DeAnn Walker

From:

Tom Smith

Sent:

Sunday, June 11, 2017 9:57 PM

To:

DeAnn Walker

Subject:

follow up on VW settlement and invitation to speak at a 6/26 workshop on VW

settlement

Attachments:

agenda v 8.docx

Hope the veto season isn't too intense for you and you have gotten a little rest

I am checking in to see if you have made decisions on the VW settlement or are at a point where a discussion with the COGs, MPO's, ports, transit authorities and others who are the potential beneficiaries would be useful in that process.

TCAWG is hosting a workshop on the 26th at the Austin Convention center. The purpose of to discuss which technologies are available and offer the biggest reductions for the buck. We remain hopeful if the beneficiaries work together that we can pull technology forward and perhaps even lure a manufacturer to Texas. Speaking of which there may be a French hybrid electric shuttle bus manufacturer looking for a US manufacturing base. Who would you recommend I talk to in the administration that is doing recruitment?

The 8th draft agenda is attached

We'd like to invite you or someone from TCEQ to speak in the morning of the 26th around 11 for around 10 minutes?

Please let me know.

Thanks and happy trails to you

Smitty

5121-797-846

Luke Belisnyder

From:

Amanda Martin

Sent:

Friday, June 09, 2017 2:39 PM

To:

Reed Clay; Jay Dyer; Luke Bellsnyder; bryan.law@senate.texas.gov;

pam.johnson@house.texas.gov

Cc:

Jeff Moseley; Chris Wallace; Gary Gibson; Ron Luke

Subject:

Revised Veto Letter for HB 490

Attachments:

HB 490 Veto Letter_REVISED.pdf

Greetings,

Please see the revised veto letter for HB 490.

Best,

Amanda Montagne Martin Governmental Affairs Manager Texas Association of Business 1209 Nueces Street Austin, TX 78701

Phone: (512) 637-7708 Fax: (512) 477-0836 Cell: (512) 461-5819

E-mail:

Follow TAB on Twitter and Facebook

Luke Bellsnyder

From: Amanda Martin

Sent: Thursday, June 08, 2017 11:47 AM

To: Gary Gibson; Ron Luke; Reed Clay; Jay Dyer; Luke Bellsnyder; Kate Hendrix

Cc: Jeff Moseley

Subject: Veto Letters to Gov. Abbott

Attachments: HB 1917 Veto Letter.pdf; HB 1036 Veto Letter.pdf; HB 490 Veto Letter.pdf

Greetings,

Please see the attached letters from TAB's CEO Jeff Moseley.

Best,

Amanda Montagne Martin Governmental Affairs Manager Texas Association of Business 1209 Nueces Street Austin, TX 78701 Phone: (512) 637-7708

Fax: (512) 477-0836 Cell: (512) 461-5819

E-mail:

Follow TAB on Twitter and Facebook



June 9, 2017

The Honorable Greg Abbott Governor of Texas State Capitol Room 2S.1 Austin. TX 78701

Dear Governor Abbott:

RE: Please veto HB 490 (REVISED)

On behalf of thousands of members from across Texas and over 200 chambers of commerce, the Texas Association of Business (TAB) respectfully opposes HB 490 by Rep. Rodney Anderson.

HB 490 mandates coverage for hearing aids. Because the cost of health insurance coverage is a primary concern for the members of TAB, we oppose all new health benefit mandates.

Adding new, expensive mandates to health benefit plans increases the costs for businesses and employers and adds to the growing number of uninsured in Texas. Employers ultimately pay the high price for mandated health care benefits through higher health care premiums, co-pays, reduced wages, and benefit reductions. Most large businesses receive their health care benefits under self-funded arrangements, which are preempted under ERISA and are exempted from state law. Thus, health benefit mandates more negatively affect small employer and individual policies.

Many mandates are estimated to increase premiums by millions of dollars. In fact, each mandate increases the cost of health insurance premiums by approximately one to five percent, which may seem insignificant, but every one percent increase in premiums costs consumers and employers an estimated \$230 million a year in the fully insured market. **Texas already has 41 health benefit mandates in place – the third highest in the country.** Therefore, we urge you to oppose all new mandates. In the end, mandates can hurt the very people that they were meant to help – individual employees and their families.

TAB is asking that you veto HB 490 because we know that it will have negative consequences for the employers and employees of Texas. At a time when working families all over Texas are struggling, this bill will only add to their financial burden.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Jeff Moseley, CEO

P.S. In the previous version of this letter, we incorrectly stated that ERS and TRS were removed from the legislation. We apologize for the error.

cc: The Honorable Rodney Anderson, House District 105

The Honorable Lois Kolkhorst, Senate District 18

Mr. Gary Gibson, TAB Board Chair

Dr. Ron Luke, TAB Health Care Committee Chair

Mr. Reed Clay, Deputy Chief of Staff to Gov. Abbott

Mr. Jay Dyer, Legislative Director to Gov. Abbott

Mr. Luke Bellsnyder, Senior Advisor to Gov. Abbott



June 7, 2017

The Honorable Greg Abbott Governor of Texas State Capitol Room 2S.1 Austin, TX 78701

Dear Governor Abbott:

RE: Please veto HB 1917

On behalf of thousands of business members from across Texas and over 200 chambers of commerce, the Texas Association of Business (TAB) respectfully opposes HB 1917 by Representative Raymond.

HB 1917 delays the final transition of the prescription drug benefit in Texas Medicaid to managed care management to 2023. Currently, the statute sets the final transition for August 31. 2018.

TAB urges you to allow for the transition of the Medicaid prescription drug benefit to private health plan management to occur as scheduled. This could mean significant savings to the state. The Health and Human Services Commission and their independent actuary Rudd & Wisdom stated that the transition would save the state \$40 million in General Revenue per year and \$100 million in all funds. It will also reduce state-funded Medicaid drug spending by 22.7%.

At a time when health care costs are rising and Texas employers are forced to make tough decisions, Texas would be wise to continue the transition to Medicaid managed care and allow health plans to fully manage the Medicaid prescription drug benefit. Texas health plans have demonstrated they have the time-tested tools and private market leverage to achieve significant savings while improving care, and their management of the drug benefit is sure to yield similar results.

TAB supports allowing managed care organizations (MCOs) to use their own formularies and their own prior authorization for prescription drug coverage as part of the continued transition to Medicaid managed care from the former fee-for-service payment model. Therefore, TAB is asking that you veto HB 1917.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Jeff Moseley, CEO

P.S. Keeping the existing transition date saves taxpayer dollars.

cc: The Honorable Richard Raymond, House District 42

The Honorable Charles Schwertner, Senate District 5

Mr. Gary Gibson, TAB Board Chair

Dr. Ron Luke, TAB Health Care Committee Chair

Mr. Reed Clay, Deputy Chief of Staff to Gov. Abbott

Mr. Jay Dyer, Legislative Director to Gov. Abbott

Ms. Kate Hendrix, Policy Advisor to Gov. Abbott



June 7, 2017

The Honorable Greg Abbott Governor of Texas State Capitol Room 2S.1 Austin, TX 78701

Dear Governor Abbott:

RE: Please veto HB 1036

On behalf of thousands of members from across Texas and over 200 chambers of commerce, the Texas Association of Business (TAB) respectfully opposes HB 1036 by Rep. Senfronia Thompson.

HB 1036 mandates coverage for certain breast cancer screening procedures. Because the cost of health insurance coverage is a primary concern for the members of TAB, we oppose all new health benefit mandates.

Adding new, expensive mandates to health benefit plans increases the costs for businesses and employers and adds to the growing number of uninsured in Texas. Employers ultimately pay the high price for mandated health care benefits through higher health care premiums, co-pays, reduced wages, and benefit reductions. Most large businesses receive their health care benefits under self-funded arrangements, which are preempted under ERISA and are exempted from state law. Thus, health benefit mandates more negatively affect small employer and individual policies.

Many mandates are estimated to increase premiums by millions of dollars. In fact, each mandate increases the cost of health insurance premiums by approximately one to five percent, which may seem insignificant, but every one percent increase in premiums costs consumers and employers an estimated \$230 million a year in the fully insured market. **Texas already has 41 health benefit mandates in place – the third highest in the country.** Therefore, we urge you to oppose all new mandates. In the end, mandates can hurt the very people that they were meant to help – individual employees and their families.

TAB is asking that you veto HB 1036 because we know that it will have negative consequences for the employers and employees of Texas. At a time when working families all over Texas are struggling, this bill will only add to their financial burden.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Jeff Moseley, CEO

cc: The Honorable Senfronia Thompson, House District 141

The Honorable John Whitmire, Senate District 15

Mr. Gary Gibson, TAB Board Chair

Dr. Ron Luke, TAB Health Care Committee Chair Mr. Reed Clay, Deputy Chief of Staff to Gov. Abbott Mr. Jay Dyer, Legislative Director to Gov. Abbott Mr. Luke Bellsnyder, Senior Advisor to Gov. Abbott





June 7, 2017

The Honorable Greg Abbott Governor of Texas State Capitol Room 2S.1 Austin, TX 78701

Dear Governor Abbott:

RE: Please veto HB 490

On behalf of thousands of members from across Texas and over 200 chambers of commerce, the Texas Association of Business (TAB) respectfully opposes HB 490 by Rep. Rodney Anderson.

HB 490 mandates coverage for hearing aids. Because the cost of health insurance coverage is a primary concern for the members of TAB, we oppose all new health benefit mandates.

Adding new, expensive mandates to health benefit plans increases the costs for businesses and employers and adds to the growing number of uninsured in Texas. Employers ultimately pay the high price for mandated health care benefits through higher health care premiums, co-pays, reduced wages, and benefit reductions. Most large businesses receive their health care benefits under self-funded arrangements, which are preempted under ERISA and are exempted from state law. Thus, health benefit mandates more negatively affect small employer and individual policies.

Many mandates are estimated to increase premiums by millions of dollars. In fact, each mandate increases the cost of health insurance premiums by approximately one to five percent, which may seem insignificant, but every one percent increase in premiums costs consumers and employers an estimated \$230 million a year in the fully insured market. **Texas already has 41 health benefit mandates in place – the third highest in the country.** Therefore, we urge you to oppose all new mandates. In the end, mandates can hurt the very people that they were meant to help – individual employees and their families.

TAB is asking that you veto HB 490 because we know that it will have negative consequences for the employers and employees of Texas. At a time when working families all over Texas are struggling, this bill will only add to their financial burden.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Jeff Moseley, CEO

P.S. The filed version of the bill included both ERS and TRS, but they were removed in the Committee Substitute. I believe that illustrates the potential cost.

cc: The Honorable Rodney Anderson, House District 105

The Honorable Lois Kolkhorst, Senate District 18

Mr. Gary Gibson, TAB Board Chair

Dr. Ron Luke, TAB Health Care Committee Chair

Mr. Reed Clay, Deputy Chief of Staff to Gov. Abbott

Mr. Jay Dyer, Legislative Director to Gov. Abbott

Mr. Luke Bellsnyder, Senior Advisor to Gov. Abbott

Libby Elliott

From:

Johnson, Susan Richmond

Sent:

Monday, June 12, 2017 2:12 PIVI

To:

Libby Elliott

Subject:

RE: Drew?

Ah – got it. Thank you. So Drew is still Policy Director, right? Also, I'm sure this week is hectic for you with the veto period, and I need to get through some deadlines today and tomorrow. Would you have time to talk Wed? Have a few things to flag.

Susan Richmond Johnson

P: (703) 247-5454 | C: (703) 568-5785

sjohnson@tagholdings.com | www.tagholdings.com

TAG HOLDINGS

From: Libby Elliott [mailto:Libby.Elliott@gov.texas.gov]

Sent: Monday, June 12, 2017 2:10 PM

To: Johnson, Susan Richmond

Subject: RE: Drew?

No ma'am. Drew is still here.

Robert Allen (Deputy CoS) left in the spring and David Whitley (Appts Director) was elevated into the Deputy CoS slot. There are two Deputy CoS... The other is Reed Clay.

From: Johnson, Susan Richmond

Sent: Monday, June 12, 2017 2:09 PIVI

To: Libby Elliott <Libby.Elliott@gov.texas.gov>

Subject: Drew?

Did Drew leave? Heard there's a new policy chief - David something?

Susan Richmond Johnson

P: (703) 247-5454 | C: (703) 568-5785

www.tagholdings.com

TAG HOLDINGS

Preston Streufert

From:

Lacy Britten

Sent:

Wednesday, June 14, 2017 4:48 PM

To:

Preston Streufert

Subject:

Please Veto SB 1913 and HB 351

Dear Governor Abbott:

My name is Lacy Britten, and I have been a municipal judge for almost 18 years. I am respectfully requesting that you veto SB 1913 and HB 351 because both of these bills shift the burden of responsibility from the defendant in a criminal case to the court itself and will cost all our courts more money, time and resources with absolutely no evidence that these measures will increase the defendant's compliance with the law and the court's orders or enhance public safety in any way. I disagree with the opinion of some others that SB 1913 and HB 351 will reduce the costs of incarceration to cities because that opinion is simply not based on any real, objective, measureable evidence. That position does not take into account the additional costs that will be incurred by the courts to comply with these bills and does not consider what was being done by the court in the first place. . . meaning that if the court was already granting people payment plans and community service as my courts have done for years, these bills simply make more work for the court personnel with no evidence of any real impact on compliance with the law or the court's order or the enhancement of public safety. Further, I disagree with the opinion that these bills take a "balanced" approach in that the bills remove responsibility from the defendant for their own actions and for timely responding to a citation personally given to them and place new requirements and restrictions solely on the court. I also fail to see how these bills make our community safer---public safety has been lost in the discussion of this issue, as has the reality that this is not a "debt", but rather punishment for a criminal offense.

As an example of the needless requirements under this bill, consider the following: Our law currently requires that the defendant be given a citation in writing that provides the defendant notice of a myriad of things including that they must appear in court within a certain period of time of resolve their ticket (pay it, set it for court, request defensive driving, etc.). This written citation is given to the defendant in person by a peace officer. If the defendant does not appear by the deadline, both SB 1913 and HB 351 require that the court set the defendant's case for court and notify them by telephone or regular mail of that date, along with other information. There is simply no logical reason to believe that a defendant who has failed to appear after being given written notice in person (our legal system's highest level of service) would respond to a second notice provided by telephone or mail. Because defendants are not required to furnish a telephone number, nor are police officers required to even attempt to obtain a telephone number, it is unlikely that court's will utilize the telephone as a way of providing notice to the hundreds and thousands of defendants who fail to appear. That means that the court will be required to expend court resources (money, personnel, and court time) to mail thousands of letters attempting to obtain the defendant's appearance in court when the most effective method (in person delivery of notice) has already been tried and has failed. Note that both bills require a court setting---they could have simply required a notice to the defendant with a grace period where the obligation remains on the defendant to contact the court, but the drafters chose instead to place the burden and expense on the city/state.

The same reasoning applies to the requirement under the bill that the court set every defendant who has failed to comply with the court's orders for a court hearing prior to issuing a capias. The vast majority of defendants received a written judgment or order of deferred disposition in person spelling out in detail the requirements of what they must do to comply----why would setting them for court a second time increase their compliance. This again requires the mailing of thousands of letters to try to get the defendant to appear in court rather than placing the burden on the defendant to contact the court when they need additional time to pay or perhaps to change their payment plan to community service because their circumstances have changed.

Additionally, another example of how the burden has been erroneously shifted from the defendant to the court is the sections of both bills which require the court to inquire whether the defendant has sufficient resources or income to immediately pay all or part of the fine and costs. The law already provides that the court must allow a defendant who is unable to pay the fine and costs immediately to make payments (CCP 45.041)---these two bills simply require that the court ask the question of every one of the thousands of defendants who come through court. This is overly burdensome and unnecessary.

Further, both of these bills require that community service be credited at the rate of \$100 for every 8 hours worked which works out to \$12.50/hour. It baffles me that defendants who are serving community service as punishment for a criminal offense, albeit a minor offense, are "paid" more than ordinary Texans who are simply working at the minimum wage of \$7.25/hour. It seems disingenuous and patently unfair that our state would only require a law abiding citizen to be paid a minimum of \$7.25/hour, but at the same time mandate that a defendant in a criminal offense be "paid" \$12.50/hour.

I respectfully request that you veto SB 1913 and HB 351. I appreciate your consideration.

Lacy Britten 2501 Whitehaven North Colleyville, TX 76034 817/ 416-7770

Preston Streufert

From:

Acuna, Michae

Sent:

Friday, June 09, 2017 1:13 PM

To:

Preston Streufert

Subject:

Requested veto of SB 1913

Attachments:

Governor Abbott SB 1913 letter.pdf

Dear Mr. Streufer,

My name is Michael Acuña. I am a full-time judge with the City of Dallas. My chief judge, the Honorable Daniel F. Solis, has signed the attached letter requesting the Governor veto SB 1913 for the reasons stated.

I would be happy to answer any questions you have regarding the City of Dallas' request.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you, sir,

Michael Acuña Presiding Judge, City of Dallas Municipal Court Number 11 (214) 671-9901



City of Dallas Municipal Court Judiciary

June 9, 2017

Governor Greg Abbott Office of the Governor State Insurance Building 1100 San Jacinto Austin, Texas 78701

Re: Senate Bill 1913

Dear Governor Abbott:

I write to you in my capacity as Administrative Judge for the City of Dallas Municipal Courts. Senate Bill 1913 has been sent to you for your signature. During this year's regular legislative session the City of Dallas worked diligently in collaboration with many stakeholders concerning the language and issues related to this bill. The City of Dallas suggested revisions to the language and gave countless hours of input regarding various amendments.

While the intent of this bill is commendable and many of the procedures described by the bill were already utilized by Dallas before the legislative session began, the City of Dallas feels that some of the requirements of Senate Bill 1913 are unduly burdensome on the municipal courts to implement in a practical way.

I understand that House Bill 351 also passed both houses and has been presented to you for your signature. The subject matter and language of that bill is the same as the subject matter and language of Senate Bill 1913. The requirements of House Bill 351 are more practical to implement than Senate Bill 1913 while accomplishing many of the same goals. Because Senate Bill 1913 was passed later in time, it would control if nothing is done.

Due to the concerns related to Senate Bill 1913, if the two bills cannot be reconciled in favor of the language in HB 351, we in Dallas respectfully ask that Senate Bill 1913 be vetoed. Please feel free to contact me or Judge Michael Acuña at (214) 671-9901 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Daniel F. Solis

Administrative Judge

City of Dallas Municipal Courts

Daniel J. Solis

2014 Main Street, Room 331

Dallas, Texas 75201



The Honorable Greg Abbott Office of the Governor Texas State Capitol Room 25.1 Austin, Texas 78701

June 8, 2017

RE: HB 1917

Dear Governor Abbott:

Thank you for allowing Aetna Better Health of Texas to express our concerns with HB 1917. We respectfully request your consideration in vetoing HB 1917, which will unnecessarily cost Texas at least \$40M annually in general revenue through 2023 and will prohibit the Medicaid program from delivering more affordable and effective care.

Texas is moving to a more efficient Medicaid prescription drug program through Medicaid managed care. Managed care organizations are best positioned to negotiate the most clinically effective and lowest cost drugs. The transition to managed care control has been scheduled for August 31, 2018 by the Texas Legislature. However, HB 1917 would repeal this transition, thereby blocking progress to a more efficient prescription drug program and healthier Medicaid program overall.

Aetna Better Health of Texas is committed to providing quality health care services to vulnerable populations across the State of Texas and feels strongly that more can be accomplished though prescription drug formulary management. Our experience in other states shows this and numerous studies conducted in TX reach the same conclusion. To an individual, health care is not a segmented and compartmentalized experience. Management of an individual's health care should not be segmented and compartmentalized either. Currently, the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) makes decisions related to the formulary without taking into account the cost implications and clinical outcomes of an individual's total medical care. This fragmented approach increases expenditures and results in less favorable health outcomes.

HHSC's ongoing control of the formulary negatively impacts individuals and the state alike, including:

- Patient Impact: the current state run formulary is a static and incomplete formulary. Timely changes are critical for any effective formulary and the market can move faster than the state when making changes. For example, when a new generic drug comes to market, it is common practice for prescribing providers to start writing for the generic drug and pharmacies to start dispensing the drug. In the private market, the new generic drug provides savings and equal clinical outcomes immediately. However, since the state is slow to add new drugs and the current state controlled formulary favors rebates, the brand name will still be the "preferred" drug, thereby requiring a provider prescribing the generic drug to go through a prior authorization process. The prior authorization process, which should be used for expensive and complex drugs, instead delays patient's access to the new generic drug.
- Provider Impact: By the same token, slow changes to the state run formulary increase the
 administrative burden for providers caring for Medicaid members. To build on the same
 example cited above, providers are stuck going through a prior authorization process for a
 generic drug. That is nearly unheard of in the private market and again, adds no value to the

patient, provider, or state. Managed care organization control of the formulary would eliminate this easy to identify issue that is causing both patient and provider abrasion.

- Efficiency: When new brand name drugs are released, the state vendor drug program review and negotiation process can take months (or even years) to play out, all the while leaving patients without access to the drug. Managed care organizations bring private innovation and capacities to the state, including the expertise necessary to bring new clinical tools and drugs to the Medicaid program in a timely and efficient manner. State-based delays and static formulary processes also can prevent the most clinically effective drugs from being utilized. For example, the current state run formulary lists Suprax as the preferred antibiotic drug simply because of the rebate obtained from Suprax's manufacturer. More clinically and cost effective antibiotics are on the market that could help lower the overall cost of treating individuals, yet the state forces Suprax to be heavily prescribed because of its position on the state controlled formulary.
- Cost to the State: HB 1917 ignores costs to the state. Conservative estimates indicate that
 HHSC would save \$40M in general revenue per year if formulary control is turned over to
 manage care organizations. However, beyond even those conservative savings estimates, long
 term patient impacts and a lack of dynamic flexibility in the state controlled process is where the
 true costs lie. Patients deserve comprehensive care that is addressed from all angles, and HB
 1917 prevents a more comprehensive approach. The long term cost of inefficient care far
 outweighs any particular drug rebate promised by a drug company today.

Prescription drug costs are the single fastest rising segment of health care costs today. Vetoing HB 1917 will ensure that Texas can become a leader in finding market based solutions to control drug costs while increasing clinical outcomes for Texans. In other words, vetoing HB 1917 is a win for patients, providers, and the state. Vetoing HB 1917 is a win for Texas.

Thank you for your consideration. I am available to discuss any questions you may have at 214-200-8226 or FowlerP@aetna.com.

Best Regards,

Patrina L. Fowler

Patrina Fowler CEO, Aetna Better Health of Texas 2777 N. Stemmons Fwy Dallas, Tx 75207

214-200-8226 T

The Honorable Greg Abbott Office of the Governor Texas State Capitol Room 25.1 Austin, Texas 78701

Re HB 1917 - Medicaid Prescription Drug Benefits

Dear Governor Abbott:

Please veto HB 1917. In my opinion, as a physician working with the Texas Medicaid population every day; it is bad for patients, bad for doctors, bad for quality and efficiency of care, and bad for the State's budget. HB 1917 retains a counter intuitive system of favoring brand name drugs over generic drugs (in return for rebates), which causes patients to encounter nonsensical denials at pharmacies, doctors to have to rework nonsensically denied prescriptions, and the State to lose money. It also continues to hamper the ability of the State's managed care organizations to do their jobs in providing necessary and cost-effective care to their Medicaid members.

As the pharmaceutical industry is all for retaining the status quo, through enactment of HB 1917, it makes me wonder how the status quo benefits them financially, vs. our State?

Please reject the status quo and consider the very real, everyday adverse effects this legislation will have on Texas's more vulnerable patients, doctors, pharmacies, and our collective pocketbook.

Please call me if you would like to discuss my recommendation. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

To Texas Health,

J. Scott Simpson, MD 16407 Kidd Lane

Austin. Texas 78734

512 413-2855

Ben Watson

From:

Rania Mankarious

Sent:

Thursday, June 15, 2017 10:03 AM

To: Subject: Jay Dyer RE: Quick call

Jay,

I spoke to Stephen Albright yesterday. He was wonderful and will speak to Governor Abbott about our item. We all believe, including Stephen, that there is no way Governor Abbott would veto our item and knowingly hurt an organization like Crime Stoppers of Houston, a non-profit that is literally bringing the community together to do everything Governor Abbott champions and stands for and is also supported by many if not most of Houston's major individual donors, corporate partners, elected officials, media partners, legislators and more. There is a misconception that Crime Stoppers if "flushed with cash". That is simply not true and everyone here knows it. Those saying that about our organization are blithely unaware of our reality. That said, our community, dealing with ever growing crime issues that are unfathomable for a thriving city like Houston, has come together and done a majority of the heavy lifting. Together, we built the first-ever nation-wide and world-wide Crime Stoppers Headquarters right here in Houston (The Dave Ward Building Crime Stoppers of Houston). We have created programs to protect law enforcement, children in schools, home owners, business owners, retailors, children, the elderly, animals and more. We do most of this through positive, targeted and critical educational programming using trained staff. We go into the best schools and into the worst, we go from River Oaks to Sunnyside. As a model, we have also increased our technology to reach children and communities in rural parts of the state through online video conferencing. We were planning to increase our technology and programming to address the rising nexus between mental health and crime addressing everything from terror, active shooters, violence to youth suicidal ideation stemming from bullying. These are very real topics and we are the group that is asked to address them. And we do. We have showed up wherever we are asked and are making a real difference.

We are the Crime Stoppers you know of with a productive tip line but we are also so, so, so much more.

We have renewed hope that the Governor can and will help us through his governing power over the CJD and will not stop working on this item until it's resolved. After 36 years of incredible service, we are making a **one-time request** for an amount of money that has been called a rounding error, but to us is critically important as we manage these changing times.

I had to thank you though because the first thing Stephen said is that you spoke to him. Walter was correct, you are a gem of a person, Jay. That is a really big deal for the community - we need people like you (and more people like you) in these offices. If there is anyone else you think I can talk to, please let me know. I have moved my trip to Austin to Wednesday as I know how busy you all are this week. I hope I get a chance to say hello to you then.

Thank you, thank you, thank you and thank you again.

With my sincerest regards, Rania

Rania Mankarious, MA, JD Executive Director Crime Stoppers of Houston P.O. Box 541654; Houston, TX 77254-1654

Direct Line:	
Email:	

-----Original Message-----From: Rania Mankarious

Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2017 10:08 AM

To: jay.dyer@gov.texas.gov

Subject: Quick call

Jay,

Thank you for your time yesterday and for your help. Would you call me please? I have an update. My cell is I'll be in Austin Friday.

My sincerest regards,

Rania Mankarious, MA, JD Executive Director Crime Stoppers of Houston 713-817-5678 Sandlin Bennett 201206130456



TEXAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

President Mary M. Dennis, Mayor, Live Oak Executive Director Bennett Sandlin

May 30, 2017

RECEIVED

The Honorable Greg Abbott Office of the Governor P.O. Box 12428 Austin, Texas 78711-2428 JUN 10 2017

OOG/CCOM

Dear Governor Abbott:

I am writing on behalf of the Texas Municipal League to urge you to veto <u>H.B. 1643</u>. The bill provides that a city can adopt or enforce an ordinance regarding the operation of a drone only if it is used: (a) during a special event that involves use of the city's public property and use or coordination of the city's services; (b) by the city itself; or (c) near a facility or infrastructure owned by the city, but only if the city applies for and receives authorization from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to adopt the regulation.

This preemption of city authority fails to adequately protect Texas communities. The FAA, in its final rule on drones, clearly signaled that there is some room for city governments to legislate on this issue. Federal Register / Vol. 81, No. 124 / 28 June 2016 / Rules and Regulations p42194, available at: https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-06-28/pdf/2016-15079.pdf.

While drones have the potential to revolutionize many industries and services, they also present challenges. There are some safety issues, for instance, when operators fly their drones over people or near planes and other structures. To make sure accountability accompanies the growth of this innovative technology, cities should be should be able to punish operators for operating drones in a manner that recklessly endangers persons or property.

Texas cities are not interested in inhibiting the legal use of this new technology; however, they should retain the right to keep their citizens safe and respond to complaints about the irresponsible use of drones.

For these reasons, we respectfully ask that you veto H.B. 1643.

Sincerely,

Bennett Sandlin Executive Director

☆ TASB

De Garavilla Jim 201706120762

Texas Association of School Boards

P.O. Box 400 • Austin, Texas 78767-0400 • 512.467.0222 12007 Research Blvd. • Austin, Texas 78759-2439 • www.tasb.org

Serving Texas Schools Since 1949

RECEIVED

100 (18 12)

OOG/CCOM

The Honorable Greg Abbott Governor's Office PO Box 12428

Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Abbott:

On behalf of the 1,024 school districts across the state, the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) urges you to veto House Bill 1643. The bill would constrain the ability of independent school districts to enact reasonable regulations necessary to protect our students and communities from the use of drones.

The bill's requirements would hinder school district's ability to quickly respond to safety and privacy risks to our students and communities. Texas school districts have seen a significant increase in drone use by students, employees, and third parties on campuses in recent years, and not simply for educational purposes. Our campuses are relatively small but have a high concentration of people, mostly minors. Naturally, that leads to concerns about safety, particularly if the drones are operated by inexperienced hobbyists. It also brings about concerns of privacy, as other concerns that implicate the schools' police powers, such as land use, trespass, and law enforcement.

Schools cannot rely on existing federal and state laws to address all of the safety and privacy risks. For example, laws on voyeurism have limited intent requirements. The Texas Privacy Act fails to prohibit the use of drones to capture images on public property. A drone could therefore hover over a school playground and only violate state law in limited circumstances. A district with assistance from local municipal ordinance, could limit that kind of drone use, but HB 1643 would prohibit that action without first going through the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

The FAA has stated local governments may legally regulate some drone use. The FAA has stated that federal law regulates operation in the navigable airspace and certain aviation safety matters. School districts and colleges obtain approval from the FAA before enacting regulations that are within the FAA's jurisdiction. However, the FAA has stated that concerns regarding state and local governments' police powers are not subject to federal regulation. In addition to common law and federal and state laws that grant the schools and colleges the power to address specific issues, state law grants schools and colleges the general power to issue rules addressing the safety and welfare of students, employees, and property. HB 1643 would prohibit schools from exercising their powers in the limited context of drone use absent the narrow exceptions, limiting their local control and responsiveness to the needs of their students and communities. FAA, State and Local Regulation of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Fact Sheet, www.faa.gov/uas/resources/uas_regulations_policy/media/UAS_Fact_Sheet_Final.pdf.

For more information on our perspective related to drone use on campus, please see the attached articles, *Heads Up: Legal Questions about Drones at School* (about school districts) and *Drones on Campus* (for a college audience).

For these reasons, I respectfully request that you veto HB 1643. TASR staff is available to answer any questions you may have about this issue. You may contact Ruben Longoria at or 512.478.4044.

Sincerely,

Jim de Garavilla

Vice President, Silsbee ISD Board of Trustees

Rde Sandle

Chair, TASB Legislative Committee

Lafosilierettang 201706680438





June 6, 2017

VIA E-MAIL: morgan.stewart@gov.texas.gov

The Honorable Greg Abbott Governor of Texas Office of the Governor P.O. Box 12428 Austin, Texas 78711-2428

Dear Governor Abbott:

Re: Request for Gubernatorial VETO of S.B. 1248

I am writing on behalf of the City of Plano to urge you to veto S.B. 1248.

City of Plano 1520 K Avenue Plano, TX 75074 P.O. Box 860358 Plano, TX 75086-0358 Tel: 972.941.7000

SB1248-16h

plano.gov

RECEIVED

JUN 07 2017

OOG/CCOM

The bill provides that: (1) a city is prohibited from requiring a change in the nonconforming use of any manufactured home lot if: (a) the nonconforming use of the land constituting the manufactured home is authorized by law; and (b) at least 50 percent of the lots in the community are physically occupied by a manufactured home used as a residence; (2) a change in the nonconforming use in (1) includes: (a) requiring the number of lots to be decreased; and (b) declaring that lots have been abandoned based on a period of continuous abandonment for less than 12 months; and (3) a manufactured home owner may install a new or used manufactured home (regardless of size) or any appurtenance for which a nonconforming use is authorized, provided that the home or appurtenance as well as the installation comply with: (a) nonconforming land use standards (including separation, setback and lot size standards) applicable on the date the use of the land was authorized by law; and (b) all applicable state and federal law and standards in effect on the date of the installation of the manufactured home or appurtenance.

What does that mean in plain English? It means that, when a manufactured home park starts to deteriorate into a partially-occupied slum, the bill prohibits a city from protecting the neighbor's surrounding it. The bill allows a manufactured home park owner, who hasn't done proper upkeep, to ignore modern regulations that are necessary for the protect ion of property values and proper public safety response.

The League very much supp011s manufactured housing as one affordable housing option. That's why we agreed to legislation decades ago to allow it in appropriate areas of a city. However, when older parks become unsafe and deteriorated, it makes sense to allow cities to protect neighboring residents.

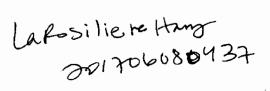
For these reasons, we respectfully ask that you veto S.B. 1248.

Sincerely,

Harry LaRosilie

Harry LaRosiliere

MAYOR





P.O. Box 860358 Plano, TX 75086-0358

Tel: 972.941.7000



June 6, 2017

VIA E-MAIL: morgan.stewart@gov.texas.gov

The Honorable Greg Abbott Governor of Texas Office of the Governor P.O. Box 12428 Austin, Texas 78711-2428

Re: Request for Gubernatorial VETO of H.B. 1643

RECEIVED

City of Plano

1520 K Avenue Plano, TX 75074

JUN 07 2817

OOGICCOM

Dear Governor Abbott:

I am writing on behalf of the City of Plano to urge you to veto H.B. 1643. The bill provides that a city can adopt or enforce an ordinance regarding the operation of a drone only if it is used: (a) during a special event that involves use of the city's public property and use or coordination of the city's services; (b) by the city itself; or (c) near a facility or infrastructure owned by the city, but only if the city applies for and receives authorization from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to adopt the regulation.

This preemption of city authority fails to adequately protect Texas communities. The FAA, in its final rule on drones, clearly signaled that there is some room for city governments to legislate on this issue. Federal Register 1 Vol. 81, No. 124 I 28 June 20 16 I Rules and Regulations p42194, available at: https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-06-28/pdf/2016-15079.pdf.

While drones have the potential to revolutionize many industries and services, they also present challenges. There are some safety issues, for instance, when operators fly their drones over people or near planes and other structures. To make sure accountability accompanies the growth of this innovative technology, cities should be should be able to punish operators for operating drones in a manner that recklessly endangers persons or property.

Texas cities are not interested in inhibiting the legal use of this new technology; however, they should retain the right to keep their citizens safe and respond to complaints about the irresponsible use of drones.

For these reasons, we respectfully ask that you veto H.B. 1643.

Sincerely,

Harry LaRosilia

Lakosiliere Hams 201204080435

City of Plano

1520 K Avenue

Plano, TX 75074

P.O. Box 860358

Tel: 972.941.7000

Plano, TX 75086-0358

RECEIVED

um 07 25.7

OOG/CCOM

June 6, 2017

VIA E-MAIL: morgan.stewart@gov.texas.gov

The Honorable Greg Abbott Governor of Texas Office of the Governor P.O. Box 12428 Austin, Texas 78711-2428

Re: Request for Gubernatorial VETO of S.B. 1004

Dear Governor Abbott:

On behalf of the City of Plano, I write to you today to urge you to VETO S.B. 1004. As written, this bill significantly impacts the use of city right-of-way and the City's safe management of these spaces, and they subsidize private companies with tax dollars.

Four key reasons why the City requests you to VETO the bill are:

- 1. Cities need to retain control of what goes in their right-of-way, the bill takes that control away; and
- 2. Cities, under the Texas Constitution, are mandated to receive fair market rental value for use of public right-of-way, the bill subsidizes private companies for this use of public property; and
- 3. The bill mandates use of street signs, traffic structures and street lights for antennas; and
- 4. The bill subsidizes the industry with below market rental rates and capped application fees.

The bill imposes various mandates that require a city to allow for "wireless nodes" not only to place new poles in the right-of-way, but also to place antennas on city light poles, traffic poles, street signs, and other city poles. Third-party access to traffic control devices is a serious safety issue. While there are some restrictions in residential areas, the bill has no spacing requirements for poles 50 feet or taller running like a picket fence in the right-of-way, nor does it have clear limitation as to how many antennas could be placed on a street sign.



Mayor

The Honorable Greg Abbott Governor of Texas June 6, 2017

Page 2

This legislation is not needed, as many cities have already entered into license agreements to allow hundreds of node sites. For example, Dallas, Houston, and San Antonio/CPS have them. The Houston rental rate is at least \$2,500 per node, but he bill will reduce that to \$250 per node. Plano has been negotiating a price of \$2,000 per node. One company Plano has been negotiating with has an initial proposal of 94 nodes. The price reduction would result in a revenue loss of \$164,500 annually for just this one company. The estimated future fiscal losses to cities (city residents) are in the hundreds of millions of dollars. The price per node right now in the bill is a taxpayer subsidy to the telecom industry, as are the capped application fees. All other utility companies (electric, gas, communications, and fiber) compensate the City for use of the right-of-way.

Cities have been working with these companies to deploy their technology, but the industry has decided it would rather exploit the public right-of-ways with few restrictions and below market rates, all at the tax payers' expense. Cities want this technology, but we need adequate controls. Governor Abbott, please VETO S.B. 1004.

Sincerely,

Harry LaRosiller

Cyrier 18thn 20170113021

RECEIVED

STATE REPRESENTATIVE JOHN P. CYRIER

NE 8HB3535 O

DISTRICT 17

May 27, 2017

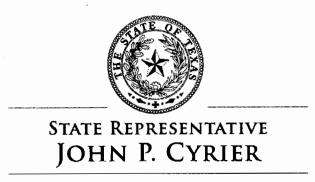
The Honorable Greg Abbott Governor of Texas 1100 Congress 2S.1 Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Governor Abbott,

I respectfully request your veto of House Bill 3535, relating to the taking of certain feral hogs and coyotes using a hot air balloon, should it come to your desk. This bill passed the House on the Local and Consent Calendar, and I regrettably did not have an opportunity to express my concerns. As you are aware, my hometown of Lockhart experienced a great tragedy this past summer with a fatal hot air balloon crash that killed all sixteen passengers. It occurred four miles from my home. I witnessed the horrific aftermath; it is something I will never forget.

Since the accident, I have remained in frequent communication with the National Transportation Safety Board, which is conducting an investigation into the crash and preparing a final report with recommendations. Throughout this process, I learned that regulations concerning hot air balloons have received little attention or update since the 1930s and are in dire need of modernization. I am a licensed pilot with ample flight time and have great appreciation for the seriousness of this situation.

Until hot air balloon regulations receive due attention, they present a heightened risk to public safety. This is especially the case for the commercial balloon industry. I am an avid hunter and have terminated countless feral hogs and other invasive species on my ranch and across our state. I appreciate HB 3535's intent to help eradicate and control the feral hog problem. However, the serious problems that currently exist with hot air balloon flights were not adequately addressed during this bill's consideration. I am especially concerned that this bill creates a false sense of safety associated with hot air balloons and may lead to future catastrophes unless and until the documented problems with hot air balloon regulations are adequately addressed.



DISTRICT 17

We are currently able to eradicate hogs from helicopters, which I have done. This is a much safer practice and I have never experienced a hindrance to terminating hogs using methods already allowed by law. As such, HB 3535 poses new risks to public safety with no additional benefit.

Thank you for your ongoing support of my district throughout the tragedies that we have endured during your governorship, and for your leadership during the 85th Texas Legislature. I also appreciate your consideration of my concern with HB 3535. Please do not hesitate to call upon me anytime if I may be of assistance.

Sincerely,

John P. Cyrier

District 17

Johanna Meade

From: Drew DeBerry

Sent: Friday, June 16, 2017 4:48 PM

To: Gregory M. Ellis

Subject: RE: HB 3025 -- well plugging bill

I am sorry I was unable to respond sooner. I assume you saw this bill was vetoed. If you have questions, I am happy to answer them.

Drew DeBerry
Director of Budget & Policy
Governor Greg Abbott

From: Gregory M. Ellis

Sent: Thursday, June 15, 2017 2:08 PM

To: Drew DeBerry < Drew. DeBerry@gov.texas.gov>

Subject: HB 3025 -- well plugging bill

Terral Smith recommended I contact you regarding the possible veto of HB 3025 related to open, uncovered, abandoned, or deteriorated wells. I've heard the Governor is considering a veto of that bill because it supposedly broadens the authority of Groundwater Conservation Districts. The bill actually does the opposite. Current law allows a GCD to "permanently close" any "open or uncovered well" with 10-days' notice. The bill would restrict that authority to "deteriorated wells" (meaning a well that is actually causing pollution of surface water or groundwater) and would also allow the District to repair the well instead of just plugging it.

Please let me know if there is anything I can do or any information I can provide regarding HB 3025.

Thanks!

Greg

Gregory M. Ellis Attorney at Law 2104 Midway Court League City, TX 77573

Phone: (713) 705-4861 Fax: (512) 236-5265

This message, as well as any attached document, contains information from the law office of Gregory M. Ellis that is confidential and privileged, or may contain attorney work product. The information is intended only for the use of the addressee named above. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, or distribution of this email or attached documents, or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this message or its attachments is strictly prohibited, and may be unlawful. If you have received this message in error, please (1) immediately notify me by reply email, (2) do not review, copy, save, forward, or print this email or any of its attachments, and (3) immediately delete and destroy this email, its attachments and all copies thereof. Unintended transmission does not constitute waiver of the attorney-client privilege or any other privilege.

Ben Watson

From:

Jay Dyer

Sent:

Friday, June 16, 2017 8:38 AM

To:

Graham Keever

Subject:

Re: ummmm

I tried calling you. I talked to the senator.

Jay Dyer Legislative Affairs Office of the Governor 512-463-6886

This document consists of an internal bill analysis and/or working paper prepared by the governor's office for the purpose of evaluating proposed legislation, pursuant to Texas Government Code §552.106.

On Jun 15, 2017, at 3:42 PM, Graham Keever < Graham.Keever@senate.texas.gov > wrote:

https://gov.texas.gov/news/post/governor-abbott-vetoes-sb-1444

Ben Watson

From:

Judith Zaffirini

Sent:

Thursday, June 15, 2017 12:43 PM

To:

Jav Dver

Cc:

Daniel Hodge; Sean Griffin; Jorge Ramirez

Subject:

Re: TV Report: Guardianship Crimes Occurred in Courtroom

This is just one example of how I communicated directly with you re guardianship, dating back to before the governor's inauguration. The vetoed SB 667 was the cornerstone of our four-year effort.

We are trying to determine if there is anything we can do to salvage the project during special session. Your feedback and suggestions, if any, would be welcomed. If you will let us know who objected to the bill, we could try to address his or her concerns.

Clearly, we failed to communicate the crisis effectively to Gov. Abbott, so we will examine/evaluate our efforts to learn from this failure. In the meantime, bad actors, including corrupt judges and conspirators who abuse, neglect, and exploit persons under guardianship, will rest more easily. We who care cannot.

By the way, the veto of the bill transferring the Texas Office for the Prevention of Developmental Disabilities to UT means that the program will be TERMINATED. This bill would have continued it and is the only program in the state that focuses on PREVENTING intellectual and developmental disabilities such as those caused by Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. Again, I don't understand....

Although 10 vetoes is a harsh blow that is difficult to accept, especially since I was confident in what I thought was our productive and open working relationship, I am immensely grateful for the governor signing my texting, debtors prison, and other bills.

Thank you for your working with us and for your many courtesies.

Z

From: Jay Dyer < <u>Jay.Dyer@gov.texas.gov</u>>
Date: Sunday, March 12, 2017 at 9:54 AM

To: Judith Zaffirini

Subject: RE: TV Report: Guardianship Crimes Occurred in Courtroom

So sad. Thank you for sending.

From: Judith Zaffirini

Sent: Saturday, March 11, 2017 3:28 PM

To: Daniel Hodge <dth@gov.texas.gov>; Logan Spence <Logan.spence@Itgov.state.tx.us>; Jay Dyer

<Jay.Dyer@gov.texas.gov>

Cc: Sean Griffin <Sean.Griffin@senate.texas.gov>; Jorge Ramirez <Jorge.Ramirez@senate.texas.gov>; Timothy Stostad

<Timothy.Stostad@senate.texas.gov>

Subject: FW: TV Report: Guardianship Crimes Occurred in Courtroom

I posted related information on my FB wall.

Caroline Conte

From:

Sent:

Thursday, June 15, 2017 4:31 PM

To:

Caroline Conte

Subject:

TELICON-ANNOUNCEMENT

Follow Up Flag:

Flag Status:

Follow up

Flagged

All bills have been signed/vetoed and the veto messages are online.

Ben Taylor

From: Cindy Asmussen

Sent: Thursday, June 15, 2017 3:24 PM

To: Ben Taylor
Cc: Trayce Bradford
Subject: Re: HB 1342

Ben,

That is great news. Thank you very much!

Cindy Asmussen TX Ethics & Religious Liberty Advisor Southern Baptists of TX Convention 512-300-5322

On Jun 15, 2017, at 3:13 PM, Ben Taylor <Ben.Taylor@gov.texas.gov<mailto:Ben.Taylor@gov.texas.gov>> wrote:

Cindy and Trayce,

I know y'all were following HB 1342 during session, and I wanted to let you know that Governor Abbott has vetoed the bill. Here is his veto statement:

https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fgov.texas.gov%2Fnews%2Fpost%2Fgovernorabbott-vetoes-hb-

134&data=02%7C01%7CBen.Taylor%40gov.texas.gov%7C4529d77d0807417c5c8f08d4b42c7e8d%7C54cb5da6c7344242 bbc25c947e85fb2c%7C0%7C0%7C636331550575342058&sdata=nFvQpCxgRQsvVKCglqiUiJZrxG32s5xNU1bc802nFS4%3 D&reserved=0

Thanks, Ben

Ben Taylor Outreach Director Office of Governor Greg Abbott

Office: (512) 463-1774 Mobile: (512) 914-0333

Ben Taylor

From: Sent: To: Cc: Subject:	Trayce Bradford Thursday, June 15, 2017 3:39 PM Cindy Asmussen Ben Taylor Re: HB 1342		
Ben,			
Thank you so much for letting us know! I appreciated the governor's thoughtful response on this issue.			
Again, thank you for the follow up!			
Blessings, Trayce			
Sent from my iPhone			
 On Jun 15, 2017, at 3:24 PM, Cin Ben, That is great news. Thank you ve Cindy Asmussen TX Ethics & Religious Liberty Adv Southern Baptists of TX Conventices 512-300-5322 On Jun 15, 2017, at 3:13 PM, Ber 	ery much!	vrote: co:Ben.Taylor@gov.texas.gov>> wrote:	
<pre>> Cindy and Trayce, ></pre>			
bill. Here is his veto statement: > https://na01.safelinks.protection abbott-vetoes-hb- 134&data=02%7C01%7CBen.Taylo	n.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fgov. or%40gov.texas.gov%7C11c0d2bb90b2442	texas.gov%2Fnews%2Fpost%2Fgovernor-399f208d4b42e8b59%7C54cb5da6c734424b0Of7Tp6VAj5pP9CSzuwXqVIQXE9CG6CjXm2	

> Office: (512) 463-1774 > Mobile: (512) 914-0333

>