

March 16, 2023

House Select Committee on Health Care Reform Written Testimony Supporting HB 1001

Chairman Harless and Members of the House Select Committee on Health Care Reform,

The Texas Association of Business (TAB) serves as the Texas State Chamber, representing employers of every size and industry. A recent survey we conducted of our members found that health care benefits are the most important tool for attracting and retaining employees, edging out even financial compensation. This leaves employers who cannot afford to offer health benefits at a significant disadvantage when attracting and retaining employees.

House Bill 1001 will provide employers, especially small businesses, additional options when looking to provide health benefits to their employees. Under HB 1001, Consumer Choice of Benefits Plans (CCBPs) will still be required to meet the federal requirements, and all mandates the legislature imposes on the health plan offered to state employees. Under current law, small employers shopping for a health plan on the marketplace are only offered a "one-size-fits-all" health plan, which has hindered innovation and brought additional costs to businesses and families.

The business community looks forward to working with you and your fellow lawmakers to find ways to continually lower health care costs. Employers across Texas want the ability to choose quality, affordable health care and prescription options that best fit their businesses and employees.

Sincerely,

Glenn Hamer President & CEO

Texas Association of Business