FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SYLVIA GARCIA WOULD RATHER SIT THAN *STAND FOR CHILDREN***

In a political move, Candidate, Sylvia Garcia publicly speaks out against ***Stand for Children***

HOUSTON, Texas (February 19, 2013) – A few weeks ago, ***Stand for Children*** leaders from Senate District 6 interviewed six of the candidates running for the Texas Senate. Absent from the interviews was Sylvia Garcia, candidate for Texas Senator. Ms. Garcia, who refused to sit down with ***Stand*** leaders during the interview process, purposefully misrepresented the organization by publicly stating that ***Stand*** supports school vouchers. ***Stand for Children*** does not support vouchers.

People with a vested interest in maintaining the status quo equate vouchers (a policy that would give money to families to pay for their children to attend private schools) with school choice. They are not the same.

“How can Sylvia Garcia be so publicly against us when she has not taken the time to learn what we are all about? With her Senate race run-off coming up on March 2nd, it seems that Sylvia is just making statements to get her attention and votes,” stated Michael Espinoza, the Houston City Director for ***Stand for Children.*** Michael continued, “Education is what we advocate for, we simply ask that Ms. Garcia engage in a civil discussion with us about something that all voters think is important, education.”

For the hundreds of parents, educators, and community leaders involved in ***Stand for Children in Texas***, school choice is simple: it’s the opportunity to send children to the best possible public school for their personality and learning style. School choice is not equal to vouchers. School choice is about finding all kids a learning environment at a public school that works for them. “To see the success of school choice, one need not go far. There are plenty of success stories here in the Houston community. The stories that I hear from parents daily really pull on my heart strings,” stated Espinoza.

***Stand for Children*** has more than a decade of experience working together with parents, communities and organizations for the betterment of public schools. Their mission is to ensure that all children, regardless of their background, graduate from high school prepared for, and with access to, a college education. To accomplish their mission, they help educate and empower parents, teachers and community members to demand excellent public schools. They advocate for effective local, state and national education policies and investments and ensure the policies and funding reach classrooms and help students. Their website can be found at [www.stand.org/texas](http://www.stand.org/texas).

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For further information or to schedule an interview with Michael Espinoza or a ***Stand for Children*** parent, please call Chico Mendez at (832)217-3444 or at (210)573-8252 or email Chico at [chico@carrenogroup.com](mailto:chico@carrenogroup.com).