



## Senate Bill 108 (West)/House Bill 710 (Coleman)

### Childhood Racial Disparity Impact Statements on Pending Bills

Texas is different for children of different races. White kids are more likely to attend well-funded schools and have health care than Black and Hispanic children. Black babies and Black mothers are more likely to die than white and Hispanic babies and mothers. That is a result of history and policy choices, not coincidence.

Historic and current racism and racial disparities create very different realities for different Texans. Children are not immune from the devastating effects of racism and pervasive disparities in access to education, health care, and opportunity for a lifetime of success. COVID-19 has adversely affected the education and well-being of every child in Texas. However, this negative impact is even more pronounced among Black and Hispanic youth.



- Of the more than 1 million Texas children who had classes canceled because of COVID-19, 65% of them were Black and Hispanic.
- 80% of families in Texas who reported being “food insecure” because of the pandemic were Black or Hispanic.

The pandemic did not create racial disparities. **The pandemic exacerbated racial disparities that have plagued Texas since before it became a state. We can and must think differently about the impact of our laws on children.** Senate Bill 108 and House Bill 710 create a formal process for legislators to examine the impact of proposed legislation on racial disparities among the state’s children.

#### POLICY RECOMMENDATION: SENATE BILL 108 / HOUSE BILL 710



- Allow the Lieutenant Governor or Speaker to request an analysis of the impact of any pending bill on racial disparities among children.
- Replicate current statute that allows for analysis of the impact of pending legislation on the Texas economy.
- Utilize existing resources at the Texas Legislative Budget Board to complete the childhood racial disparity impact statements.

Racial impact statements can inform legislators of the potential effects of bills on communities of color, or other marginalized communities, and enable them to address systemic inequalities. Currently, the Texas Legislature does not have a formal and clear process for determining if proposed laws will increase or decrease racial disparities. The racial disparity impact statement must include:



- A brief description of the nature and effect of the proposal on children
- A statement of the manner and extent to which the proposal, if implemented, will directly or indirectly decrease racial disparities among Texas children
- Potential result of legislation on childhood racial disparities of state and local governments

# Racial Equity & the 87th Session

children at Risk



## The following organizations and individuals are signed on in support.

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Austin/Travis County Success By 6 Coalition

Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Houston

Brighton Center

Catholic Charities of Dallas

Children At Risk

CitySquare

Commit Partnership

Dallas Early Education Alliance

Dallas Truth, Racial Healing & Transformation

Dillon Joyce Ltd

Doctors For Change

Dominican Sisters of Houston

Early Learning Alliance

Early Matters Dallas

Educate Midland

Educational First Steps

Emergence Health Network

Empowering the Masses

Family Association of San Antonio, Inc.

First3Years

Fort Bend County DA - Human Trafficking Team

Hancock Professional Development Resources &  
Consulting

Hillary Consulting Services

Houston Area Urban League

Ivy Kids - Hobbs

Kids Kountry Learning Center

Kids R Kids #5 Texas

Kids R Kids Learning Academy Westpointe

Kids R Kids of Lakeshore

Momentous Institute

Onjaleke Brown

Open Door Preschools, Austin TX

Prairie View A&M University

Rhonda Parker

Sabrin Kinslow, LMSW

SAISD Early Childhood

Tahirih Justice Center (Houston)

Texas A&M University - McAllen

Texas Association for the Education of Young Children

Texas CASA

Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center

TexProtects

TXPOST

United Way of Greater Austin

United Way of Metropolitan Dallas

United Way of Tarrant County

United Ways of Texas

Vanguard Academy

YMCA of Greater Houston

### CHILDREN AT RISK

*Speaking Out + Driving Change for Children*

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