



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 nearly 100 years*

**September 12, 2022**

Dear Chairman Hunt and members of the Texas Commission on Community College Finance,

On behalf of the Texas Association of Business (TAB), thank you for allowing me to submit written support for the recommendations proposed by the Texas Commission on Community College Finance (TCCCF). TAB believes the recommendations outlined by TCCCF will help address workforce challenges across the state.

We all know that the Texas economy is the most successful, dynamic, and growing ones in the nation, but we're also not immune from labor challenges as we emerge strongly from the pandemic. Thanks to Governor Abbott, the Texas Legislature, and the state's employers, Texas was one of the first states to regain lost jobs from the Pandemic. Despite our success, we still have a ways to go.

The success of our state depends on our workforce. Educational systems preparing the workforce must be able to meet the needs of employers by equipping students with the skills necessary to be successful. To truly *'Build a Talent Strong Texas'*, collaboration between community and technical colleges and businesses and adequate funding are key to addressing the workforce needs across the state.

Specifically, the community college finance system must serve the rapidly changing regional and state workforce needs, create workforce training opportunities for all Texans, and invest in data-driven strategies that will provide a return on investment to taxpayers through a skilled workforce.

TAB believes the recommendations proposed by TCCCF further the needs outlined above by investing in data-driven approaches. Investment in the TCCCF recommendations will ensure that all Texans have access to an affordable and high-quality education and meet regional workforce needs that are aligned with the business community. Further, this investment will ensure that state funds are spent efficiently and effectively, while resolving any underlying flaws from the current community college finance system.

On behalf of TAB, I thank the Commission for providing these recommendations that will materially benefit Texas and urges the 88<sup>th</sup> legislature to provide the Commission with funding needed to be successful. I look forward to working with each of you in the future.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glenn Hamer". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Glenn Hamer  
President and CEO  
Texas Association of Business