



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
Tuesday, February 18, 2014

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**Statement by Dan Patrick in response to the  
Dallas Morning News and KTRK-TV**

HOUSTON – “Just as Early Voting begins, it appears my political opponents have teamed up with liberals in the media to smear me. The political tactic is centuries old, and the allegations they now use are decades (30 years) old. As a former news and sports anchor, and current talk show host, I can tell you I would never allow this sort of political smear to pass for news.

“In the mid-1980s, I ran a number of restaurants and clubs in Houston. At the height of the business, we had five locations. We had literally hundreds of full-time and part-time employees. It’s a transient business and many young people come and go. As a regular course of business, those employees were interviewed, hired and supervised by the managers who ran each location.

“I can assure you that every employee completed a W-4 prior to becoming employed. I know this because my mother was our bookkeeper, and she was, and still is, a stickler for the rules. Everyone was hired and paid in accordance with regularly accepted business practices of the time.

“While I do not remember everyone who worked in my businesses, I do vaguely remember Mike Andrade. As I recall he was an affable young man and seemed to be a good and conscientious worker. I do not recall his relatives or friends. I have no recollection of ever writing a letter on behalf of Mr. Andrade.

“Mr. Andrade’s allegation that I offered to break Federal law in order to help him is an outrageous lie. To claim that I would drive a car half way across Texas, evade a checkpoint and commit a crime in order to help him, defies logic and undermines the credibility of Mr. Andrade. It’s simply preposterous.

“While my position on immigration has drawn criticism from some quarters, I am confident a majority of Texans agree: (1) the federal government has abandoned their responsibility to secure our border, and Texas must step into the breach, (2) the illegal aliens are putting an unnecessary burden on our state budget, including healthcare, education, and criminal justice.

“My record on fighting illegal immigration stands in stark contrast to all of my opponents. Todd Staples voted for providing subsidized in-state tuition for illegal immigrants, he voted to grant illegal immigrants Texas driver’s licenses, and expanded access to free health care for illegal aliens. Jerry Patterson goes so far as to promote the idea of granting amnesty to millions of illegal aliens in the United States who have violated state and federal laws by their very existence here. David Dewhurst has thwarted efforts to strengthen our border security, adopting a budget that cut border enforcement program spending; a budget I voted against. And, in an election year conversion, David Dewhurst is now trying to go back and put extra money into the very programs his budget cut.

“Last minute attacks do nothing to advance serious public policy debate. Is any reasonable voter supposed to believe that now, on the first day of Early Voting, and just 13 days before Election Day, that a former kitchen worker in a restaurant just happened to find his way to the office of the Dallas Morning News and KTRK-TV political reporters? If it seems far-fetched – it is.

“Eleventh hour, political dirty tricks do not give voters greater confidence in their candidates or the election process.”

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