

Op-Ed Brian Babin from the Tyler County Booster 8-20-15

As students, teachers and parents prepare for another school year, I'd like to take this opportunity to update you on a few of the things I am working on to restore local control and prevent federal intrusion into our classrooms.

Ending Common Core

Despite 40 years of increased federal involvement in our local schools, federal regulators are essentially coercing local schools to adopt national "Common Core" education standards. I'm working to end it and defund it. Bureaucrats 1,400 miles away in Washington's U.S. Department of Education fail to understand that the American people want less Washington intervention – not more. I trust parents, teachers and local school boards to decide what's best for their students, not a bureaucrat in Washington. During consideration of H.R. 5, the Student Success Act, I voted for the Zeldin Amendment, which guarantees states the right to withdraw from this broken, one-size-fits-all approach whether that is the Common Core standards or any other federal standards.

Repealing No Child Left Behind (NCLB)

Last month, I voted for House passage of the Student Success Act (H.R. 5), which takes much-needed steps to repeal NCLB

and return power and authority to where it belongs – with parents. is important legislation reduces the federal footprint in education by eliminating dozens of ineffective and duplicative programs, preventing the U.S. Department of Education from coercing states to adopt federal mandates – while also empowering parents with the information and tools they need to hold schools accountable. Importantly, it also cuts the number of federal employees at the Department of Education, which I view as a first step toward eliminating this failed bureaucratic institution. Local schools will be better protected when there are fewer federal bureaucrats dreaming up new mandates for local schools.

Expanding School Choice

Many low-income students, particularly in urban areas, benefit from school choice initiatives because it allows them to leave a failing school and attend a different school that they otherwise couldn't afford. I believe that school choice initiatives should be available to children who are trapped in bad schools. That's why I have voted for and supported efforts to create more school choice options through expanding magnet, charter, and public schools. We should also expand private school opportunities for those trapped in failing schools.