August 14, 2002

Members of the Legislative Audit Committee:

An investigation by the State Auditor’s Office Special Investigations Unit (SIU) led to the Travis County Grand Jury’s indictment of Donna S. Fine, a former employee of the Texas School for the Deaf (School). The Travis County District Attorney’s Office Public Integrity Unit is prosecuting Ms. Fine for fraudulent use of identifying information, which is a state jail felony. The School contacted the SIU to report the allegation and initiate the investigation.

The indictment charges that between February 2001 and April 2002 Ms. Fine used other School employees’ identifying information to obtain services and goods from local physicians and pharmacists. Ms. Fine allegedly used information such as names, dates of birth, social security numbers, and medical insurance information to obtain services and goods through a Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) and the Relay Texas service. The School employees’ physicians informed the employees of the abuses of their medical services. When the employees determined that they were not the cause of the abuse, they reported the abuses to the School’s Human Resources Department.

If you have any questions, contact either Ralph Disher, Senior Investigator, or John Weber, Manager, Special Investigations Unit, at (512) 936-9500.

Sincerely,

Lawrence F. Alwin, CPA
State Auditor

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cc: Ms. Claire Bugen, Superintendent, Texas School for the Deaf
Mr. Ronald Earle, Travis County District Attorney