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News Release - For Immediate Release

Grassroots America Withdraws Endorsement of Mary Lou Bruner for State Board of Education District 9

Smith County, Texas – Today, a majority of the Grassroots America Board of Directors voted to withdraw the organization’s endorsement of Mary Lou Bruner for the SBOE District 9 race.

JoAnn Fleming, Executive Director, said, “We are all disappointed to have to take the strong measure of withdrawing our endorsement for a candidate. Since the institution of this organization in 2009, we have never had to take such an action; however, this organization requires **accountability** and **personal responsibility** from the candidates it endorses. ***We have always made that abundantly clear.***

One of the reasons we endorsed Mrs. Bruner was because of her long years of experience as a teacher. We believe the practical classroom experience of teachers is not respected or valued enough by many public school administrators, trustees, and legislators attempting to “fix” public education. We hoped another teacher’s voice on the State Board of Education would bring common sense, clarity, and expertise on setting school curriculum standards and the adoption of instructional materials.

Unfortunately, once we viewed the [raw, unedited](#) video of Mrs. Bruner speaking to Region 7 Superintendents on May 4th and [read her written statement](#), we had no choice but to start the process of reconsidering the endorsement. The responsibility to correct the record was Mrs. Bruner’s. We hoped she would issue a press release and post a statement on her website and social media pages to apologize and set the record straight with accurate, sourced information. ***Sadly, that did not happen.***

We asked Mrs. Bruner to correct these four issues:

- 1) Her special education stats – We asked her to clarify the difference between student population percentages enrolled in special programs and special education and cite her sources.
- 2) Her college readiness stats – We asked her to correct the record using TEA, SAT, and ACT sources.
- 3) We asked her to apologize for citing Lufkin ISD teacher shortage information without making sure it was accurate.
- 4) We asked her to set the record straight on which SBOE District 9 Superintendents she had actually met with as a candidate.

If we expect schools to teach the importance of facts, accuracy, and details and expect teachers to model those values, then candidates for the State Board of Education must demonstrate those values.”

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