

Submitter: Zachary Steele  
On Behalf Of: Dallas School District  
Committee: Senate Committee On Education  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB223

Hello Senate Committee on Education,

I am writing in to oppose SB223. I am an elected school board member of Dallas School District. I am a supporter of the seismic grant program, spear headed by Senator Peter Courtney, as our District has directly benefited from the grant dollars at several of our schools. However, this bill seems to be a large waste of government resources due to the fact that our schools are already required to post a plaque in honor of the program as a condition of the close out process. This bill is also an attack on local government control of our school districts as it prescribes where we must place this plaque "Directs recipients to display plaques at the front entrance."

I personally would like to urge the committee to rather than require all recipients going back to 2009 to place an additional plaque to instead rename the grant "Senator Peter Courtney Seismic Retrofit Grant Program" and require the name of the program to be on all future plaques.

Lastly, I am concerned about the lack of a fiscal impact statement being published with this bill as clearly this bill does come with a cost. Schools are already in budget crisis and the cost of this falling on ODE reduces spending on our kids. It also creates additional work for our facilities teams at our local schools, which is an additional unfunded mandate. (I will conceded small but a cost non the less).

Thank you for taking time to reconsider how you honor Senator Peter Courtney.

Zachary Steele  
Dallas School District #2  
School Board Position #2