

Written Testimony Provided by:

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To

Texas Senate Higher Education Committee  
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## WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I am Glenda Oates Barron, President of Temple College. My experience with community college service areas comes mainly from the eight years I led the Community and Technical Colleges Division at the Coordinating Board.

Prior to the 1995 Legislation that established service areas in state law, the Coordinating Board was asked to settle disagreements between colleges when issues arose related to providing educational opportunities in areas outside taxing districts. These disagreements most often happened in larger cities. Usually the issue could be resolved by working with the colleges involved. However, I remember one time that then Commissioner of Higher Education Ken Ashworth actually had to appoint a three-person committee of other presidents to go to the Houston area to resolve a dispute.

After the service areas were assigned, disputes were rare and usually involved the few areas that were left undesignated mostly in urban areas. As time has passed, much of those undesignated areas have been assigned to either college service areas or including in a taxing district. An example of this is the Cypress-Fairbanks ISD in Houston that was once shared between Houston Community College District and North Harris Montgomery Community College District (now Lone Star College). The Cy-Fair citizens voted to join the NHMCCD several years ago.

A number of adjustments to the service area legislation have been made to accommodate the needs of local communities and the colleges. These amendments have been supported by all parties involved. The establishment of the service areas helps local school districts and communities know what college to approach for needed services.

Issues that continue to arise related to service areas are handled between the colleges involved. For example, Temple College and Austin Community College have adjacent service areas. Temple College has a large number of health professions programs that require clinical experience for students. Some of the clinical placements are in Austin Community College's taxing district or service area. We have been successful working with the ACC leadership to allow TC students to participate in clinical placements outside of the TC service area and inside that of ACC.

The Rosebud-Lott ISD is shared between McLennan Community College and Temple College. The two presidents work together to make sure the ISD is adequately served. MCC supports TC's outreach efforts to encourage the students at Rosebud-Lott to attend college. We annually discuss how best to serve this ISD.

Assigned service areas:

1. Help ensure that effective delivery of higher education across the state.
2. Provide colleges with the needed flexibility to work together to best serve communities including requesting reassignment between colleges
3. Serve as a guide for ISDs in seeking college credit opportunities for high school students
4. Substantially decrease disagreements between colleges over service delivery areas
5. Are needed in a state the size of Texas

Thank you for the opportunity to provide information on community college service areas. Please let me know if I can be of any assistance to you.