

2023 KEY LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The Texas Association of Business (TAB) supports initiatives that encourage economic growth and protect the pro-Texas, pro-jobs philosophy. Our purpose is to *champion the best business climate in the world, unleashing the power of free enterprise to enhance lives for generations*. Find the full package of legislative priorities at [TxBiz.org](https://www.txbiz.org).

Economic Development

Support state and local economic development incentives to attract new and expand existing, large capital-intensive projects in Texas, including critical sectors such as advanced technology, bioscience manufacturing, semiconductor manufacturing, and energy-related projects.

Support and sufficiently fund all current local and state incentive programs administered through the Governor's Texas Economic Development & Tourism (EDT) division and other state incentive and job training programs such as, but not limited to, the Texas Enterprise Fund.

Support TxDOT's Unified Transportation Plan (UTP) funding sources and priorities to improve safety and meet the needs of our growing economy.

Energy

Promote an "all-the-above" energy strategy that is balanced, cost-effective, and efficient to ensure consistent and reliable power across Texas. Advocate for national and international access to Texas-produced natural gas, oil, and energy without additional regulations.

Healthcare

Protect employers from legislation that increases health care costs. Preserve employee, employer and health plan benefits of ERISA by opposing any attempt to erode the federal preemption of state law relating to employer health benefit plans.

Support expanding the use of telemedicine to reduce costs and increase access to care. Increase the number of health care providers available to Texans, including greater access to advanced practice registered nurses, physician assistants, and pharmacists.

Support providing full coverage for women on Medicaid for 12 months post-delivery to improve maternal health and healthier babies.

Private Employer Rights

Protecting the rights of Texas employers to operate businesses in the most effective manner possible in alignment with company and free market principles. TAB strongly opposes the creation of any new private right of legal action against Texas employers and businesses.

Tech & Innovation

Continue to modernize state agency IT to combat cyber-risks and improve online services, telemedicine and rural economic development. Increase access to broadband. Improve Texas technology and semiconductor manufacturing. Support a national data privacy standard.

Workforce & Education

Maintain commitment to meeting the growing needs of Texas employers by supporting policies that increase innovation, choice, transparency, accountability, and connectedness in K12, postsecondary, and workforce systems. TAB supports:

- Engaging with employers to improve the quality of workforce data collected by state agencies.
- Reskilling and upskilling initiatives to ensure that businesses can meet Texas hiring needs.
- Innovative learning models, outcomes-based funding models, competency-based education models, dual language programs, career and technical education programs, paid apprenticeship and internship opportunities, as well as increased access to K-12 computer science teacher training and student instruction.
- Support the passage and full funding of the recommendations of the Texas Commission on Community College Finance and advocate for enhancements to ensure that community colleges' incentive structures are aligned with employer needs and student wage/employment outcomes;

Questions?

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