

March 20, 2023

House Higher Education Committee

FOR HB 8 *(VanDeaver) re to the administration, coordination, and support of public higher education, including the public junior college state finance program and Advanced Career and Education (ACE).*

Chairman Kuempel and Committee Members,

TAB is the State Chamber of Commerce and the state affiliate for the National Association of Manufacturers. TAB represents members across every industry sector and size, and our local chamber partners across the state. TAB's purpose is to "champion the best business climate in the world, unleashing the power of free enterprise to enhance lives for generations".

Thanks to the hard work of the members of the Texas Commission on Community College Finance throughout the interim, TAB is pleased to support the full recommendations of the Texas Commission on Community College Finance.

Texas has created more jobs than any other state in the nation over the past year, have won the Governor's Cup 11 years in a row and have been named the best state for Business by CEO Magazine 18 years in a row. And that is thanks to the leadership of the state from the Legislature to the Governor's office.

If we are to maintain our standing as the best state for business, we must invest in our future workforce and address an issue that is coming down the pike. Due to the number of businesses moving to the Lone Star State, there is an increased need for skilled workers and those with some sort of postsecondary education.

Currently about 62% of jobs in Texas require some sort of postsecondary education but only 48% of Texas have a postsecondary credential and currently, only 22% of Texas students earn a postsecondary credential within 6 years of graduating high school.

House Bill 8 can help rectify this problem by investing in community colleges throughout the state and shifting how it funds these community colleges. This bill takes into account recommendations from the Texas Commission on Community College Finance which suggests shifting state funding to be majority outcomes-based. House bill 8 will also incentivize work-based learning and invest in employer partnerships to ensure we are meeting the needs of Texas' employers.



THE TEXAS STATE CHAMBER

TAB's purpose is to champion the best business climate in the world, unleashing the power of free enterprise to enhance lives for generations.

Pro-Business • Pro-Texas
for 100 years

Additionally, HB 8 will increase financial aid with a goal to support at least 70% of qualified low-income college students pursuing credentials of value. TAB is proud to join with over 30 business organizations throughout the state in supporting the swift passage of House Bill 8.

TAB fully supports HB8 and looks forward to recognizing the positive impact this bill will have on the workforce of Texas. Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony today on behalf of the Texas State Chamber of Commerce. We looking forward to working with you and the members of the legislature on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Jones".

President & CEO
Texas Association of Business