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A Statement from Texas Business Leadership Council (TBLC) President Justin Yancy as Texas Legislature Adjourns Sine Die

AUSTIN – Texas Business Leadership Council President Justin Yancy issued the following statement after the 88th Texas Legislature adjourned Sine Die:

“A number of bills passed by the 88th legislature will have significant and positive effects for Texas. This legislation includes an overhaul of our community college finance system with HB 8, that reflects the importance of these institutions with building a globally competitive workforce and will more effectively deliver dollars across the state.

Another critical enhancement passed by both chambers will ensure that more high school graduates are ready for postsecondary success. HB 1605 allows school districts to efficiently access high-quality instructional materials that are at grade level and are aligned to our state’s standards.

Regarding issues of a critical nature, the legislature created the Texas Water Fund with SB 28 that will distribute funding to the Texas Water Development Board for projects through the New Water Supply for Texas Fund and the Statewide Water Public Awareness Account. Funding for the Texas Water Fund is dependent on passage of the constitutional amendment (SJR 75) this fall.

Finally, the passage of HB 5 an innovative, transparent, and accountable economic development program to attract jobs and investment to Texas through school district property tax abatement agreements will help provide a stronger workforce and healthy financial returns to the entire state.

The TBLC is grateful for the tireless efforts of the Texas Legislature. Work remains to be done however and, should a special session be called, we encourage the agenda to include a call for a virtual education system that is effective and created for 21st century learners and additional resources for our public schools and teachers who are dealing with rising costs and teacher vacancies.”

(Continued)

Brief overviews of the bills described are outlined below.

HB 5

House Bill 5 establishes an innovative, transparent, and accountable economic development program to attract jobs and investment to Texas through school district property tax abatement agreements. This legislation is needed to allow Texas to have the economic development tools that other states and countries are using to attract businesses and help ensure that Texas remains the top state in the nation for business investment and job creation.

HB 8

House Bill 8 stems from the recommendations of the Texas Commission on Community College Finance. This high priority bill is transformational to community college funding and operations. HB 8 provides significant reforms to community college finance that will strengthen our skilled workforce and economy. The legislation includes outcomes performance funding to incentivize workforce alignment and student success; guaranteed instruction and operations funding; increased access to dual credit; and opportunities for cost sharing and operational efficiencies.

HB 1605

House Bill 1605 will improve educational resources for teachers and students by providing access to vetted high-quality educational materials that are at grade level and aligned with state standards. Under this bill, districts have the power to choose their own curriculum. The bill transfers oversight powers from the appointed Texas Education Agency Commissioner to the elected SBOE, increasing transparency, and establishes a parent portal for online access to all instructional materials, enabling parents to review their child's education materials.

SB 28/SJR 75

Senate Bill 28 amends the Texas Water Code to establish three new accounts to be administered by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB). The bill requires the TWDB to use the Texas Water Fund to transfer money to other TWDB funds and accounts for various projects, use the New Water Supply for Texas Fund for projects that develop new sources of water supply, and use the Statewide Water Public Awareness Account to develop, administer, and implement the Statewide Water Public Awareness Program. Funding for the Texas Water Fund is dependent on passage of the constitutional amendment this fall.

The Texas Business Leadership Council is a network of Texas based CEOs and senior business executives who advance a long-term vision of a prosperous Texas in a globally competitive business environment. [Justin Yancy](#) is the President of the Texas Business Leadership Council.

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