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Talking points in opposition to the bill analysis for SB1819

FALSE CLAIM

- There are currently close to 20,000 undocumented students in Texas receiving in-state tuition benefits and state grants, with a quarter of those attending four-year universities.

THE FACTS

- HB1403 enables non-citizen resident students who lived in Texas for three years before graduating from high school or receiving a GED to pay in-state tuition at public colleges and universities in Texas. The students covered by the law include non-citizen students who are legally present, and those who are undocumented. HB1403 requires students to sign an affidavit declaring their intention to apply for Legal Permanent Resident status as soon as they are able.
- The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board does not collect data about whether specific students who pay in-state tuition under HB1403 are legally present or undocumented, and there is no such data available.
- In 2013, 24,770 students paid in-state tuition under HB1403. Only 2,318 of them received state-supported grants, which is only 1.8 percent of all Texas students who received grants. Grants to non-citizen resident students cost the state of Texas \$9.52 million, while non-citizen resident students paid state colleges and universities a total of \$51.6M in tuition and fees.

FALSE CLAIM

- Each undocumented student takes away a valuable slot at a public university that is technically reserved for a Texas citizen.

THE FACTS

- It is simply not accurate to claim that HB1403 takes away slots from Texas citizen students. There is no evidence that U.S.-born Texans are losing out to students. Enrollments overall have been up for the last decade, and Texas has largely met (or exceeded) the enrollment goals under state's *Closing the Gap* education plan.
- Slots in Texas colleges are not "technically reserved for Texas citizens." Any student (with the required credentials) can apply for admission to a Texas college, including students who live in Texas, and students who live in other states and countries.
- HB 1403 has no impact on the college admissions process for non-citizen resident students. Colleges and universities have wide discretion in setting admissions policies. Admissions and tuition rates are two distinct policies.

FALSE CLAIM

- Based on the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's numbers, the cost of providing tuition benefits for undocumented students has grown 68 percent over the past three years.

