



Texas Latino Education Coalition Testimony
Opposing Senate Bills 3 and 91
Presented before the Texas Senate State Affairs Committee, July 21, 2017

Chairman Huffman and Members of the Senate State Affairs Committee:

The Texas Latino Education Coalition submits this testimony opposing Senate Bills 3 and 91. Thank you for the opportunity.

TLEC is a collaborative of organizations and individuals who advocate the rights of Latinos at the local, state and national levels. The coalition was organized to focus on critical educational issues in Texas and improve the state of education for Latino students in public schools. I, on behalf of TLEC's members across the state of Texas, implore you to shift your focus to issues that will unite, not divide Texans, and promote our state as a great place to live and do business.

SB 3 and SB 91 would not be healthy for our economy or our reputation. We have witnessed what happened in North Carolina when legislation similar to these bills was approved. The Texas economy is therefore at risk. Businesses across the nation have taken action against similar discriminatory bills in Indiana and North Carolina, costing those states millions of dollars in lost contracts from the likes of the NCAA, Salesforce, PayPal and many others.

More urgently, SB 3 and SB 91 would not be healthy for our public schools. While introduced under the guise of protecting the privacy of women and students, this legislation would allow active discrimination against transgender Texans, including public school students. There is a lack of evidence showing safety concerns involved with transgender students using either restroom, meaning this bill would be based on inflammatory misperceptions of trans students, not facts.

Students must feel welcome and perceive their identities as valid in order to learn. It is not the state's place to intentionally discriminate against a group of students, especially where it would be harmful to their social, academic and psychological learning as would be SB 3 and SB 91.

As we raise the next generation of Texans, we must raise individuals who are free to define and express their own identities. Our children need self-determination, not state-determination.

Like SB 4, which targets immigrant and Latino families, these bills violate basic civil rights and is bad for Texas. This is not the message our state should be sending to its residents and to other people around the nation and world. We urge you to vote no on SB 3 and SB 91. Thank you for your time and consideration.

For any questions, please contact Brad Veloz (210) 416-8332, 2017 Chair, LULAC Texas Civil Rights Committee.