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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Congressional

Message:

We are telling legislators that educators, parents and students elected them to deal with a host of important issues, including higher salaries and better benefits for teachers and other school employees; improved pensions for retired educators; and a better school accountability system.

“Our public schools are integral to our public democracy, but our current march towards increased (school) privatization, state takeover and now a surprise gerrymander shows a blatant lack of concern for both democracy and public education,” we testified.

“Texas leaders should not be kneeling down to the Trump administration, an administration that has withheld school funding, passed a nationwide voucher scheme, cut the Department of Education, has waged attacks on immigrant families and has bullied the federal workforce. Just this last month the Trump administration failed working class Texans by pushing through a budget that will remove people from their healthcare and let students go hungry. Leaving people sick and starving does not reflect Texan values. This moment needs to be for empowering Texans, not Trump.”

Abbott has asked the Texas Supreme Court to remove state Rep. Gene Wu of Houston, chair of the House Democratic Caucus and leader of the walkout, from office. Legal experts questioned the governor’s authority to make such a case, but the nine-member court includes six Abbott appointees.

In Washington, U.S. Sen. John Cornyn said the FBI had agreed to his request to help locate the absent Democrats, who were in Illinois, New York and Massachusetts. But the extent of the FBI’s involvement was unknown.

Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker, who has been supporting the runaways, said “there literally is no federal law applicable to this situation, none they can say that they’re sending FBI.” Pritzker said agents may try to intimidate the Texas lawmakers.

