



**EVERY TEXAN**

Formerly Center for Public Policy Priorities

## **Please Oppose SB 14 Oppressing the Voices of Texans by Attacking Local Democracy**

Local jurisdictions across Texas have listened to the needs of their constituents and responded to calls to pass local ordinances that seek to raise standards for working families. In response to calls from their community, municipalities have passed laws which improve economic security and public health. These local leaders are directly responding to the needs of their neighbors.

### **What works for residents of Tyler may not work for residents of El Paso.**

Local officials continue to work to ensure the hard working Texans most likely to be impacted, such as women, racial and ethnic minorities, have a chance to provide for their families through other workplace protections. This legislation continues Texas' race to the bottom by ignoring the voices and values of a workforce that is the powerhouse of the Texas economy.

### **Texans overwhelmingly support local decision making.**

A statewide poll of Texas voters conducted in February 2019 by Baseline and Associates found the following:

- 87% of Texas voters believe their local elected officials are better connected to their communities and should be allowed to pass policies that reflect their community's needs and values.
- 83% agreed that local governments pass local ordinances that create strong local economies which contribute to a strong state economy.
- 82% of Texas voters were bothered that the state legislatures were passing laws that ban all local governments in their state from passing any policies that address economic issues, meaning that local communities are powerless to do anything to regulate business that might help their local economy or protect workers.

Additional polling results available here: <https://bit.ly/3aZKJuv>

### **SB 14 fails Texans by ignoring the needs of hard working families who support our strong economy.**

Government upholds laws that protect citizens through prohibiting businesses from polluting our air and water sources as well as preventing the exploitation of workers. This is unfortunately seen clearly through the need for child labor laws. Without reasonable regulation of the employee/employer relationship, the individual interests of businesses would supersede the collective good of society. SB 14 chips away at those critical protections.

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