Small, rural schools make up about half of the school districts in the state of Texas. There are several mandates that particularly apply to small, rural schools. I am sure several of these will be mentioned today in other testimony, so I respectfully submit this written testimony to support testimony from other education associations.

**Flexibility in Compensatory Education Funding.** Please consider allowing schools the flexibility to use Comp Ed money for salaries for those districts/campuses that have an Acceptable Rating. This will allow small schools to use the money to hire needed teachers, rather than sometimes duplicative programs.

**Flexibility in Bilingual Education allotment.**
Please consider allowing schools the flexibility to use Bilingual funds for salaries for those districts/campuses that have an Acceptable Rating.

**Utility Discount.**
Please consider allowing public schools the same utility discount (20%) that colleges receive. Small schools that are located in Electric Cooperatives need this same flexibility.

**Certification Requirements.**
Please consider allowing public schools some flexibility in certification requirements, such as Charter schools are allowed. Small schools spend a large percentage of salaries on some positions in which the teachers are “Highly Qualified” according to the Federal Requirements, but they cannot teach the subject because of Texas standards.

**DAEP Certification Requirements**
Please consider allowing public schools some flexibility with the certification requirements for having a certified teacher in every subject for every grade level to teach students in Disciplinary Alternative Education (DAEP) settings. This is too burdensome for small schools.

**Eliminate Fitness-Gram Requirement.**
Please consider eliminating the Fitness-Gram Requirement.

**Non-Renewal Notice Requirements.**
Please consider moving the non-renewal notice requirements from mid-march/April to the end of the school year.

Thank you for your service to children in Texas. If you have any questions, I am available to visit with you further about any of these issues.