

Feb. 25, 2022

Media Alert

Texas PTA and Texas Pediatric Society Work to End the Stigma Around Student Mental Health, Public Discussion Planned

AUSTIN – On February 28, 2022, the Texas Parent Teacher Association (Texas PTA) in collaboration with the Texas Pediatric Society (TPS) will address the country’s ever-evolving student mental health crisis with a special discussion at the Texas Capitol. “Straight Talk: Dare to Self-Care” will serve as a platform to hear from the many people on the front lines of this issue – from parents and youth activists to medical professionals and policy makers. Among the panelists will be Texas student Ainsley Hinton who provides hope for those in the dark by sharing her battles with anxiety, depression and eating disorders.

The event is historic for Texas PTA. Not only will Austin-area PTA volunteers attend the panels, but thousands of others will participate through a live online broadcast via the Texas PTA Facebook page. From El Paso to Port Arthur, district-wide PTAs, known as councils, are organizing watch parties in their communities.

Texas PTA President Suzi Kennon and President-Elect Marisol Alcalá Randle will co-moderate. The event will wrap with a call to action.

What: “Straight Talk: Dare to Self-Care” Panel Discussion

Who: Panelists including **Andrew Kim**, Superintendent, Comal ISD; **Celia Neavel, M.D.**, People’s Community Clinic; and **Greg Hansch**, Executive Director, NAMI Texas. A full list of the 11 panelists can be found [here](#).

Where: Texas Capitol
Capitol Extension, Room E2.028

When: February 28, 2022, 12 p.m.
Requested media set up by 11:45 a.m.

For all media inquiries, contact Shiloh Perry, Texas PTA Communications Manager, 512-320-9805 or sperry@txpta.org.

There will be an opportunity for on-camera interviews following the event.

Texas PTA is the largest child advocacy association in Texas with over 515,000 members. From parents and grandparents to educators and community members, Texas PTA has a diverse volunteer base that shares a special interest in Texas students and schools. The association’s mission is to make every child’s potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.

Texas Pediatric Society is a statewide professional nonprofit organization of over 4,700 physician, fellow, resident and medical student members. The society is the Texas Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, and its mission is to focus its talent and resources to ensure that the children in Texas are safe and healthy, that its members are well informed and supported and that the practice of pediatrics in Texas is both fulfilling and economically viable.

