



United Ways of Texas 2007 Legislative Agenda 80th Texas Legislature

United Ways of Texas (UWT) represents more than 75 communities and the overwhelming majority of Texans. UWT exists to make Texas a better place to live and do business. We urge members of the Texas Legislature to co-author the following bills:

- 1. Expand access to pre-kindergarten and increase the safety of child care**
 - **Senate Bill 50 (Zaffirini, Carona, Seliger, Uresti, Van de Putte)** will expand access to pre-k, increase child care reimbursement rates and improve training for child care workers.
 - **Senate Bill 113 (Van de Putte)/House Bill 575 (Straus and Strama)** will expand pre-kindergarten eligibility to children currently or previously in the Texas foster care system.

- 2. Improve high school graduation and college-going rates**
 - **Senate Bill 127 (Shapleigh, Duncan, Ellis, Fraser, Janek, Nelson, Seliger, Uresti, Van de Putte, Watson, Wentworth, West, Zaffirini)** and **House Bill 1609 (Crownover, Naishtat, Villarreal, Delisi, Eissler, Anchia, Aycock, Burnham, Escobar, Frost, Herrero, Kuempel, Raymond, T. Smith)** will increase funding for Communities In Schools – a proven dropout prevention and academic support program.

- 3. Promote Immunization and Improve the Texas Immunization Registry**
 - **House Bill 1895 (D. Howard, Gonzales, England, King)** will reform the Texas immunization registry to implement a voluntary exclusion system to secure and maintain the most complete record of child and adult immunization data possible.
 - **House Bill 1896 (D. Howard, Gonzales, England)** will create a voluntary lifespan immunization registry so Texas adults and seniors can ensure that critical medical information is readily available in the event of a natural disaster, bio-terror attack or pandemic.

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United Ways of Texas: Making Texas a Better Place to Live and Do Business