



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

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March 21, 2023

Re: Support of Article IV funding for Court Reminder Programs (\$2.2 million)

Dear Senator Huffman and Members of the Finance Committee:

The Texas Association of Business appreciates your commitment to serving the state of Texas. On behalf of our members, we thank you for funding the text message reminder program authorized by HB 4293 in the 87th legislative session as part of the 88th Legislative Session base budget. TAB supported this legislation last session, a program that authorizes and funds text message reminders through the Court of Administration.

Court reminder programs are a cost-effective solution that would improve the overall efficiency of Texas courts, as well as reduce the number of individuals from being arrested for failing to appear. Arrests for failure to appear typically happen when individuals simply forget about scheduled court dates, not because they intentionally skip them. Funding of this initiative helps a vulnerable population stay informed of their court commitments, so they can continue to be productive citizens of society and stay in the workforce.

TAB supports criminal justice policies that enhance a sustainable workforce. The business community understands the economic benefits of employer collaboration to help people that want to work be able to do so through identifying ways to provide skill-based training and removing barriers for both youths and adults with criminal records. TAB supports the \$2 million initial funding to create the court reminder program and additional \$200K per biennium to maintain the program.

Again, we thank you for your including these funds in the base budget and for your work in the Senate Finance Committee.

Sincerely,

Megan Mauro
SVP, Policy & Advocacy
Texas Association of Business