of families in their schools; including voters voicing their choice of district leadership at the polls, is a key feature of successful schools and districts;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the League of United Latin American Citizens hereby:

1. urges the Texas Education Agency to cease its efforts to take over the Houston Independent School Board,
2. urges the Texas Education Agency to allow the elected Houston Independent School Board to choose its own Superintendent,
3. urges Travis County District Judge Catherine Mauzy to overrule the March 4 TEA appeal of the injunction against the TEA takeover, and to furthermore uphold the principles of democratic elections by allowing the voters to choose their own school board members,
4. urges the members of the Texas Legislature to amend HB 1842 to create more stringent criteria than the failure of one of over 280 schools in a district for the takeover of that district, or to abolish the law and start from scratch.

Voted & approved by the Council on March 4, 2020.



Hugo J. Mojica

President

LULAC Education Council 402