

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HB 1505

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON STATE AFFAIRS

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Hearing Date: March 18, 2021 8:00 AM

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Katrina Fitzpatrick, MSW Intern

Autism Society of Texas

Kyle, TX

The Autism Society of Texas supports the efforts of HB 1505 related to attachments for broadband service on utility poles owned by an electric cooperative. Many people with autism live in areas where there are few or no therapeutic providers locally available. Creating improved accessibility to services and supports via telehealth would be welcome in our community.

Martin Gutierrez, Director of Public Policy & Advocacy

San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

San Antonio, TX

For over 91 years, the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (SAHCC) has been San Antonio's leading advocate for Hispanic businesses and Hispanics in business. We pride ourselves on five pillars of success: small business, economic development, international trade, education, and leadership. On behalf of the Hispanic Chamber's more than 900 members, I write to you today to express our support for HB 1505, which will help expand quality high-speed broadband access across Texas. One of our top fifteen legislative priorities this legislative session is to work with the State and private internet service providers to explore the best options increase availability, adoption, and quality high-speed internet service in underserved areas where connectivity is needed the most.

When it comes to access to quality high-speed internet service, San Antonio is one of the least-well connected among large U.S. Cities, according to the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas. The digital divide has serious implications for our more than 900 small, local and minority owned businesses. Lack of access to quality high-speed internet is a barrier to growth for small businesses. Having quality high-speed internet connection creates benefits such as new revenue, increased productivity, and strong online presence.

HB 1505 is a great step forward to ensuring small businesses have access to all the digital tools needed to grow their business in the new digital economy. The San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce urges you to support HB 1505.