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**From:** Spring Branch Speaks <updates@springbranchspeaks.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 20, 2013 11:21 AM  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Fwd: TAMSA Call to Action: Contact Conferees TODAY Regarding Final Version of HB 5

## Spring Branch Speaks

... to make our voices heard in Austin.

Dear *Spring Branch Speaks* Member:

Please see the following update from TAMSA about HB 5, the bill that could bring our students and schools less state-mandated testing and more flexible high school graduation options. **Please read and contact the listed legislators in support of this important bill.**

FINANCE UPDATE: We continue to watch the budget discussion as it impacts school finance. Most of the debate has been around the total amount to return to schools after the drastic cuts last session, not district specific funding changes. We will let you know if we have a constructive opportunity to weigh in on the distribution of funding.

There are only 7 days left in this session, so thank you for your continued attention and calls/emails during this most important week!

Sincerely,

Spring Branch Speaks

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**From:** Texans Advocating For Meaningful Student Assessment

**Date:** May 20, 2013 7:31AM

**Subject:** TAMSA Call to Action: Contact Conferees TODAY Regarding Final Version of HB 5



TEXANS ADVOCATING FOR  
MEANINGFUL STUDENT ASSESSMENT

Dear TAMSA Members:

House Bill 5 (HB 5), which seeks to decrease End-of-Course (EOC) tests and offer more flexible graduation plans for high school students, is now in Conference Committee. This group of ten members - 5 from the House of Representatives, and 5 from the Senate - will now negotiate and deliver a final bill version to both the House and Senate for a final vote.

Please contact the Conference Committee members (see list below), and request the following in the final version of HB 5:

1. Limit EOC Exams to Four (4): English II (a single test for reading & writing), US History, Biology and Algebra I.
2. Do not include any optional EOC tests; if testing "college readiness," use the SAT, ACT, IB, and/or AP. Do not waste taxpayer money on more state tests that colleges don't require or consider.
3. Delete any requirement that EOCs impact student grades (15% provision).
4. Make 2013 testing requirements effective immediately so students in the Class of 2015 and 2016 (this year's 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders) have the same graduation requirements as other grades under STAAR.
5. Include state funding for either the SAT or ACT to 11<sup>th</sup> graders and allow districts or students to choose which test.
6. Include the annual release of all STAAR tests to teachers, including all special needs tests.

**Conference Committee Members:**

**House:**

(Chair) Rep. Jimmie Don Aycok (Killeen) (512) 463-0684 [jimmie.aycock@house.state.tx.us](mailto:jimmie.aycock@house.state.tx.us)  
Rep. Dan Huberty (Kingwood) (512) 463-0520 [dan.huberty@house.state.tx.us](mailto:dan.huberty@house.state.tx.us)  
Rep. Joe Deshotel (Port Arthur) (512) 463-0662 [joe.deshotel@house.state.tx.us](mailto:joe.deshotel@house.state.tx.us)  
Rep. Larry Gonzales (Round Rock) (512) 463-0670 [larry.gonzales@house.state.tx.us](mailto:larry.gonzales@house.state.tx.us)  
Rep. Eddie Rodriguez (Austin) (512) 463-0674 [eddie.rodriguez@house.state.tx.us](mailto:eddie.rodriguez@house.state.tx.us)

**Senate:**

(Chair) Sen. Dan Patrick (Houston) (512) 463-0107 [dan.patrick@senate.state.tx.us](mailto:dan.patrick@senate.state.tx.us)  
Senator Robert Duncan (Lubbock) (512) 463-0128 [robert.duncan@senate.state.tx.us](mailto:robert.duncan@senate.state.tx.us)  
Senator Kel Seliger (Amarillo) (512) 463-0131 [kel.seliger@senate.state.tx.us](mailto:kel.seliger@senate.state.tx.us)  
Sen. Leticia Van de Putte (San Antonio) (512) 463-0126 [leticia.vandeputte@senate.state.tx.us](mailto:leticia.vandeputte@senate.state.tx.us)  
Sen. Tommy Williams (The Woodlands) (512) 463-0104 [tommy.williams@senate.state.tx.us](mailto:tommy.williams@senate.state.tx.us)

Easy cut and paste emails: [jimmie.aycock@house.state.tx.us](mailto:jimmie.aycock@house.state.tx.us);  
[dan.huberty@house.state.tx.us](mailto:dan.huberty@house.state.tx.us); [joe.deshotel@house.state.tx.us](mailto:joe.deshotel@house.state.tx.us);  
[larry.gonzales@house.state.tx.us](mailto:larry.gonzales@house.state.tx.us); [eddie.rodriguez@house.state.tx.us](mailto:eddie.rodriguez@house.state.tx.us);  
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[tommy.williams@senate.state.tx.us](mailto:tommy.williams@senate.state.tx.us)

The 83rd legislative session has only 7 days remaining. We need to ensure excessive testing is addressed NOW! Thank you for your continued support in helping HB 5 get over the finish line.

TAMSA



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))

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Texans Advocating for Meaningful Student Assessment

TAMSA Board of Directors:

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Susan Kellner	Theresa Trevino
Dineen Majcher	Laura Yeager
Joanne Salazar	



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
Chris Vierra	