

3/28/23  
*Committee Verbal Testimony*  
*Support HB2890*

My name is Stephanie Matthews and I am the Executive Vice President of the Texas Association of Business and I am here to **testify in support of House Bill 2890 by Representative Cunningham.**

Chair Buckley and Members of the TAB Public Education Committee, 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".

TAB's commitment to meeting the growing needs of all Texas employers necessarily means we must have high-quality education options for every student.

In this vein, TAB supports efforts to increase access for the over 66,000 students on the charter school waiting list. The charter school application process is one of the most rigorous in the country: a months-long process within TEA that culminates in the Commissioner submitting his recommendations to the SBOE. The SBOE either approves or denies a charter by a majority vote. Last year, only 1 charter was approved despite recommendations by the Commissioner. We believe that by raising the approval threshold to 2/3 – matching the threshold for overriding SBEC rules – is prudent and best for the students seeking those options.

Thank you and I am happy to answer any questions.