

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Higher Education
For HB 4997

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Hearing Date: April 3, 2023 10:00 AM

Robert Haynes, CEO

Guadalupe Regional Medical Center (GRMC) Former Board Chair Seguin Economic Development & member Central Texas Tech Center CTTC
Seguin, TX

With regard to the Bill (GRMC) are in full support that Texas State Technical College (TSTC) is permitted to operate in this region. If this legislation is passed, TSTC would have the ability to immediately expand their educational offerings at the Central Texas Technology Center. The legislation would also give TSTC the ability to build a new campus, or campuses, in Comal and/or Guadalupe County. Given the challenge is obtaining workforce TSTC has a proven track record of success. We strongly support this effort.

Chester Jenke, Dr.

Seguin Area Chamber of Commerce
Seguin, TX

The Seguin Area Chamber of Commerce supports HB 4997 and the addition of Texas State Technical College (TSTC) to the region. The regional employers have been seeking an avenue to train their new employees in the skills needed to be successful within their business. These same businesses needed an upskill track for their incumbent employees to continue their career progression, TSTC provides the gold standard of these training programs.

The Chamber completed a survey of the Chamber members and the resounding results listed access to workforce training as one of the top items that is needed within the region to continue to keep their businesses on the cutting edge of technology and continue the development of new and improved processes within the research and development realm of operation. The feedback stated that one of the overarching barriers that were present was the lack of access to highly technical training programs - such as those that are offered by TSTC at several of their campuses throughout the state. Addition of TSTC to the region will keep the regional manufacturing workforce strong and will ultimately keep the state at the forefront of recruiting high wage paying jobs to the state of Texas.

The addition of a local TSTC campus also provides excellent opportunities for the local graduating high school students who are seeking employment in the local workforce. Access to the same quality training programs that are offered to the local employers will continue to fill the workforce employee needs pipeline. With the workforce training received and the needed credentials gained provides these students with access to living wage level jobs within the local region.

Given the aforementioned reasons, and so many more the Seguin Area Chamber of Commerce resoundingly supports HB 4997 and the ability for Texas State Technical College to build and operate a local campus within the region.

Donna Dodgen, Mayor
City of Seguin
Seguin, TX

I am very much in support of this bill. Our community and residents as well as those surrounding will benefit from this educational flexibility and it will be an economical stimulus to the area. Seguin is a manufacturing base and has a strong career and technical education need/base. This is an affordable and needed addition to education in our area and again, I am in support. Thank you for your time and attention.

James Lovett
SH 130 Concession Company
Austin, TX

Texas State Technical College (TSTC) is one of our state's top technical training providers. Expanding TSTC's capabilities and operations in Guadalupe & Comal Counties will strengthen the workforce pipeline for our rapidly growing region. This legislation is an important opportunity for improving access to quality technical training. Our company recruits team members from throughout the greater San Antonio-Austin corridor, many of whom live in these two counties. We support this legislation and encourage passage of HB 4997.