

Chairman Creighton and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Texas Association of Business and the undersigned organizations, we respectfully **oppose Senate Bill 1798** – a proposal that would repeal a policy that has been intact for decades and greatly contributed to the Texas economy and workforce.

Texas has long been a beacon of opportunity, attracting individuals from across the globe who fuel our industries, expand our workforce, and strengthen our communities. We believe in the importance of smart immigration policies that uphold our values, protect our border, enhance economic growth, and maintain public safety.

In-state tuition for long-term Texas resident students has played a vital role in developing a skilled and competitive workforce for over two decades. The 2001 measure passed the Texas Legislature with just four no votes and was signed into law by a conservative Republican governor.

Current state law treats all Texas resident students the same. To be considered a Texas resident for in-state tuition purposes, a student must have documentation of:

- Graduation from a Texas public or accredited private high school, or an equivalent diploma.
- Living in Texas for at least 36 months leading up to the graduation date, or the equivalent diploma.
- Living in and establishing domicile in Texas for at least 12 months prior to college enrollment.

Higher graduation rates for high school and college students benefit Texas families, communities, and our economy. College graduates contribute millions to our state economy annually, filling critical roles in industries like healthcare, education, and technology.

Research shows that repealing in-state tuition would have severe economic consequences, with Texas losing \$461 million annually in economic activity, including \$244.4 million in lost wages and \$216.9 million in diminished spending power. Such outcomes would negatively impact businesses, communities across the state, and the overall Texas economy.

Supporting pro-business policies, including access to in-state tuition for all Texas residents who graduate from a Texas high school, is essential to maintaining Texas's reputation as an economic powerhouse. As Texas business leaders, we understand the importance of pragmatic policies that strengthen our economy and workforce. By prioritizing smart, results-driven solutions, we can secure Texas' position as the best state to live, work, and do business.

Thank you,

