



March 27, 2025

To: Senate Education K-16 Committee
Re: Public testimony FOR SB 1191

Chairman Creighton, Vice Chair Campbell and Members,

My name is Kelle Kieschnick and I am the Vice President of Policy at the Texas Business Leadership Council testifying in support of the committee substitute to SB 1191. We are a non-partisan network of business leaders advancing policies to support a more globally competitive Texas.

The 88th Legislature made a historic investment last session in increasing access to dual credit for economically disadvantaged students through the Financial Aid for Swift Transfer (FAST) program created by House Bill 8 with an allotment in the foundation school program.

Currently, many school districts weight Advanced Placement (AP) courses at a higher level than dual credit in the calculation of a student's GPA. This disincentivizes students from taking dual credit. SB 1191 would maximize the state's investment in dual credit by requiring equal weighting for all advanced academic courses and removing this barrier for students.

Speaking from personal experience, my son is a junior in high school and he takes a mix of advanced course types and often his course selection has come down to scheduling restrictions. When students are required to take courses in a sequence for their endorsement or they are in athletics or have other scheduling restraints, it impacts what advanced academic

classes are available to them. They should not be punished in their GPA and class rank due to factors like scheduling. My son has greatly benefited from taking dual credit and having a college experience – this bill will remove the disincentive for students to take advantage of dual credit opportunities by equalizing the treatment of all advanced academic courses.

We commend you Chairman Creighton for this bill and thank the committee for your work to increase postsecondary attainment. SB 1191 builds on the success of HB 8 which has led to an increase of 22% in dual credit participation statewide by maximizing the state's investment in the FAST program.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today.

Respectfully,

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