



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.

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for 100 years

4/4/23

Committee Written Testimony

Support HB4411

House Public Education Committee

Chairwoman Button and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in **support of SB 4411** on behalf of the Texas Association of Business.

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." We remain committed to meeting the growing needs of Texas employers, and understand the vital role that high quality education plays in our economic success.

A well-educated workforce is essential for the growth and prosperity of the Texas economy. Our state is facing a shortage of middle-skilled workers – that is, workers with post-secondary but not four-year degrees. The National Skills Coalition estimates that 54% of Texas jobs require middle skills. Yet, only 45% of Texans are sufficiently trained for these types of jobs, leading to a shortage of workers in major industries such as health care, energy and technology.

The Texas Apprenticeship bill will provide the opportunity for countless students to access high-quality apprenticeships while at the same time, earning while they learn – giving them the ultimate tool in the toolbox: definitive skills that will lead to jobs and self-sufficiency. In addition, we applaud the authors intent to align these apprenticeships with the goals of the Tri Agency framework – an effort of which TAB is fully supportive.

In addition, TAB fully appreciates allowing Texans to determine the apprenticeships that best fit our growing state and workforce – not the federal government in Washington D.C.

It is critical that students of all types have the opportunity to actually experience hands-on training and realize that they can achieve success both in the classroom, and also in the workforce. Our state desperately needs these middle skills jobs filled – the Texas Miracle depends on them.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Matthews
Executive Vice President
Texas Association of Business