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Texas PTA Members Rally at State Capitol to Back the Future of Texas Children

Austin – Over 1,600 Texas PTA members are expected to gather on the South Steps of the Texas State Capitol Monday, February 27 for Rally Day – an event held every legislative session as a part of Texas PTA’s advocacy efforts and to give every child in Texas a voice before the State Legislature.

“This is an important day for our students.” says Texas PTA President Lisa Holbrook, “PTA members are passionate about providing the best education possible to every child – regardless of zip code or income – and we’re showing up in a big way today to make sure that our policymakers understand that our nearly 500,000 PTA members believe our young people should be our number one priority.”

Texas PTA members will attend a Priorities Caucus at First United Methodist Church prior to the rally. Legislators speaking at the event include: Representative Carol Alvarado, Representative Trent Ashby, Representative Dan Huberty, Representative Jose Menendez and Representative John Zerwas. Texas PTA has been working with these legislators on issues such as public school funding reform, strengthening bullying and cyberbullying laws, ensuring quality services for students with special needs, and banning the sale of powdered alcohol to minors.

At the same time, more than 300 high school students from across the state will take part in their own Student Caucus at St. David’s Episcopal Church. They will hear from Representative Ina Minjarez and Representative Harold Dutton. Additionally, they will hear testimony from Cliff Molak whose brother David Molak was a victim of bullying before committing suicide. David’s Law, a bill introduced this session to create stricter anti-bullying laws, was named in his memory.

After the caucuses, everyone will walk to the South Steps of the Capitol where PTA members will let their voices be heard at the Rally. Those in attendance will hear remarks from Texas PTA President Lisa Holbrook, Senator Larry Taylor, Representative Donna Howard and Dr. Jeannie Stone, superintendent of Richardson ISD.

Holbrook added, “Our voices will not stop at the Capitol steps, as we look forward to an afternoon of productive meetings with legislators to push for a real solution to the challenges facing our public schools.”

The Priorities Caucus and Student Caucus will begin Monday at 9:30 a.m. and the Rally on the Capitol steps will begin at 11:30 a.m. For more information, visit www.txpta.org/rally-day, and to view Texas PTA’s legislative priorities, visit www.txpta.org/legislative-priorities.

Texas PTA President Lisa Holbrook and Texas PTA Executive Director Kyle Ward will be available throughout the day for interviews. In addition, a group of 100 PTA members from Austin area PTAs is expected to march to the Rally from Kealing Middle School.

Texas PTA, the largest child advocacy organization in the state, has nearly 500,000 active members. Additionally, Texas PTA’s affiliation with National PTA makes it part of the oldest and largest child advocacy group in America. Texas PTA continues to fulfill its mission to support and speak on behalf of children and youth in schools, to assist parents in developing the skills they need to raise and protect their children, and to encourage parent and public involvement in the public schools of Texas.