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ATPE Support for H.R. 878, the Educators Expense Deduction Modernization Act
Leading educator association in Texas applauds bill to double educators' federal tax deduction for classroom supplies

AUSTIN, Texas — The Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE) offered the following statement on the Educators Expense Deduction Modernization Act through its Executive Director, Dr. Shannon Holmes:

“The Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE) applauds the introduction of **H.R. 878, the Educators Expense Deduction Modernization Act**, and thanks those members of the Texas congressional delegation who have signed on to co-sponsor this bill. As the largest educator association in Texas representing approximately 100,000 members, ATPE has long had a position in our member-adopted Legislative Program supporting permanent tax relief for educators who spend their own money on classroom supplies. Our members routinely report spending hundreds of dollars out of their own pockets each year to ensure that all of their students have access to the materials needed for classroom success.

“In Texas, the combination of rapid enrollment growth due to population increases and an outdated state funding system often places a high burden on public schools and their staffs to ensure that students are equipped with adequate instructional materials and basic supplies they need in order to learn. The problem is exacerbated in schools with a higher percentage of students living at or near the poverty level. Classroom teachers, educational aides, and other support staff who are not highly compensated are the ones often stepping up to take care of students' unmet needs for supplies and materials.

“**H.R. 878** would double the tax deduction available to educators to help offset the personal sacrifices they make for the benefit of their students. ATPE supports this legislation to provide modest and reasonable tax relief to hard-working educators who are spending their own money to assist students and enhance the classroom experience.”

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The Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE)

The Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE) has been a strong voice for Texas educators since 1980. It is the leading educators' association in Texas with approximately 100,000 members statewide. With its strong collaborative philosophy, ATPE speaks for classroom teachers, administrators, future, retired and para-educators and works to create better opportunities for 5 million public schoolchildren. ATPE is the voice of Texas public education. Learn more at atpe.org.