

From: David Watts

Sent: Tuesday, September 17, 2013 2:56 PM

Hi Sue.

Nice to talk with you.

- Here's that NY Times article.
http://www.nytimes.com/2012/01/17/us/young-us-citizens-in-mexico-up-early-to-learn-in-the-us.html?pagewanted=1&_r=4&ref=us&
- This article was from Jan 16, 2012.
- Here's a link to the letter from the Department of Education and the Department of Justice: <http://irvingblog.dallasnews.com/2011/05/us-department-of-education-ste.html/>
- This report was from May 2011.

Hope this helps a bit.

Reach out to me and I'll try to help more.

Best regards,

David.

From: David Watts

Sent: Tuesday, September 17, 2013 11:23 AM

Hi Sue,

I have a meeting from noon today until about 1:30 pm or so. I'll try to call after that time.

Until then, here's a few references you may find helpful:

- A link to Plyler v. Doe details - including oral arguments and the text of the majority opinion: http://www.oyez.org/cases/1980-1989/1981/1981_80_1538
- Another link to the opinion - both concurrence opinions and the dissenting opinion: http://www.law.cornell.edu/supct/html/historics/USSC_CR_0457_0202_ZO.html
- Here's a UC Davis Law Review of Plyler v. Doe which may be helpful: http://lawreview.law.ucdavis.edu/issues/45/1/lecture/45-1_olivas.pdf
- A December 2010 article in the Dallas News which seeks to estimate the Texas cost of K-12 education for non-citizen illegal immigrants.
<http://www.dallasnews.com/news/community-news/dallas/headlines/20101205-an-educated-guess-on-texas-students-in-the-u.s.-illegally.ece>
- Note: the range of cost to the Texas tax payer in the above article is estimated at between \$1 billion to \$3.5 billion. We have used the low end estimate of about \$1 billion

per year in cost to the Texas tax payer.

My comments:

The decision was bad law and is evidence of a progressive Supreme Court as constituted in 1982. As I recall, part of the majority opinion indicated that Texas did not demonstrate a compelling reason as to why educating non-citizen children of illegal immigrants had a negative impact on education in the state. I believe that now there are 30 years of history which demonstrates a significant financial cost for educating the non-children of illegal immigrants.

My view is simple. As Land Commissioner I will seek to convince the Legislature to write and pass legislation which will again refocus Texas education for Texas children (and legal, lawful immigrants). My job, if elected by the voters, is to manage Texas public lands for the purpose of generating revenue for Texas schools. As such, I have a proper interest in this subject. I believe the next Governor should sign such legislation. This will provoke an immediate court challenge. The new Attorney General should fight this all the way back to the Supreme Court and I believe this time we will win. It is essential that we focus our limited financial resources on our first priority: Texas children.

By the way, I am careful to speak about "non-citizen children of illegal immigrants." This is important language. There are children born to illegal immigrants while here in the US. Under current law, those children are citizens. I am not speaking about citizen children of illegal immigrants. Rather, my concern is the non-citizen children of illegal immigrants.

My interest in this started during a recent visit to Brownsville, TX. A Hispanic Texan raised this issue with me. He lamented that the Brownsville schools are struggling to teach Texas children because they are teaching so many non-citizen children of illegal immigrants. He made the observation that no one talks about this issue.

I'll look forward to chatting with you further.

Best regards,

David.