

# BIG CITY MAYORS

March 10, 2023

The Honorable Charles Schwertner  
Texas Senate  
P.O. Box 12068, Austin, TX 78711

Chairman Schwertner and members of the Senate Business and Commerce Committee,

On behalf of our respective municipalities we are privileged to serve, the Big City Mayors oppose S.B. 149, and its companion, H.B. 3790.

As the level of government closest to residents, municipal governments are uniquely positioned to adopt ordinances that address unique local challenges. S.B. 149 would preempt a large number of local ordinances that are designed to ensure public safety and quality of life for the community at the request of citizens. Among other items, it would also delay and stifle necessary changes to rules and regulations at the local level.


As written, the bill would preempt any number of city regulations that have been enacted at the request of citizens. For example, the following would likely be wiped out by the bill:

- Billboard and on-premise sign regulations designed to protect against visual blight.
- Ordinances regulating alcohol sales near churches and schools designed to protect youth.
- Sexually oriented business regulations, such as “no touch” ordinances.
- Burglar alarm registration ordinances designed to properly allocate law enforcement resources.
- Pawnshop regulations designed to stop stolen property transactions.
- Eight liner and similar game room regulations designed to protect patrons of those establishments and properly allocate law enforcement resources.
- Short-term rental regulations designed to protect both patrons and neighbors.
- Noise ordinances designed to protect quality of life.
- Peddler and door-to-door solicitor regulations designed to protect residents from unscrupulous salespersons.
- Health codes designed to protect restaurant patrons related to food handling and restaurant inspections.
- Payday lender regulations that prohibit predatory lending practices.
- Transportation network company rules at city airports designed to facilitate traveler access to those services.

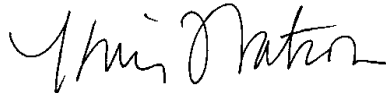
The above are just a few examples of ordinances that are common in Texas cities. These are also matters in which each municipality should have their own unique solutions based on the community's unique needs.

We respectfully urge you to allow us to provide effective services and solutions based on the needs of our communities. If you have any questions or wish to discuss this topic in greater detail, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Mayor Jim Ross  
City of Arlington, Texas



Mayor Kirk Watson  
City of Austin, Texas



Mayor Trey Mendez  
City of Brownsville, Texas



Mayor Gerard Hudspeth  
City of Denton, Texas



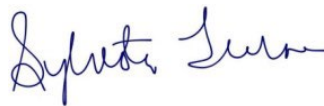
Mayor Oscar Leeser  
City of El Paso Texas



Mayor Mattie Parker  
City of Fort Worth, Texas



Mayor Ron Jensen  
City of Grand Prairie, Texas



Mayor Sylvester Turner  
City of Houston, Texas



Mayor Rick Stopfer  
City of Irving, Texas



Mayor George Fuller  
City of McKinney, Texas



Mayor John Muns  
City of Plano, Texas



Mayor Ron Nirenberg  
City of San Antonio, Texas



Mayor Joe Zimmerman  
City of Sugar Land, Texas



Mayor Dillon Meek  
City of Waco, Texas

CC:

Vice-chair Sen. Phil King  
Sen. Brian Birdwell  
Sen. Donna Campbell  
Sen. Brandon Creighton  
Sen. Nathan Johnson  
Sen. Lois W. Kolkhorst  
Sen. José Menéndez  
Sen. Mayes Middleton  
Sen. Robert Nichols  
Sen. Judith Zaffirini