To the Honorable Justice Scott Brister, Chair, and the Texas Commission on Public School Finance:

The Gifted and Talented (G/T) Allotment directly impacts (*my child*). The elimination of the G/T allotment means (*insert your personal appeal*).

I am firmly <u>OPPOSED</u> to any school finance proposal that would eliminate the G/T allotment for the following reasons

- The allotted funds directly impact the more than 400,000 students identified as gifted in Texas.
- Eliminating the allotment will leave more students underidentified.
- G/T students are a vulnerable student population that can be "at-risk."
- Being "gifted and talented" is neither a badge of honor, nor a reward for good behavior.
- Being "gifted and talented" is an educational diagnosis requiring gifted programs and services for G/T students to reach their full potential.

In conclusion, I urge you to ensure the G/T allotment is included in any school finance plan the Commission presents to the legislature and ensure Texas continues to support the education of gifted students.