



Legislative Issues

McAllen Chamber of Commerce

Issue: Discriminatory Legislation (Texas Bathroom Bill)

February 2, 2017 - Senate Bill 6 (Bathroom Bill) is a form of discriminatory legislation that would have a lasting negative impact on the hospitality industry and have a lasting effect on the pro-business image of Texas. Texas has a longstanding reputation as one of the best states to conduct business. In 2016, Forbes ranked Texas as the fourth-best state for business climate. The tax foundation ranks Texas 14th overall in tax climate.

Allowing Senate Bill 6 to become law would threaten Texas' prosperity and reputation. Discriminatory legislation sends a clear message not everyone is welcomed in Texas. Texas generates \$467.7 billion in travel spending, which supports over 1 million jobs in the Lone Star State.

One top challenge for businesses is attracting and keeping talent. Senate Bill 6 would hurt Texas' ability to recruit top talent – especially the Millennials. The Millennials and Gen Z are looking first for communities that offer a wide variety of lifestyles and amenities that are inclusive and reflect an urban attitude.

Since the bill was filed, several major corporations have announced they would withdraw their operation or investments in Texas. Also, major sporting events announced they would reconsider hosting the sporting event in Texas if Senate Bill 6 were to pass.

Analysis by the Associated Press showed North Carolina legislation showed it would suffer \$3.76 billion in total negative economic impact over a dozen years with a bill that is similar to what Texas is considering.

Summary of Negative economic Impact of Senate Bill 6:

- A negative economic impact of \$1.04 billion
- A loss of 9,616 jobs
- A loss of \$35.3 million state and local taxes

McAllen Chamber Position: Oppose Senate Bill 6