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## **COALITION RESPONDS TO GOVERNOR PERRY'S VETO OF SENATE BILL 15**

**AUSTIN**— Governor Rick Perry today vetoed Senate Bill No. 15, a bill passed by the 83rd Texas Legislature and intended to strengthen the governing boards of Texas institutions of public higher education. In response to the veto, the Coalition issued the following statement:

“The Governor’s veto is yet another blow for transparency and good governance that will undermine, not improve, Texas public universities. This legislation was strongly supported by Republicans and Democrats in both the Texas House and Senate and was intended to stop an unfortunate legacy of micromanagement and cronyism that has characterized too many of Governor Perry’s appointments. This veto will enable the continued destruction of some of our leading institutions by the very people who are charged with strengthening and improving them. Without proper oversight these premiere research and teaching universities run the risk of becoming talentless degree mills that will drive jobs and economic opportunity away from Texas, instead of attracting them. The people of Texas deserve better, our students deserve better, our universities deserve better and all citizens should be disappointed that the Governor defied the will of the people as expressed by their elected representatives.”

### **About the Coalition**

The Texas Coalition for Excellence in Higher Education was launched in the summer of 2011 by a group of concerned citizens who believe strongly in the power of higher education to transform lives, build our economy and shape Texas’ future. Formed in response to a growing concern over recommendations being floated that could have long-term damaging effects on our institutions of higher learning, the Coalition hopes to advance a thoughtful, constructive and transparent dialogue around higher education in Texas, seeking to improve the quality educational opportunities for all Texans.

***For more information on the Coalition and information on higher education in Texas, please visit:  
[www.TexasEducationExcellence.org](http://www.TexasEducationExcellence.org)***

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