

# Please Oppose SB 51

October 15, 2021

The undersigned organizations respectfully oppose SB 51 and similar legislation or amendments (including any amendments to SB 8). We believe strongly that legislation of this kind represents an unprecedented intrusion into the liberty of employers to operate their businesses as they see fit. Texas' successful business climate is premised upon this fundamental liberty, but this legislation undermines it by placing employers in an impossible position between federal and state mandates. It will also subject employers to potentially crippling litigation costs at *both* the federal and state levels with no ability to protect themselves against this risk. We therefore believe that these proposals can do extreme damage to the economic recovery currently under way and to the state's ability to attract new businesses in the future.

Additionally, during the regular session the Legislature passed, by a nearly unanimous vote, and the Governor signed SB 6, which provides among the strongest liability protections for businesses and health care providers in the country against liability related to the COVID-19 response. SB 6 has played a primary role in giving businesses the confidence and freedom to increase their workforces and get the economy moving again. SB 51, however, undoes a substantial portion of those protections by opening the door once again to employer liability at both the administrative and judicial levels. While the types of remedies and damages proposed by these bills differ somewhat, the effect is the same. We appreciate that policymakers have good faith differences of opinion about government mandates of any kind, but enforcement by private litigation aimed specifically at job creators will be harmful to everyone, employers and employees alike.

Associated General Contractors –

Texas Building Branch

Associated General Contractors of Texas

Corpus Christi United Chamber of Commerce

Dallas Regional Chamber

El Paso Chamber of Commerce

Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce

Greater Houston Partnership

Independent Insurance Agents of Texas

Martin Resource Management Corporation

NFIB-Texas

North Texas Commission

Precast Concrete Manufacturers Association

Texans for Lawsuit Reform

Texas Alliance of Brain Injury Providers

Texas Association of Business

Texas Association of Manufacturers

Texas REALTORS®

Texas Association of Staffing

Texas Chemical Council

Texas Civil Justice League

Texas Health Care Association

Texas Hospital Association

Texas Hotel & Lodging Association

Texas Impact

Texas Medical Association

Texas Recreational Vehicle Association

Texas Society of CPAs

Texas Society for Human

Resource Management

League City Regional Chamber of Commerce

West Chambers County Chamber of Commerce

Houston Northwest Chamber of Commerce

Partnership Lake Houston

Columbus Chamber of Commerce

& Visitors Bureau

Baytown Chamber of Commerce

Texas Trucking Association