



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

April 26, 2023

Dear Chairman Leach and Committee Members,

On behalf of the business community, the Texas Association of Business (TAB) supports SB 896. 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".

Specifically in our TAB priorities, we state that "TAB will continue to vigorously support First Amendment rights, including the early dismissal of lawsuits that impinge upon those rights. At the same time, TAB will work to prevent abuses of the Texas Citizens Protection Act (TCPA) when used simply as a method to delay meritorious lawsuits."

We appreciate the reforms that were made to the TCPA in 2019 and your continued work on this issue. We know that TCPA motions to dismiss and the corresponding interlocutory appeal are important safeguards for protecting free speech rights for Texans. We also know that certain parties take advantage of those protections – particularly around the automatic stay and using it to cause delays in litigation. For that reason, we are in support of SB 896. We believe it provides much-needed guardrails to help prevent misuses of the TCPA going forward, and protects the state's business friendly litigation environment that Texas is known for.

On behalf of the business community, TAB thanks you for addressing this important issue and we urge swift passage of SB 896.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glenn Hamer", written over a white rectangular area.

Glenn Hamer
President/CEO
Texas Association of Business