



TEXAS PUBLIC POLICY NEWS

THE LATEST RESEARCH, VIEWS, AND
INFORMATION FROM THE TEXAS PUBLIC
POLICY FOUNDATION

July 14, 2004

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RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

The Cato Institute is a Washington, D.C.-based research institution that studies federal and international issues. This paper was published July 7, 2004.

A Lesson In Waste

Where Does All the Federal Education Money Go

By Neal McCluskey

Since the 1965 passage of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, which concentrated unprecedented authority over American education in the hands of the federal government, federal lawmakers have passed increasingly restrictive laws and drastically escalated education spending, which ballooned from around \$25 billion in 1965 (adjusted for inflation) to more than \$108 billion in 2002... States must decide if the benefits of federal funding outweigh the costs of complying with federal rules, and the nation as a whole must determine if the federal presence in American education should continue at all....

[Click here to read the report.](#)

A MESSAGE FROM...

Michael Quinn Sullivan

Even in the lazy days of summer, our thoughts are on school – funding and philosophy, that is.

We were very interested – and thought you would be, as well – in a new study from our friends at the Cato Institute. It highlights the amount of federal money spent on public education over the last 30 years. One is forced to ask after reading it: Has the money been well spent?

The author dares to ask if states are doing themselves any favors by taking the string-laden money in the name of pumping more cash into our schools!

In this issue of the TPPN, we're pleased to welcome to the Texas Public Policy Foundation writing team Dr. Ronald Trowbridge. A former vice president of the renowned Hillsdale College, Dr. Trowbridge founded the Maine Heritage Policy Center before retiring to Texas. Our gain!

Dr. Trowbridge will be a regular contributor to the TexasPolicy.com commentary pages, with his works distributed to newspapers statewide and published here. In this edition, he tackles the “top ten percent law” affecting admissions to Texas’ public universities.

In addition to education, a large number of exciting research projects are underway at the Foundation, including a soon-to-be-released publication on water policy in Texas.

Other studies in progress include a look at Medicaid costs, an examination of the skyrocketing expense of workers compensation insurance, and an analysis of the economic impact of shifting all the state’s taxes to a consumption-based (or sales) system.

On behalf of the Foundation’s board and staff, I want to thank you for your interest in the work we do. And, as always, a special thanks to our generous donors from across the state and nation.

Sullivan is the Foundation’s vice president.



Sullivan

HIGHLIGHTED COMMENTARY

Top Ten Percent Law Has Flunked?

Hurts Minorities While Doing Nothing For Diversity

By Ronald Trowbridge, Ph.D.

Academic inequality has actually been compounded in Texas. Minorities have ostensibly been given special treatment not only through the 10 percent law, but even an extra edge with the 2003 five-to-four decision by the U.S. Supreme Court in the University of Michigan case to permit race as a factor in college admissions...

[Click here to read the full text.](#)



Trowbridge

HIGHLIGHTED PRESS RELEASE

State Auditor Finds Abuse In CHIP Program?

Says In Excess Of \$20 Million Lost Due To 'Unnecessary Or Excessive Payments'

Foundation president Brooke Rollins says: "This is precisely why the calls to simply throw more money at government programs flunks the commonsense-test. Programs like CHIP must be scrubbed for sound management, fiscal efficiency and effectiveness long before we entertain the idea of simply giving them millions more. Solutions such as deregulating health insurance thus making it more affordable for employers to offer to employees is the real answer to our uninsured crisis in Texas."

[Click here to read the full text.](#)



Rollins

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Development Associate

The Development Associate will build the Foundation's base of support from Foundations, corporations and individuals. This will be done through programs designed to maintain and increase the giving of current supporters, and solicit new donors. Programs will include events, direct mail campaigns and other activities designed to promote donations. The Development Associate will report to the Foundation's Director of Development. This is a new position.

[Click here to read the job description.](#)

HIGHLIGHTED EVENTS

All of the Foundation's events, research publication dates and speaking engagements are available on our [interactive calendar](#).

September 2004

A half-day policy event focusing on education and tax reform issues will be held in Austin, Texas. More information to be announced.

October 2004

A half-day policy event focusing on economic development issues will be held in Austin, Texas. More information to be announced.

October 22-23, 2004

State Policy Network annual meeting in Austin, Texas.

December 2004

A half-day event focusing on the importance of governing based on core principles will be held in Austin, Texas. More information to be announced.

January 26-27, 2005

3rd Annual Policy Orientation for the Texas Legislature in Austin, Texas.

Is your organization interested in Texas' future?

From taxation to education and health care to transportation, the Foundation's staff is excited to address your group regarding the important policy issues facing all Texans. Call (512) 472-2700 to check availability and make arrangements.

SUPPORT GOOD PUBLIC POLICY

The Foundation operates only through the generous donations of friends and benefactors from around Texas and the United States, and even the smallest of donations can be used to accomplish great things for the future of our beloved state.

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