



SB 4 Testimony
February 2, 2017
Texas Senate Committee on State Affairs

On behalf of the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, America's first Hispanic business organization founded in 1929, we urge the Senate State Affairs Committee and the entire Texas Senate to oppose legislation such as SB 4. These types of proposals are detrimental to our State's economic and social vibrancies.

Our small business community in San Antonio would like to dispel any myths about the contributions immigrants have had in our country, society, and most importantly our workforce. The efforts put forth in proposed legislation such as SB 4 will harm our developing workforce and economic vibrancy.

If all undocumented immigrants were removed from our state's social and economic fabrics, Texas stands to lose:

- \$69.3 billion in economic activity,
- \$30.8 billion in gross state product, and
- Approximately 403,174 jobs.

Texas depends on immigrants to do, take, and develop the jobs that Americans create and don't otherwise want to fill. Immigrants have worked in the fields, commercial and retail spaces, and the hospitality industry and have chosen this as their home to raise and educate their children – the workforce of tomorrow. The business community depends on \$10 billion in total net business income which is generated by immigrant business in Texas. Furthermore, undocumented immigrants pay \$1.6 billion in Texas state and local taxes.

The immigrant community and our current and future workforce merit the Senate's careful consideration. Our founders were immigrants, and we must be more considerate of the impact that legislation that will profile immigrants or send pockets of this population into the shadows will have on our state's economy.

Texas is home to;

- 4.4 million immigrants,
- 16.5% of Texans are foreign born, and
- 42.5% of Texans are Latino or Asian,

These diverse group hold a place in Texas society, Texas business, and our economic future. The rich binational commerce from which Texas heavily benefits is key to building our workforce and remaining competitive in the global marketplace. As an advocate and representative of the Hispanic businesses, corporations, and a stakeholder in my community I strongly urge members of this legislative body to safeguard our workforce and oppose proposals such as SB 4 that will harm our state at multiple levels.