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**From:** Spring Branch Speaks <updates@springbranchspeaks.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 15, 2013 3:02 PM  
**To:**  
**Subject:** SBS Call to Action - Opportunity to be Heard on Testing this Tuesday

## Spring Branch Speaks

### ... to make our voices heard in Austin.

Dear **Spring Branch Speaks** Member:

Please see the following email sent today from TAMSA regarding a great opportunity to let our legislators know how we feel about state standardized tests.

Sincerely,

Spring Branch Speak

**From:** Texans Advocating for Meaningful Student Assessment  
**Date:** February 15, 2013 11:42AM  
**Subject:** TAMSA Call to Action: Come to Austin Tuesday - Important Opportunity to be Heard

Dear TAMSA Members:

**This coming Tuesday, Feb. 19<sup>th</sup>, is a huge day for Public Education in Austin.** BOTH the Senate and House education committees are taking public testimony:

- The Senate starts at 8:30 AM (rm. E1.028). TAMSA's Dineen Majcher, representing the parents' perspective, will participate on a panel to discuss testing, and the committee will take public testimony (2 minutes each).
- The House committee starts at 2:00 PM (rm. E2.036) and will discuss numerous testing bills. They will also take public testimony (4 minutes each).

**Parents: come to Austin Tuesday with your children and share your personal experiences with our lawmakers; express your concerns and hopes for a better assessment system for Texas public schools.**

TAMSA has heard dismaying reports from communities all over Texas about the limitations state tests have placed upon children and their educational careers. *This may be the only time the Senate takes public testimony on assessments; it's a fantastic opportunity to speak to both the Senate and House in one day.* We realize it's a school day but what better civic experience for young people than to come to the legislature and make a difference!

If you are interested in speaking, please come to Austin. It's simple: come to the

hearing, submit your name for public testimony, and tell your family's story. Please email us with any questions at [boardmember@tamsatx.org](mailto:boardmember@tamsatx.org).

**Let's pack the rooms with Texans who care about what is happening to public education and recognize the waste of time and money spent on testing.**

P.S. This past week, two sophomore students and their moms testified before the Senate Education Committee. They were amazing and their stories deeply affected the Senators that heard them. If you'd like to watch their testimonies, click on this link <http://www.senate.state.tx.us/avarchive/?yr=2013>, go to "Feb. 12: Senate Committee on Education (Part II)" and forward to 59:25 to watch a mother and daughter testify from Friendswood ISD, and to 1:50:32 to watch a son and mother testify from Ballinger ISD. We are incredibly proud of them for telling their stories and making a difference for public education and for students all over Texas.

TAMSA's mission is to improve public education in Texas through the use of meaningful and effective student assessments that allow for more productive classroom instruction and more efficient use of public funds.

(Forward this email to your family and friends - ask them to join too: [www.tamsatx.org](http://www.tamsatx.org))

Texans Advocating for Meaningful Student Assessment

TAMSA Board of Directors:

Susan Kellner	Susan Schultz
Dineen Majcher	Theresa Trevino
Karen Peck	Laura Yeager



**[Spring Branch Speaks](#)**

*Parent-organized community outreach with SBISD in mind.*

*Spring Branch ISD educates a diverse community of 34,000 students on 46 campuses, including 57% economically disadvantaged students and 33% limited-English-proficient (ESL) students.*

(Forward this email to your family and friends - ask them to join, too:

[www.SpringBranchSpeaks.com](http://www.SpringBranchSpeaks.com))

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**Legislative Committee:**

David Davenport	Angela Martinez Gallagher
Pam Goodson	Darci Hubbard

Susan Kellner  
Emily Van Buren

Karen Peck  
Chris Vierra

