Texas Capitol Press Conference

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PRESS CONFERENCE MEDIA ADVISORY

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Texas Disability Rights Advocates Unite to Oppose School Voucher and Education Savings Accounts Programs

WHAT: Press conference hosted by a united community of students, disability advocates, parents, and educators to urge legislators to oppose private school vouchers and education savings accounts.

WHEN: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 at 2:00 PM CT

WHERE: <u>Room 2W.6</u> (House Press Room), Texas State Capitol, 1100 Congress Ave, Austin, TX

WHO: Speaking at the event will be:

- Parents of students with disabilities in Texas public schools, including those who are elected school board members
- Educators
- Superintendents
- Disability advocates

The press conference is hosted by <u>The Arc of Texas</u>, the <u>Autism Society of</u> <u>Texas</u>, <u>Coalition of Texans with Disabilities</u>, <u>Disability Rights Texas</u>, <u>Texas</u> <u>Council of Administrators of Special Education</u>, Trustees United, and <u>Texas</u> <u>Parent to Parent</u>.

Speakers will be available for individual media interviews after the press conference.

WHY: This diverse coalition of disability rights advocates, parents, and educators is deeply concerned about the potential consequences of the establishment of a school voucher program or Education Savings Account program, which could jeopardize federal and state protections for students with disabilities and their families within private schools.

These groups stand strongly opposed to HB 1, SB 1, and any attempt to tie urgent, long overdue funding for public education to a voucher program that would further harm our struggling Texas public schools.

This united coalition calls on legislators to reject any forms of privatization of our public school system.

Full press release with more information on the issue can be found here.

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