

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on International Relations & Economic Development
For HB 1755

Compiled on: Tuesday, March 21, 2023 9:26 AM

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Hearing Date: March 21, 2023 8:00 AM

Glen Austin
Greater Houston Partnership
Houston, TX

House Committee on International Relations & Economic Development
HB 1755 by Button
Greater Houston Partnership
March 21, 2023

Chairman Button and Committee Members,

I write today on behalf of the Greater Houston Partnership and the Houston business community, which spans a 12-county region and represents over 900 companies. As Texas employers, we regularly work with non-profit organizations, local community colleges and others to help train and hire a wide variety of employees and understand the importance of addressing the opportunity gap.

We urge you to support HB 1755 by Chairwoman Button to create the Lone Star Workforce of the Future Fund to create and sustain a utilization-driven supply of workers for high-demand occupations in Texas. The skilled talent of Texans is and will be the foundation for our success and, more importantly, will be the foundation for our future and our ability to attract business and industry to the state.

The LSWFF will provide grants to eligible nonprofits and technical and community colleges that demonstrate success in delivering impactful training for underserved Texans to access careers in high growth industries. It is essential Texas invests in the workforce pipelines in order to sustain our economic competitiveness.

We are facing a significant shift in our workforce needs and economy—the transition from an industrial economy to a knowledge-based and technology-enabled economy. We must continue to work together to make significant investments in proven workforce development programs reaching non-traditional students and address the skills gap.

HB 1755 is a commonsense performance-based approach to help Texans receive the skills needed for self-sustaining employment and provide the skilled workforce we need for today and tomorrow.

We urge you to support HB 1755 and greatly appreciate the legislature's time and commitment to these important issues. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Taylor Landin
Chief Policy Officer
Greater Houston Partnership