

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Insurance
For SB 1643

Compiled on: Tuesday, May 20, 2025 9:56 AM

Note: Comments received by the committee reflect only the view of the individual(s) submitting the comment, who retain sole responsibility for the content of the comment. Neither the committee nor the Texas House of Representatives takes a position on the views expressed in any comment. The committee compiles the comments received for informational purposes only and does not exercise any editorial control over comments.

Hearing Date: May 20, 2025 9:00 AM

Kevin Matula, Mr.

USAA

San Antonio, TX

Submitted Comments on behalf of USAA

RE: Opposition to SB 1643 and Prior Approval Frameworks

Chairman Dean and Members of the Committee: On behalf of USAA, we respectfully—but strongly—oppose SB 1643 and any effort to impose a prior approval framework on Texas insurance regulation. Submitting written comments is not something we do lightly. We are compelled to do so because this bill threatens the strength and stability of Texas’s insurance market. We are sounding the alarm—based on Texas’s own history and warning signs from other states.

In 2003, Texas faced a market in crisis: rising premiums, reduced availability, and carriers leaving the state. The Legislature responded with SB 14, moving away from prior approval to a “file and use” system. That reform delivered two decades of stability, enabling insurers to respond to market changes while maintaining strong oversight through the Texas Department of Insurance. SB 1643 would undo that success, reintroducing a model that failed Texas before.

California offers a cautionary tale:

- Major carriers have paused or exited the market due to delayed or denied rate approvals.
- These delays have restricted insurers’ ability to respond to risk, reducing availability and increasing reliance on the state-run FAIR Plan.
- Regulators are now reconsidering their system, recognizing prior approval has contributed to market instability and fewer choices for consumers.

This is not theoretical. Prior approval also creates significant operational burdens:

- Rate changes require major IT work. When filings are delayed or denied, insurers must reprogram, retest, and reschedule—driving up costs.
- Added fees and outside reviews increase expenses that ultimately impact policyholders.
- In prior approval states, companies like USAA are often forced to limit new business due to regulatory uncertainty.

USAA is headquartered in San Antonio with more than 20,000 employees across Texas. We serve over 1.5 million Texas households, primarily military families and veterans. In 2024, we responded to 74 catastrophe events, processed nearly 439,000 claims, and paid out more than \$4.3 billion to support our members. We also returned \$2.2 billion to members through dividends, distributions, and rewards. Serving at this scale requires a regulatory framework that supports timely, sustainable, data-informed decisions. For years, the Texas Legislature has signaled that it wants companies like USAA to write more business—not less.

Sweeping changes—especially those tied to arbitrary thresholds—should not be made without broad stakeholder consensus and a clear understanding of downstream effects. If deeper review is needed, we stand ready to support an accelerated Sunset Review of the Texas Department of Insurance before 2029.

USAA is sounding the alarm today to protect what’s working—and to ensure the Texas market remains competitive, responsive, and stable for years to come. We respectfully urge the Committee to reject SB 1643.

Lara Keel

Home State Insurance Group

Austin, TX

Against

Gwendolyn Barbee-Yow

self, educator

Houston, TX

I am a first-time homebuyer in 2025, and the expensive cost of home insurance almost kept me from getting a home at all. As the house is a townhouse, the lender thought it was going to be around \$800 a year. Instead, I am spending around \$6k. It is shameful how the people of Texas are taken advantage of by these companies with no real oversight on their pricing. If these rates increase, I (a person with a full-time career achieved through years of education and experience) will have to give up on the small dream of owning this little two-bedroom house. A house with no history of flooding or any major issues that is 50 years old. If you don't do something about this, even renting will become increasingly unaffordable.

steven calelly

self

FRIENDSWOOD, TX

This is a start! Insurance companies should consider their customers housing history and any claims through the years when determining rates. I have been in my house 25 years and have had 1 claim (roof). Rates have gone from \$1300 to \$6500.....if I can find a company to insure me. Thank you

Gordon Ducote

Self

Houston, TX

Skyrocketing homeowners insurance is causing many Texans to do without. My USAA went from \$4k to \$18k in four years. Require the apparently inept or heavily lobbied Texas insurance regulators to do their jobs to protect Texas citizens.

Robert & Teresa Elliott

Self/ sales/ retired

Kemah, TX

The insurance companies are pricing people out of their homes. Rate increases are unsustainable to homeowners!,

Angela Stubbs

self - insurance agent

Leander, TX

I'm very concerned that requiring prior approval for a 10% rate change could delay companies from setting rates needed to insure risks and remain solvent—potentially reducing insurance availability similar to what California residents are experiencing. Texas remains a highly competitive market and recent rate increases reflect rising claims costs in our state, not a failure of regulation. Data from the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) shows Texas among the least profitable states, ranking among the lowest across the following products:

43rd in Private Passenger Auto Insurance

47th in Commercial Auto Insurance

36th in Homeowners Multiperil Insurance

47th in Commercial Multiperil Insurance

Jonathan Eyles, Mr.

self; Teacher

Houston, TX

I am IN FAVOR of this bill.

Heather Eyles, Ms.

self; Director of Content

HOUSTON, TX

I am writing to submit my support IN FAVOR of this bill. Thank you.

Diego Feo-Mendez

Self / Electrical Engineer

Webster, TX

I support this bill, which requires insurance companies to justify increases over 10%. Insurance premium costs must be monitored and controlled.

Amanda Smith

Self

Houston, TX

Insurance rates are unaffordable

We are due for renewal and got first time in 45 years we will have to go without and pray that nothing goes wrong. If so we will lose a significant asset and be homeless This is a very frightening event at a time we were supposed to relax and enjoy after retiring after 50 years of work !! We could not afford to buy another home very sad prospect

Lee Anne Collins

self, Optometrist

Pearland, TX

I support this bill that will require insurance companies to justify rate increases to the TDI. We own a home in Pearland and a vacation home in Galveston, and our rates have SKYROCKETED over the past few years - despite the fact that we've never even filed a claim! For example, our Galveston homeowner's policy has gone from under \$700 in 2022 to nearly \$3000 in 2025! Insurance rates have gotten out of control, and it's time that policies are implemented to prevent abuse of power!

Linda Harness

Self

El Lago, TX

My homeowners insurance has completely gone out of range. Even after I raised all perils to 4% last year, it jumped another \$2,000 this year. My old house is paid for, so I'm not required to purchase this insurance. Many of us widows will need to consider taking the chance with continued outrageous raises.

Tammie Harness

Self

El Lago, TX

I would like you to vote FOR this bill. At the very LEAST make the insurance companies give a justification for increases in Texas insurance! Mine went from 3k to 5k and now 8k in just 3 years! This is ridiculous and will require me to cancel insurance when I realize as this is not sustainable. Thank you

Angel Garza
Self/Retired
Pasadena, TX

Stop the outrageous home insurance increases. Seniors are on fixed income and increasing rates are not sustainable! We need to DOGE insurance industry!

Linda Childers
self
Webster, TX

Homeowners in the Clear Lake area are being priced out of home ownership due to unbelievable homeowners insurance costs. Understand they need to make a profit but there seems to be no oversight on insurance increases.

Joyce Chastain
Self Retired
League City, TX

Hoping this will be a step forward in getting some relief from the HIGH cost of my home insurance.

flora gill, ms
Flora Gill
houston, TX

This bill will do nothing to address the cost of insurance. this bill does nothing to help prevent catastrophe for home owners. it doesn't regulate the insurance industry. it doesn't gather the data that would help counties and cities better understand and build in a way that prevents/mitigates problems. it doesn't offer home owners incentives that will make their home more resilient before a storm hits. Prevention is so much cheaper than disaster clean up. This bill is, at best, useless. At worst it is probably laced with loopholes written by the insurance industry that actually pays your salary and writes the laws.

Valerie Ryder
Self
Houston, TX

I fully support this bill that would require insurers to justify increases greater than 10% and feel additional reform well beyond this is required. This should be a bare minimum, particularly for coastal areas where the rising insurance costs are making home ownership difficult for all and impossible for many.

Arturo Cornejo
Self
Houston, TX

I am writing in support of this bill. Although the community believes this is insufficient it's a step in the right direction. My wife bought our first home in the area believing it would be a forever home to start a family. We are not sure if that's possible anymore. Since purchasing our home 3 years ago, our insurance went from 2300 to 7500. From what we're hearing our rates appear that they will be going up to 10k this year. Please help our already taxed community.

Deborah Winters Chaney, Mrs.
THE Realty Partnership, LLC/Self and Clients
Friendswood, TX

As a Texas licensed Realtor since 2000, the cost of homeowners and flood insurance has continued to go up and has finally reached the point of some costs being higher than some mortgage payments! Many Buyers have now been forced out of the market completely because of the enormous costs of homeowners insurance in many areas of Galveston, Harris, and Brazoria Counties. Something needs to be done if you want to continue to have families living in homes that they own. Thank you!

George Guillen, Dr.

Self

Houston, TX

I support this bill. I live in the clear lake area and we are being crushed by the lack of affordable insurance. I have good good friends who live in comparable risk zones that have lesser rates than me. The mismanagement of insurance industry and their greed has led to this current situation. State government needs to regulate this industry instead of cutting services and deregulating the environment, public health and consumer protection.

Lara Keel

Home State Insurance Group

Austin, TX

Opposed

Jay Boyd

self

Pollok, TX

I do not agree with restricting the insurance companies abilities to have free market and raise rates as they feel necessary. Limiting the ability of insurance companies to raise rates will cause companies to exit our state and cause additional hard ships on our home insurance market

Aurin Tesoro

self

Houston, TX

I would like to encourage you to vote FOR SB 1643 Relating to prior approval of certain property and casualty insurance rate increases or decreases. Personally, I would like to see a lot more done to limit the increases in our Homeowner's insurance premiums, but this is at least a step in that direction. Companies have been raising our premiums to unaffordable levels for the past several years. I fear that too many more homeowners will be forgoing insurance because they cannot afford the premiums.

I have owned my home in Clear Lake (Houston) since 1990. In 2022 my insurance premium was \$2565. This year it is \$5594. That is a 118% increase in only 3 years! I haven't submitted a claim since 2019 when the roof was damaged in a hail storm. I have never submitted a claim as a result of hurricane damage. This is ridiculous!

John Rodgers

Myself

FRIENDSWOOD, TX

As a Texas homeowner living in Harris County, I have noticed, when seeking both homeowners and automobile insurance, very sharp increases over the past several years. Some of the homeowner quotes were absolutely outrageous. We have a modest two story 2200 square feet house, and I was receiving quotes in the seven and eight thousand range for one year of coverage, and that was with very high deductibles. The contradiction was seen when I saw, in the market, the billion dollar profits these companies were reporting. I am hopeful that the Texas legislature, through this bill and possibly other bills, can reign in this bilking of hard-working Texas consumers. My wife and I are senior citizens in our late 60s on modest incomes and simply cannot afford these continual unjustified rate increases. Thank you for taking the time to read my comment and move forward with what lets you sleep at night.

Patricia Brown

Self

Seabrook, TX

Here is my suggestion for this bill:

With all the companies and people coming to Texas, and since they need insurance like the rest of us Texans and that these are potential customers; hence, a source of revenue (premiums) to the insurance companies, this is leverage. If an insurance company wants to do business in our state, it should be required to allocate 5% to 10% of their business to the coastal communities, and the rest to safe places. The coverage can be spread thinly throughout the coastal communities from Beaumont to Brownsville. If there are enough insurance companies in this state, this would result in low exposure to their bottom line, and give us a more competitive market for ratepayers to shop. Further, we can allow the insurance companies to operate tax free to increase the incentives for them to provide insurance to these coastal communities.

Renee Edens

Self / Logistics

Houston, TX

For God's Sakes! Please DO THIS to help Texans. We are being priced out of our homes or faced with dropping home insurance all together due to the price gouging from Insurance companies. My home is now costing me (65 year old Widow) \$857 per month. That's right PER MONTH! Please tell me how this has been allowed to happen. I have never flooded and NO CLAIMS since Ike in 2008 & that was a roof & fence. Texans deserve better than this! I know the song & dance they always give about more events and supply chain and blah blah blah. I work in Logistics you can't use that on me or anyone else any more. Fuel costs are steadily dropping. Supply chain is not that big of a problem anymore but GREED is! As Texans we look to our elected leaders to protect us not use us as pawns with lobbyists! You are playing with our ability to keep a roof over our family's heads. You are playing with our elderly being able to afford to live in their homes after decades of working and contributing. You are playing with whether or not we can afford to protect our property at adequate levels so that we don't have to walk away now or after an event (due to inadequate or no coverage). This is NOT what leaders do! This Bill does very little to protect or help Texans! My premium is over 10K per year! RIDICULOUS! At 10% that is still minimum \$1,000 additional. Now we are choosing between food or insurance. That's where y'all have allowed this to get and this Bill doesn't even stop them at 10% they just have to throw some word salad out there and still charge what they want. Policy holders are feeling trapped! Rightfully so because y'all have done nothing to get to the root of this issue due to lobbyist! We are now seeking help on a Federal level as well. Texas State Government learned nothing on 11/05/2024 We will not be silent, We will no longer accept the crumbs you serve up! You won't need the \$\$\$ or perks from this Industry's lobbyist if you have no seat at the table! Texas Policy Holders are DONE with this abuse! If as a State you CAN'T figure it out or WON'T Figure out how to reign in this out of control Industry we will elect those who can/will and we will continue our plea on a FEDERAL LEVEL Exposing our State's Embarrassing inability to protect their constituents, the \$\$\$\$ each one of you receives from this & other industries associated with & those who profit from this type of gouging and everything/everyone else we can find all the way down to those in the Housing industry that profit when homeowners lose their homes because they can no longer afford their notes or (PITI; Principal, Interest, Taxes & Insurance) in other words their monthly inclusive mortgage note! We can also bring to light the numbers of elderly having to choose between their insurance payment and having food, electricity (don't even get me started on this subject) Drugs, water, and other basic living needs. That is how severe you have allowed this to get! DO SOMETHING SUBSTANTIAL ABOUT THIS NOW!!!

Kathleen Drinnan

self retired

Houston, TX

This is the very least that the insurance companies should do with a rate increase, in light of the recent huge jumps from year to year

Rogelio Rojas

Self

Pearland, TX

I support this bill. Insurance companies increase rates every year and I would like to know the specifics as to why the rates are being increased other than building costs have increased. Double digit insurance rate increases make it difficult on homeowners' finances and adds stress to everyday family life.

Kevin Matula, Mr.

USAA

San Antonio, TX

Submitted Comments on behalf of USAA | Opposition to Senate Bill 1643 and Prior Approval Frameworks for Texas Insurance Regulation

Chairman Dean and Members of the Committee: On behalf of USAA, we respectfully—but strongly—oppose SB 1643 and any effort to impose a prior approval framework on Texas insurance regulation. Submitting written comments is not something we do lightly. We are compelled to do so because this bill threatens the strength and stability of Texas’s insurance market. We are sounding the alarm—based on Texas’s own history and warning signs from other states.

In 2003, Texas faced a market in crisis: rising premiums, reduced availability, and carriers leaving the state. The Legislature responded with SB 14, moving away from prior approval to a “file and use” system. That reform delivered two decades of stability, enabling insurers to respond to market changes while maintaining strong oversight through the Texas Department of Insurance. SB 1643 would undo that success, reintroducing a model that failed Texas before.

California offers a cautionary tale: 1) major carriers have paused or exited the market due to delayed or denied rate approvals; 2) these delays have restricted insurers’ ability to respond to risk, reducing availability and increasing reliance on the state-run FAIR Plan; and 3) regulators are now reconsidering their system, recognizing prior approval has contributed to market instability and fewer choices for consumers.

This is not theoretical. Prior approval creates significant operational burdens: 1) rate changes require major IT work. When filings are delayed or denied, insurers must reprogram, retest, and reschedule—driving up costs; 2) added fees and outside reviews increase expenses that ultimately impact policyholders; and 3) in prior approval states, companies are often forced to limit new business due to regulatory uncertainty.

USAA is headquartered in San Antonio with more than 20,000 employees across Texas. We serve over 1.5 million Texas households, primarily military families and veterans. In 2024, we responded to 74 catastrophe events, processed nearly 439,000 claims, and paid out more than \$4.3 billion to support our members. We also returned \$2.2 billion to members through dividends, distributions, and rewards. Serving at this scale requires a regulatory framework that supports timely, sustainable, data-informed decisions. For years, the Texas Legislature has signaled that it wants companies like USAA to write more business—not less. Sweeping changes—especially those tied to arbitrary thresholds—should not be made without broad stakeholder consensus and a clear understanding of downstream effects.

We are sounding the alarm today to protect what’s working—and to ensure the Texas market remains competitive, responsive, and stable for years to come. We respectfully urge the Committee to reject SB 1643 and preserve the balance that has served Texans well for more than two decades.

Elizabeth Rager

self

Houston, TX

As homeowners in this area, it is becoming more and more difficult to not only find homeowners insurance but also to find affordable homeowner insurance. I hope with this bill, it can begin to start the process of holding insurance companies more accountable to raising rates without justification. I hope this will be a first of many opportunities for things to change so that families can continue the dream of affordable home ownership. Because if things keep moving as they are, Americans will not be able to. We need a change and we need a change NOW!

Thank you for your time.

Emily Garcia, Ms

Self

Houston, TX

I'm on a fixed income and I am very concern about not being able to afford insurance for my home.

David Kimbrough

David Kimbrough Insurance Agency

Houston, TX

The Honorable Senator Charles Schwertner, kind regard to you, sir. I appreciate your past legislative work and what you are currently doing in our Senate. I am an insurance agent, a CPA, A Realtor, and have been a Republican Party Precinct Chair in Harris County for many years, serving on the Financial Oversight Committee. And I am a consumer of insurance. I pay the same rates as everyone else. In addition, companies continually cut our commissions in order to bolster their bottom line and ostensibly keep premiums lower, so I do not make more money with higher rates. In my businesses, I deal with the people who are having to purchase home, auto, and commercial insurance here in Texas. I primarily serve Harris, Galveston and Brazoria counties; areas where the expense is the highest. Adding this kind of regulation may, in my opinion, exacerbate the problems we have. This legislation may cause insurance companies to withdraw from Texas because they can not keep their premiums in line with increasing losses and expenses in a timely manner, thus eating up their profits. And, as you well know, all companies need to make a profit to stay in business. In my view, more regulation is not the solution. We need more competition. One small but immediate impact for our great people would be to get rid of the State insurance policy tax for admitted companies and the premium tax for non-admitted carriers. Such a change would go right to the customers. After that, it seems it would be wise to increase the factors that make Texas a great state in which to do business. Perhaps offering the companies tax incentives, tort reform, limits on lawsuit settlements/punitive damages, a friendly, healthy business environment, and other things that would persuade insurance companies to come here assuring they can make money the right way, by doing good business. When more companies come into the State, prices adjust to what they should be based on losses. Please reconsider this legislation as I fear it will make an already toxic situation worse. We are constantly dealing with the problems associated with companies that are pulling out of Texas. This legislation could easily provoke others to leave. I respect that you believe this legislation is necessary, and my arguments may not be persuasive, but alternatively, would you consider adding a very short hard deadline (such as 30 days) for the Department of Insurance to make their decision regarding rate increases as the bureaucratic delays are also a major concern. I would be happy to discuss this further with you or any of your staff should you desire. I appreciate your kind consideration. Kindest regards, David Kimbrough

Marisela Garza

Self Insurance Agent

Victoria, TX

Concerned companies go leave Texas and have an impact like California

Francisco Hernandez

self

McAllen, TX

It needs to made clear that insurance is at its core a risk-based tool. Anything that is risk based with fluctuations in losses needs to be adjusted accordingly. The risk transfer process from the consumer to the insurer is a gamble. Overexposure to risks because of caps to adjust kills the insurance companies chance to survive and absorb the large unforeseen losses that could drive companies out of business and hurt the consumers.

MARK MILLER

SELF

NEW BRAUNFELS, TX

I support this bill. I don't know of any instance of an insurance company being told to adjusted their filed and used rates retroactively. Many insurance companies are charging actuarially illogical rates currently, including some insurance companies charging long term, existing customers in some instances more than 100% higher rates than new customers with similar risk characteristics in both auto and homeowners policies.

BILLY MUENCH
BILL MUENCH INSURANCE
Round Rock, TX

THIS IS A DOUBLE EDGE SWORD - LOOK AT WHAT HAPPENED IN CALIFORNIA - INSURANCE COMPANY HIRES ACTUARIES TO MAKE SURE THEY REMAIN PROFITABLE AND COMPETITIVE , WHICH IS THE BEST PROTECION FOR THE CONSUMER . IF A COMPANY CAN NOT MAKE A PROFIT - YOU WIND UP IN A "CALIFORNIA MESS ! "

Brett Hubbard
Firstline Insurance Agency
Fort Worth, TX

We have already seen states like CA experience massive issues with the availability of insurance products when the state won't allow prompt rate changes. Texas is already a very difficult state to be profitable for insurance companies and putting these barriers in place will only make it more difficult.

THOMAS GUZMAN, JR
INSURANCE COMPANIES IN TEXAS
PHARR, TX

COMPANIES MOVING OUT OF TEXAS OR NOT ENTERING TEXAS.

Paul Arceneaux
SELF
Dallas, TX

Please do not vote for the bill to approve rates in property and casualty insurance. We do not want to be dependent on government insurance like the state of California. Thank you for your consideration.

Gabriela\ Stinson Street
Self-Insurance Agent
Carrollton, TX

As an active insurance agent licensed in Texas, I strongly oppose HB 5519 and SB 1643.

These bills threaten the very stability of our state's insurance market by forcing a prior approval process that will delay critical rate adjustments. In today's inflationary and high-claims environment, this kind of regulatory bottleneck is a recipe for reduced insurer participation, fewer consumer options, and increased risk of market withdrawal — just look at the crisis unfolding in California.

Texas has long maintained a competitive, flexible insurance market that benefits both consumers and businesses. Rate increases today aren't a result of regulatory failure — they reflect real economic pressures like rising repair costs, natural disaster frequency, and supply chain disruptions.

Imposing artificial caps and political hurdles does not protect consumers — it hurts them by reducing availability and access to coverage when they need it most.

I urge you to reject these bills and stand for a free, competitive marketplace that allows insurers to operate responsibly, adapt to risk, and serve Texans efficiently.

Nesta Street
Self- Insurance Agent
Carrotllton, TX

As an active insurance agent licensed in Texas, I strongly oppose HB 5519 and SB 1643.

These bills threaten the very stability of our state's insurance market by forcing a prior approval process that will delay critical rate adjustments. In today's inflationary and high-claims environment, this kind of regulatory bottleneck is a recipe for reduced insurer participation, fewer consumer options, and increased risk of market withdrawal — just look at the crisis unfolding in California.

Texas has long maintained a competitive, flexible insurance market that benefits both consumers and businesses. Rate increases today aren't a result of regulatory failure — they reflect real economic pressures like rising repair costs, natural disaster frequency, and supply chain disruptions.

Imposing artificial caps and political hurdles does not protect consumers — it hurts them by reducing availability and access to coverage when they need it most.

I urge you to reject these bills and stand for a free, competitive marketplace that allows insurers to operate responsibly, adapt to risk, and serve Texans efficiently.

Brian Lucas
self, Sales Leader
Prosper, TX

California insurance market has suffered due to over-regulation of insurance rates and inflexibility of the CDI to allow P&C insurers to adjust to the rising costs of claims. As a result, carriers have exited the market in large numbers, putting strain on the market and creating a large gap in residents' abilities to get insurance at all, regardless of affordability. The outcome has been overwhelming the "last result" fair plan and creating an environment that relies heavily on non-admitted solutions.

Let's not over-regulate, but instead create an environment that's inviting to admitted carriers to operate in this state.

Richard Ember
Self
Brownwood, TX

Problems in the Texas Insurance market have been caused by a succession of major weather events. In our area, this started with the Big Freeze and has been added to year-by-year with destructive hailstorms. The market has been hit by the weather and not a lack of regulation. This proposed change risks reducing Texas to the same distress that California finds itself in and I urge you to reject this unnecessary and harmful change.

Richard Bunch
Self CEO of TWFG Insurance
The Woodlands, TX

TX DOI already has authority over rate filings and has the ability to reject or force carriers to revise their rates. This bill would be copying the failed policies that have eliminated the Insurance Market in California. Why would TX copy California? You can't legislate inflationary impacts to losses paid out by insurance companies. TX is one of the least profitable states to operate and insurance carrier for Property and Casualty.

The ability to file rates is critical to the viability of the marketplace. Too much price controlling will lead to what is going on in California. In California, the state backed California Fair Plan has become the #1 new business Homeowner insurer given the lack of market options followed by the Excess and Surplus lines marketplace that is not subject to rate reviews.

Regulating roofing contractors would be the #1 thing TX could do to impact rates as they have driven the property market losses.

I am opposed to SB 1643 and any other bill that would jeopardize the ability for Texans to have access to a competitive insurance marketplace.

Don't California my Texas!

Suzanne Politz
self
Sachse, TX

I am writing to express strong opposition to two legislative proposals—HB 5519 and SB 1643—that threaten the stability of Texas' competitive insurance market and the industry's ability to respond swiftly to rising claims costs.

Under current law, insurers can implement rate changes without delay, enabling a responsive and competitive environment that benefits consumers. HB 5519, heard by the House Insurance Committee on April 30, would impose prior approval for auto and homeowners rate changes above 5%. Even more concerning, SB 1643, which has already passed the Senate and will be heard in the House on May 14, would require prior approval for any rate increase over 10% in auto, property, and commercial insurance lines.

These bills risk creating unnecessary delays in insurers' ability to adjust rates to reflect real-time market conditions, rising claims costs, and evolving risk exposures. Such regulatory shifts could force insurers to underprice risk, jeopardizing solvency and, ultimately, reducing insurance availability across the state—just as we're seeing unfold in California under a similar system.

It is important to understand that recent rate increases are a reflection of increased loss costs, not regulatory failure. In fact, Texas remains one of the most competitive markets in the country. According to the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC), Texas ranks among the least profitable states in several key insurance segments:

43rd in Private Passenger Auto Insurance

47th in Commercial Auto Insurance

36th in Homeowners Multiperil Insurance

47th in Commercial Multiperil Insurance

This data underscores that profitability is already stretched thin—adding prior approval to this environment will only compound market stress and consumer impact.

I urge you to oppose HB 5519 and SB 1643. These proposals may appear to enhance regulatory oversight, but they carry the risk of significant unintended consequences, including reduced insurer participation and coverage availability, particularly in underserved or high-risk areas.

Please help ensure that Texas maintains a stable, competitive, and responsive insurance market.

Ashley LEMONS
1st Wellington Agency
Wellington, TX

Please don't pass this. This system could delay individual companies from setting rates needed to insure risks and remain solvent.

Ronald Masterson, President
M&M Insurance Agency & Associates, LLC
Nacogdoches, TX

Please keep the Texas Market open. We do not need to be like California...

Brian Besch
TexStar Insurance Services
Austin, TX

I disagree with the requirement for insurance companies being forced to seek prior approval of rate increases. If you try and limit the insurance companies' income, then you must also limit their expenses. Otherwise, all you do is choke off the availability of insurance. We are seeing this right now in California. I have been an insurance agent for 37 years and remember when this was the case in Texas. It stifled competition then. It is not American to limit an industries revenue while doing nothing to limit their expenses. Vote against SB 1643.

Jeffrey Lund
self
Fort Worth, TX

Please reconsider this bill, Putting more red tape around carriers trying to stay competitive and solvent in this hard market will cause these carriers to keep the higher premiums on Texas residents long term. Look at the California market, More carriers have left the California market than have stayed because the high loss ratios and the DOI that has refused to work with carriers. Please don't California my TEXAS..

Jeff Watts

Self

Porter, TX

I'm writing to express my strong support for SB 1643, legislation that would cap insurance companies' ability to increase auto and home insurance premiums by more than 10% annually. This bill is urgently needed to protect everyday Texans from unchecked, unsustainable rate hikes.

Over the past three years, my auto insurance premium has doubled—from \$200 to \$400 per month—even though I've had no accidents, no claims, and no tickets. If this trend continues, I could be paying over \$650 a month by 2027. That's simply unaffordable for middle-class families like mine.

It's not just auto insurance—my homeowner's insurance increased by 25% in a single year. I haven't filed any claims. Nothing has changed about my home. So why are my costs skyrocketing?

While Texans are struggling to keep up with these expenses, major insurance companies are thriving:

Allstate returned \$3.4 billion to shareholders in 2022

Approved 16.9% rate hikes as part of a "profit improvement plan"

Maintains a \$61.8 billion investment portfolio

Paid out nearly \$1 billion in dividends

These numbers make it clear: this isn't just about covering rising costs—it's about boosting corporate profits at the expense of hardworking Texans. That's wrong.

SB 1643 offers a commonsense solution. It doesn't ban rate increases—it simply limits them to a reasonable 10% annually. That allows insurers to remain solvent and profitable without exploiting consumers. It brings fairness, transparency, and accountability to a system that currently feels anything but.

The Senate has already recognized the urgent need for reform, passing SB 1643 with a strong bipartisan vote of 25–5. Now it's time for the Texas House to act.

Please stand with Texas families. Support SB 1643 and help rein in runaway insurance costs before more of us are priced out of basic coverage.

Caleb Backholm, Mr

Self

Fort Worth, TX

I am an insurance agent and a precinct chair in Tarrant County. I oppose this bill that would require pre-approval in order to raise insurance rates. Texas is already a state that is difficult for companies to be competitive in due to our many weather-related challenges, and this bill would make it worse. We have seen insurance companies leaving states such as California due to an inability to make a competitive profit. We don't want that in Texas. A free and healthy competitive market is what keeps prices as lower and supply higher, and the government should not manipulate that.

Andrea Ramirez

self/ insurance agent

Pflugerville, TX

The market is already hard, if its hard to adjust to the rates, markets will be forced to go out of business

Brandon Cloud

self

Kyle, TX

as much as yall may feel this is fair its not. as an insurance agent that's been in the industry for over a decade i know how important it is for insurance companies to be able to adjust rates whenever they can so that they can still be profitable and competitive in the industry. Texas is a hard beast to handle and in passing this bill is just going to eventually force companies to pull out of texas.

Aaron Husman

The Phoenix Insurance

Dallas, TX

The passage of this bill will do far more harm than good for the citizens of Texas. I am sure Senator Schwertner was, like many Texans, shocked by the level of premium increases on home and auto coverage over the last 2 years. As an independent insurance agency owner, my staff had to work tirelessly to minimize the impact of these rate increases on our clients. 2024 was the hardest year I've experienced in my 21 year career. My staff and I work with carriers and insureds to find solutions to problems at hand. To find effective solutions to problems, it is vital that one dig deep and get below the surface to discover the root of the problem. Rate increases are the symptom, not the problem. More regulation in the insurance space is going to constrict consumer access to the coverage they have become accustomed to. More regulation in Roofing would improve the quality of the contractor pool and minimize the fraud that is rampant within roofing claims. Litigation costs are through the roof, causing carriers to pay more for losses. There are small but mighty group of consumers that see an auto insurance claim as a lottery ticket and a home insurance claim as a home makeover. The attorneys and contractors facilitating these big wins should draw the focus of the accountability. This bill is nothing more than surface level problem solving, but it will cause much bigger problems that will only result in more frustration for consumers. Look at the mess in the California Insurance market. Is that what you want for Texas? If not, do not pass this bill.

Laura Crain

Crain Insurance Group - Independent Insurance Agency Owner

Cypress, TX

As a local independent agency owner serving Texas families, I want to express strong concern over House Bill 5519. While I understand the intention to protect consumers from steep rate hikes, this bill could have serious unintended consequences for Texans across the state.

HB 5519 would force insurance companies to get prior approval from the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) for any rate increase above 5%, this will slow down the process dramatically. The reality is, insurers need to be able to respond quickly to rising claims costs, inflation, and the severe weather events that are becoming all too common in our state. When that flexibility is taken away, it doesn't just hurt the carriers, it hurts the consumer. Fewer carriers in the market means less competition, fewer options, and ultimately, higher premiums and reduced coverage availability.

If you want to see what kind of damage this can cause, look no further than California. Their prior-approval system has led to multiple insurance carriers pausing or pulling out of the market altogether. Homeowners are now struggling to find coverage, especially in high-risk areas, and prices have gone up anyway, now just with fewer options. That's not consumer protection. That's a broken system.

Texas has long benefited from an open, competitive insurance market thanks to the file-and-use model. It's allowed companies to operate here while giving consumers choices. Shifting to prior approval puts that at risk.

At Crain Insurance Group, we're all about doing what's right for our clients and that includes advocating for a healthy, stable, and competitive insurance market. Let's not close the door on options by forcing insurers out. I respectfully urge our lawmakers to reconsider HB 5519 and protect the long-term health of our state's insurance system.

Kevin Hendricks
Self, insurance agent
Prosper, TX

I am writing to urge you to oppose SB 1643, which would require prior approval from the Texas Department of Insurance for rate changes exceeding 10% for property and casualty insurance.

While the intention may be to protect consumers, this bill could end up doing the opposite. By adding regulatory red tape, it slows insurers' ability to respond to real-time market conditions like inflation, supply chain delays, and increasingly volatile weather events. These delays can actually drive premiums higher, not lower, as insurers are forced to build in buffers for uncertainty.

This bill could also reduce market competition. Smaller insurers—often the most innovative and consumer-friendly—may be discouraged from doing business in Texas due to the increased administrative burden. Less competition means fewer choices and higher prices for consumers in the long run.

Texans need a responsive, competitive insurance market. SB 1643 threatens that balance and could end up hurting the very people it claims to help.

Please vote no on SB 1643.

Preston Wood
Self
Plano, TX

I am very concerned that a change like the one proposed in SB1643 could delay individual companies from setting rates needed to insure risks and remain solvent. This could potentially reduce insurance availability similar to what California residents are experiencing, we must keep the insurance market in Texas strong and flexible.

Thomas Athas
Self/ Retired
Grapevine, TX

Keep Texas insurance markets open.

Sarah Hamilton, Insurance Agent
Self - Insurance Agent/Managing Partner
Pflugerville, TX

Requiring approval for a rate increase above 10% would not only reduce insurance availability to residents but also make hundreds of small "mom and pop" insurance agencies go under and lose their livelihood. Residents are already experiencing increasing insurance costs across all markets especially in the coastal areas. Passing this bill would make finding affordable rates even harder as many insurance carriers would go solvent. Please keep Texas a highly competitive market in the auto and homeowners markets, passing of the bill will not accomplish that.

pat beaman
self
keller, TX

insurance is a competitive market and the state does not have the expertise to properly set rates for independent companies. People will vote with their feet and find more competitive companies if they are so inclined. Instituting a prior approval system will inevitably lead to higher rates and less availability. Don't California my Texas

Eric Reish
Texas Unity Insurance Services
Prosper, TX

Don't California my Texas. If there is anything to learn from the errors California politicians have made, stepping in to control insurance rates is not the role of government. The competitive market will manage rates and coverage on its own with no government intervention.

Jan Laman
Self - Insurance Agency Owner
League City, TX

Insurance Companies need the freedom to adjust rates based on the need. These companies want to be competitive so prior approval just isn't needed. I vote NO on this bill.

Carol Watkins
self
San Angelo, TX

We don't want companies to pull out of TX

Anthony Harper, Mr.
Self-Insurance Agent
Porter, TX

I am very concerned that such a system could delay individual companies from setting rates needed to insure risks and remain solvent—potentially reducing insurance availability similar to what California residents are experiencing. Texas remains a highly competitive market and recent rate increases reflect rising claims costs, not a failure of regulation. Therefore, I request a NO Vote to SB 1643.

Dennis Polian
Self - Agency Owner: The Polian Agency - Farmers Insurance
Woodway, TX

A previous industry brought my family to central Texas. We fell in love with the community and the values, and decided to raise our family here. Thus, I made a career change and opened a small insurance agency so we wouldn't have to move, and we could plant roots. The reason we chose insurance is because we were informed that Texas was pro small business, pro business and pro open markets. SB 1643 threatens those values. When it comes to profitability, insuring risks in Texas is among the worst states to conduct business in. However, companies remain solvent and agencies thrive because the market remains open. Rates are able to fluctuate both up and down; allowing the consumer to shop for the best coverage and value. The current market also rewards good consumers, providing good rates for less claims, in particular, at fault auto claims. This bill and HB 5519 would eliminate this fluidity and cause more harm to consumers and business owners than good. We chose to raise our family in Texas because we didn't think it was California or New York as it relates to opportunity and family values. What is happening in this year's legislative session is an indication that we may have been wrong about that. I urge all representatives who have not solidified a position to block out the noise and put the consumer and small business owners across state ahead of specific interests that only reside in Austin. Thank you for your consideration, and thank you for your public service!

Ralph Muszynski
Self / Sales
Greenville, TX

I feel that any limiting of an insurance carrier to make timely needed rate modifications would degrade the competitive open insurance market in Texas and potentially impact insurance availability similar to what California residents are experiencing which is an abysmal market for consumers.

Elizabeth Correa
Insurance Agent
Horizon City, TX

I am a captive agent with farmers insurance. We have consistently provided a quality product to our clients and have communicated in depth with them about the rising cost of claims and how rates will increase with the continued hurdles of insurance fraud by a consumer, and the high cost of materials to repair their autos or homes. They are receptive to the increases when they are informed and given resources to offset those increase. ,

RICHARD BOTHE
GENERAL INSURANCE
Keene, TX

PLEASE DO NOT PASS THESE BILLS! IF OUR INSURANCE COMPANIES BECOME INSOLVENT CAUSE THEY CAN'T GET ENOUGH PREMIUM! THEN YOU WILL HAVE A MUCH BIGGER MESS TO CLEAN UP THEN YOU DO NOW!

Nick Wright
Agent
Longview, TX

I reject this bill due to the level of a Hard insurance market as we are seeing in Texas already and needing to keep the market open for our Texas residents to help to growth and help sustain financial hardship

Robert Tillotson
Myself
Austin, TX

Insurance companies reporting inquiries to LexisNexis (clue report) which are non paid claims. Making to where other companies refuse to offer plans then doubling and tripling rate. LexisNexis is part the scheme. I have had two paid home claims since 2016 (2 homes in Austin) and unable to obtain coverage from another company. liberty Mutual refuses to delete this "inquiries" and filed them and "claims" I can not obtain lower cost coverage and can not afford liberty mutual any longer. They aren't removing these.

Benjamin Lichnovsky
Self - Insurance Agency Owner
Conroe, TX

Hi there,

I strongly urge you to oppose SB 1643 and HB 5519. I am very concerned that such a system would delay individual companies from setting rates needed to insure risks and remain solvent. This type of system will reduce insurance availability, similar to what California residents are experiencing. Texas remains a highly competitive market, and recent rate increases reflect rising claims costs (due to inflation), not a failure of regulation. The best solution for rising insurance costs is a competitive, free market, and a healthy economy. We are already seeing positive results this year, with many insurance carriers wanting to grow and lowering rates and increasing discounts.

Insurance carriers would be forced to exit Texas to remain solvent, leading to less competition/fewer options, worse coverages, higher deductibles, and higher rates - the exact thing that occurred in California.

If the goal is to ease the burden of rising insurance costs for Texas residents, I encourage you to consider refunding the Property Tax Surplus directly to homeowners to help offset premium expenses.

Thank you for your service to Texas and for considering my concerns.

Scott Hodges

Self

Cisco, TX

More legislation on companies will not fix rising costs, only a strong competitive market place can do that. We need more companies wanting to write business in Texas not limiting markets and areas to products which takes away any and all competition among companies. Texas is in bottom 10% of all states in profitability in the insurance market. We need to do all we can to promote a environment that companies can operate and compete in Texas insurance market and other companies to come here as well. Legislation has never worked as a "fix" to any business problem, competition has and that is what we need to encourage and promote. Reinsurance market has finally settled a little so current environment looks better than it has in 3 years but this type of legislation could derail all of the positive momentum in the market place. Less legislation and more competition is the answer... Thank you for your considering this common sense approach. Sincerely, Scott Hodges

Samuel Sharp

Self - Insurance Producer

Houston, TX

There is concern that this bill will cause delays in being able to write business and will in turn make more carriers pull out of certain counties of Texas or the entire state. As more carriers leave, the carriers that stay are left with books of business that are overfilled. These overfilled exposures will in turn cause rates to rise high or force carriers to be more exclusive in their pricing. We are already seeing the industry overvalue properties in an attempt to reduce the number of new business accounts gained within a certain area or zip code. Our primary fear is that as this regulation is introduced we will slowly form our market to reflect that of California's insurance market, that being highly controlled and monitored while also being underfunded due to regulations in rate changes.

Enoc Iglesias, Agent

CONNECTION INSURANCE SERVICES INC

EL PASO, TX

WE WANT Texas insurance market and ensure broad availability across the state.

Deeann Duckworth

Self- Insurance Agent and Business Owner

Houston, TX

SB 1643 would hurt the consumers options for insurance and would create insurance issues as with the case of California. I oppose this Bill.