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TBLC Applauds Passage of HB 8 to Strengthen the Public School Accountability System

AUSTIN – The Texas Business Leadership Council (TBLC) commends the Texas Legislature’s passage of **House Bill 8** last night, taking a bold step to reform the state’s public school assessment and accountability system. This bill replaces the STAAR test with an assessment structure that optimizes classroom instruction time and provides guidance to parents and educators to address learning gaps.

With Texas continuing to experience rapid population and economic growth, revitalizing the state’s education system is vital to maintain long-term competitiveness. Authored by Rep. Brad Buckley, R-Salado, and sponsored in the Senate by Sen. Paul Bettencourt, R-Houston, HB 8 ensures that Texas schools are better aligned with the workforce demands of a dynamic, global economy by maintaining rigor and providing the tools to improve student outcomes. Further, HB 8 addresses the litigation that has led to delays in the release of the A-F accountability ratings to ensure these will be published on time annually, strengthening public trust by upholding transparency.

TBLC president Justin Yancy stated, “The passage of HB 8 helps to ensure that Texas will have a consistent and transparent accountability system which is vital for building a globally competitive workforce. Employers rely on this information to guide investment decisions and maximize talent, while schools and policymakers use it to drive continuous improvement.”

HB 8 replaces the STAAR test with shorter assessments spread throughout the year that will provide more timely results to teachers and parents to help improve student performance. All test items will be vetted by Texas teachers to ensure alignment with grade-level state standards and excessive benchmark testing will be limited to provide more time for instruction.

“By modernizing our state’s assessment system to provide timely, actionable data that will improve instruction and accelerate learning, HB 8 puts Texas students on a path to success,” stated Kelle Kieschnick, TBLC vice president of policy. “This bill provides the transparency, fairness, and rigor needed to strengthen public trust in our schools and ensure every student is held to high expectations. This is a critical step forward in building a workforce that keeps Texas innovative and prosperous.”

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.

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Bios: [Justin Yancy](#) & [Kelle Kieschnick](#)

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