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SEN. LARRY TAYLOR FILES SCHOOL CHOICE LEGISLATION ***Senate Bill 3 will expand educational opportunities***

AUSTIN, TEXAS (January 30, 2017) . . . Senator Larry Taylor (R-Friendswood) recently announced the filing of Senate Bill 3, legislation to expand school choice and educational opportunities for all Texas schoolchildren.

Senator Taylor said, “We have some excellent public schools in Texas but we also have some schools that aren’t providing the best opportunity for their students and even the best of our schools don’t meet all the needs of all students. This legislation will level the playing field for Texas parents who are desperate for more choices but are limited because of their financial resources.”

Senate Bill 3 establishes two opportunities to maximize education choices for parents and students – an Education Savings Account (ESA) program and a Tax Credit Scholarship program.

The ESA program will be administered by the State Comptroller and will provide parents with funds for the education needs of their child, including private school tuition at an accredited private school, private tutoring, online learning or other qualified options (i.e. – curriculum, instructional materials and courses).

Funding for eligible students is determined according to family income levels. Under current state law, when a child leaves a school, the district that student leaves loses all state funding for that student. Under Senate Bill 3, a district will still receive partial funding for a student they’re not educating.

The Tax Credit Scholarship program will be administered by an educational assistance organization selected by the State Comptroller, a non-profit, 501(c)(3). Participating businesses may receive a tax credit up to 50% of their annual insurance tax liability for contributions made to the education assistance organizations for education tuition scholarships.

Eligible students may apply for a scholarship for up to 75% of the statewide average school districts receive for student average daily attendance; or a scholarship up to \$500 for academic support programs at a public school.

Senator Taylor added, “Thirty other states have school choice programs and we’re behind the curve. The State of Texas is adding 80,000 kids each year and we aren’t keeping up with the variety of challenges they bring. If Texas wants to remain economically sound, we need to pass school choice legislation and enhance competition and accountability across the education spectrum.”

Senator Larry Taylor is a lifelong Texan and Baylor University graduate raised in Friendswood. He and his wife Kerri have three adult children and one granddaughter. Senator Taylor owns Truman Taylor Insurance Agency in Friendswood, an independent agency started by his father 55 years ago. Prior to his election to the Texas Senate in 2012, he served five terms in the Texas House of Representatives. Senator Taylor represents Senate District 11, comprised of portions of Brazoria, Galveston, and Harris Counties.

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