



Texas Association of School Boards

P.O. Box 400 • Austin, Texas 78767-0400 • 512.467.0222
12007 Research Blvd. • Austin, Texas 78759-2439 • www.tasb.org

Serving Texas Schools Since 1949

November 24, 2021

The Honorable Chip Roy
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Roy,

Thank you for contacting the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB). We respectfully offer the following response to the letter that you and other honorable members of the Texas congressional delegation sent to TASB on Nov. 17, 2021.

Please know that we fully understand and appreciate the extent to which community members are upset about the National School Board Association's (NSBA) letter to the Biden administration. It troubles us greatly to see the discord that this letter has caused in some communities across the country and here in Texas. Frontline educators are working incredibly hard to provide quality instruction and support students and parents as our great State recovers from the pandemic, and it pains us to see any distraction from this work.

Just to be clear, our position at TASB has always been that school board meetings should be places where parents and community members are welcomed and provided the opportunity to speak and openly share their opinions and concerns on how the schools in their communities are being governed. Quite simply, TASB views parents and community members as partners in the important work of educating all students.

As we've made very clear over the past several months, TASB was not involved or consulted in the development of the NSBA's letter to the Biden administration. The first time any member of the TASB Board of Directors or TASB staff saw the letter was after it was issued and made public. Here at TASB, we believe that localized threats of violence are best handled by local law enforcement and that first amendment rights are paramount to strong communities and local governance.

As such, TASB has provided unambiguous feedback to the NSBA that this letter should not have been issued. References to domestic terrorism and the PATRIOT Act were harmful to the discussions needed across the nation on how school board meetings can return to being places where productive and collaborative input can be fostered.

Our mission at TASB has always been to promote educational excellence for Texas schoolchildren through advocacy, visionary leadership, and high-quality services. That's precisely why we focus so intently on providing our members the tools and supports needed to ensure excellent local governance. In fact, there is nothing more important to TASB members than serving the 5.4 million public school children in Texas. We do this by providing a promising education to every student and by being responsive and accountable to the communities that elect us.

The Honorable Chip Roy

November 24, 2021

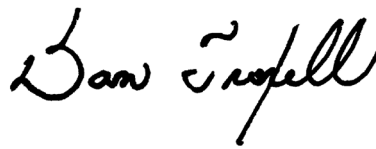
Page 2

Since Texas voices matter, our great State needs them heard at the national level on important K-12 education issues. As such, we will continue to listen to member input and watch how the NSBA moves forward. TASB is committed to leading and setting the standard for school meetings where everyone feels safe and welcome to share ideas and perspectives. Respectful and civil debate are the foundation of our great democracy, and we need every voice heard if we're to achieve a better future for our students and schools.

Should you have any other questions, we'd welcome the opportunity to talk with you more about our work at TASB and our longstanding commitment to the schoolchildren of Texas.



Ted Beard
TASB President



Dan Troxell
TASB Executive Director

cc: Rep. Randy K. Weber
Rep. Louie Gohmert
Rep. Roger Williams
Rep. Van Taylor
Rep. Lance Gooden
Rep. Ronny L. Jackson
Rep. Pete Sessions
Rep. Beth Van Duyne