



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Rachael Dempsey, Manager of Communications  
rdempsey@familiesempowered.org  
(713) 589-8767, Ext. 301

## Families Empowered Bringing Houston to the Capitol for School Choice Rally

*George P. Bush, Sen. Donna Campbell to address school choice supporters from Houston during a rally at the State Capitol.*

HOUSTON, Texas, January 21, 2015 – Families Empowered will join a coalition of school choice supporters - including elected officials, students, parents and community leaders - at the Capitol in Austin on Friday, January 30, to show their support for educational choice in Texas.

For families and supporters not close enough to make the trip themselves, Families Empowered has organized free transportation for supporters from the cities of Houston and San Antonio, Texas.

Senator Donna Campbell and Land Commissioner George P. Bush are among those slated to speak at the event, along with parents, educators and other community leaders. The day will include a march, beginning on 11<sup>th</sup> Street in Austin, to the South Steps of the Capitol at 1100 Congress Avenue. The rally will formally begin at 10 a.m.

This event brings focus to expanding both public and private school choice options. Families Empowered is working with more than 13 organizations to plan the event, including the National School Choice Week organization, the Texas Charter School Association and the Texas Private School Association.

"There is demand for choice in Houston. Last year alone, over 35,000 students were left to languish on a charter school waitlist," said Colleen Dippel, Founder and Executive Director of Families Empowered. "By bringing a coalition of school choice supporters – parents, teachers, students – we are demonstrating the existing support for more diverse school options, and greater access to high-performing schools."

"We expect education funding to be the top of our legislature's to-do list this session," said Dippel. "And we want our lawmakers to meet the people that will be directly impacted by their work this session."

The event is timed to coincide with National School Choice Week, which takes place every January. The Week shines a positive spotlight on all types of effective education options for children, including traditional public schools, public charter schools, magnet schools, private schools, online learning, and homeschooling. The celebration is nonpartisan and nonpolitical.

### About Families Empowered

Families Empowered is Texas' only non-profit organization dedicated to helping families choose the schools their children will attend. Families Empowered provides parents with tools, resources, and events to choose a school for their child. We introduce families to the diverse school options available to them; we do not advocate any schooling option over another.

###