



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Feb. 17, 2022

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***Texas AFT President Zeph Capo commented this morning on Gov. Greg Abbott's State of the State address:***

“Educators are not interested in the governor’s rhetoric on the state of our state. We are interested in real action, and that’s something the governor has made clear he’s unwilling to deliver.

At the same time he’s been [exaggerating about funding our public schools](#), he’s been on tour taking photo ops at private school after private school, touting voucher schemes that would make private school corporations rich by taking even more money away from public education.

The task force he set up to stop the crisis of teachers leaving the profession— and had to be pressured into putting actual teachers on — has yet to produce a report nearly a year later. But instead of Abbott’s Texas Education Agency doing its job to support our existing public schools, it has [apparently been peddling private voucher schemes](#) before they’ve even had a hearing in the Legislature.

It's been two full days since we learned a high-ranking official in Abbott's TEA was sneakily crusading for vouchers on taxpayer time. He shrugged away that one student being snookered out of a public school just means ["one less fourth grade teacher"](#) for the dozens of other students in an already overcrowded classroom. Still no comment from Greg Abbott.

Abbott dodges questions on everything from keeping the lights on to keeping our children safe in school, but we're supposed to trust his perspective on the state of our state? Trust his plans for the 5.5 million children who attend our public schools? Trust him to support and respect the 650,000 people who work in our public schools?

The state of our state isn't 'exceptional,' as the governor claimed tonight. It's abysmal, thanks to his so-called leadership. And the only people I trust to change that are the parents, teachers, school staff, and community members who actually want to put the needs of our kids first."

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*The Texas American Federation of Teachers represents 66,000 teachers, paraprofessionals, support personnel, and higher-education employees across the state. Texas AFT is affiliated with the 1.7-million-member American Federation of Teachers and the AFL-CIO.*