



TSTA NEWS

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Remarks by Texas State Teachers Association President Rita Haecker at the Texas Hold 'Em Accountable Rally, Dec. 6, 2013:

Good morning.

It may be cold – really cold – outside, but we're here to turn up the heat on officeholders in Austin and Washington who have left millions of Texans out in the cold.

It may be frigid outside, but we give Perry and Cruz, Dewhurst and Cornyn, a big, fat "F" on their report card -

an F for giving a cold shoulder to Texas families.

How have they left Texans out in the cold?

- **Education Cuts** in Austin left Texas school funding \$3,000 per pupil below the national average – 49th among the states. **And federal cuts demanded by so-called leaders like Ted Cruz** will leave almost half a million students out in the cold, without career and technical training, without special education support, without English language learning opportunities.
- **More than one million Texas children are still out in the cold without health care**, and our Governor and Senators have tried to freeze them out of access to affordable health care

- **Thousands of immigrant families contribute to the Texas economy and have children in our public schools**, but they are left out in the cold without immigration reform while these officeholders sip Tea Party Kool Aid that defies what's good for our communities and our economy.

It may be cold outside, but how cold hearted must a Senator be to promote his career by shutting down the government, and cutting off help for our veterans and kids in Head Start?

Today, we're here to turn up the heat on officeholders in Austin and Washington who freeze out the people they are supposed to represent.

They work for us, and **we will** hold them accountable.